

ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION NEWSLETTER

Issue: August 2023

EASTERN DIAMONDBACK RATTLESNAKE

The eastern diamondback rattlesnake (EDB) is the largest of the 32 recognized species of rattlesnake. As the only venomous species on Parris Island, EDBs can reach lengths of 3 to 8 feet, have a natural life span of 15 to 20 years, and can tip the scales at over 10 pounds. EDBs are more likely to be observed during this period as mating season occurs from July to October.



COMPLIANCE TEAM

EMS

843-228-3102

Air Quality
Asbestos/Toxics
843-228-3400

Hazardous Waste
843-228-4698

Stormwater
Water Quality
843-228-4293

Tank Program/Training
843-228-2611

RECYCLE MANAGER
843-228-3430

ENVIRONMENTAL
RESTORATION
843-228-3615

NATURAL RESOURCES
Manager
843-228-3066

Conservation Law
Enforcement
843-228-3799

Wildlife Biologist
843-228-2663



Q: What is the range and habitat of an EDB?

A: This species usually inhabits dry sandy areas, palmetto or pine forests, coastal dune habitats, or small isolated forested islands. EDBs are accomplished swimmers and even travel through saltwater to and from barrier islands.

Q: What is the conservation status of the EDB?

A: This species is declining and is currently in review for federal protection under the Endangered Species Act. Parris Island actively monitors and tracks our population in order to understand the species, its habitat, and how to manage it around the recruit training mission.

Q: What if I encounter a rattlesnake on the Depot?

A: **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO HARM, CAPTURE, OR KILL THE SNAKE!** Maintain a safe distance from the snake and immediately contact Natural Resources personnel. Do your best to safely maintain visual contact with the snake until the arrival of Natural Resources personnel.