

Title	Date
Discipline/Version	CDE Credit Hours

I verify that I read and am familiar with the contents of this document.

- PDF Attached
- YouTube Link:
- Other:

Please return this to your agency's training coordinator for CDE credit. If you have any questions, please contact us at 911training@elpasoteller911.org

X _____
Signature

Date

X _____
Printed Name

X _____
Agency



MEET THE ELAPIDS



In protocol, snakebites are divided into two categories: elapid and non-elapid. The important distinction? These two types require very different instruction pathways. However, protocol does not ask the caller to describe the snake. So how do we determine when elapid instructions apply? In this training, we'll explore what defines an elapid snake, why the difference matters medically, and how IAED directs us to handle these calls with precision and consistency.

WHAT IS ELAPID?

Elapids are a family of venomous snakes that primarily deliver neurotoxic venom. This means their bite affects the nervous system.

Internationally, elapids include:

- Cobras
- Mambas
- Taipans
- Kraits
- Sea snakes

In the U.S., the main elapids are:

- Coral snakes

Key characteristics:

- Fixed front fangs (not hinged like rattlesnakes)
- Often slender-bodied
- Venom is primarily neurotoxic
- Many species found in Australia, Africa, Asia, and the Americas





NOTE

There are no wild elapid snakes in the state of Colorado. The only native elapid snakes in the United States are coral snakes, and they are primarily found in:

- Arizona
- New Mexico
- Texas
- Florida
- Parts of the southeastern US.

Dispatchers are not:

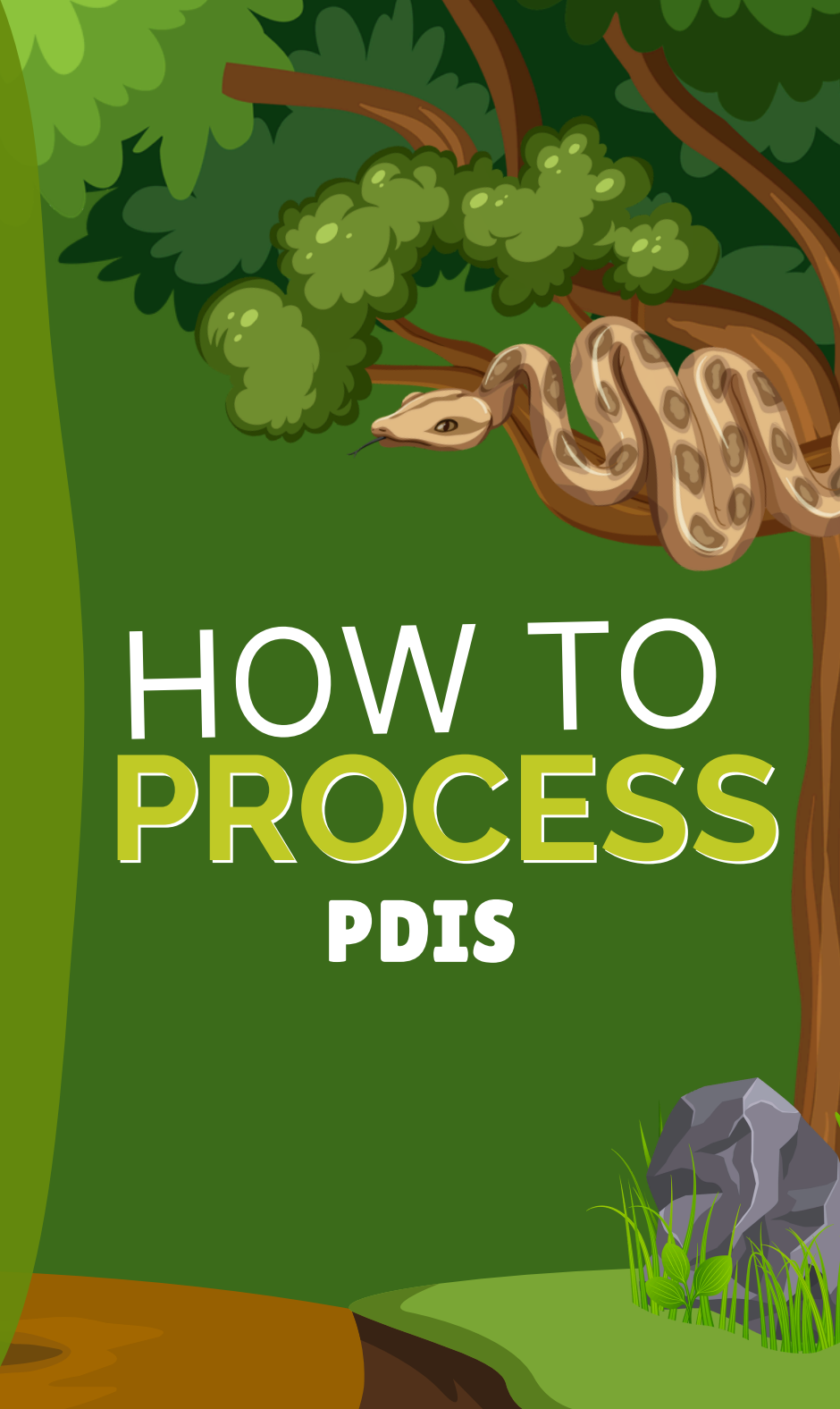
- Are not herpetologists.
- Are not toxicologists.
- Cannot diagnose based on caller description.

If we start asking for snake descriptions, we risk:


- Misclassification
- Liability
- Over-directing
- Deviating from standardized protocol

Protocol is structured this way to:

- Protect the patient
- Protect the responder
- Protect the agency
- Maintain evidence-based consistency



HOW TO PROCESS PDIS



ELAPID VS NON ELAPID

Unless the caller spontaneously provides that they were bit by an elapid snake (most likely situation locally would be a pet, etc.) we will give non elapid snakebite instructions.

Our job is not to identify the snake.
Our job is to follow the protocol exactly as designed.
If the caller identifies an elapid, we act.
If they do not, we do not assume.