

Ontario Species at Risk Handling Manual: For Endangered Species Act Authorization Holders

Table of Contents

Introduction

1. Safe Handling of Turtles

2. Safe Handling of Snakes

3. Safe Handling of the Five-lined Skink

4. Safe Handling of Amphibians (salamanders, newts, mudpuppies, frogs, toads)

5. Safe Handling of Birds

6. Reporting Species at Risk (SAR) Encounters

7. Handling and Transporting Dead Animals

8. Appendices

I Definitions

II References

III Equipment and Materials Checklist

IV Species at Risk (SAR) Notification/Contact Schedule

V Species at Risk (SAR) Encounter Reporting Form

Introduction

Ontario's *Endangered Species Act, 2007* (ESA) protects endangered and threatened species and their habitats.

Ontario is home to over 30,000 species, about 200 of which are considered at risk. Roughly 40 per cent of the species at risk in Canada are found in Ontario.

Activities that would harm individual species at risk or their habitats are prohibited by the ESA, unless they are authorized under the act. Authorizations include permits, stewardship agreements and exemption agreements.

This manual is designed to provide guidance to those whose authorization under the ESA may require the capture, relocation, handling, and/or transport of species at risk.

Enclosed is both a DVD presentation and CD of this manual which are also available from your Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) District Office.

For additional information and assistance with species identification, please consult MNR *Ontario Species at Risk Quick Reference Guide*, or email: esa.permits.agreements@ontario.ca.

Visit our website ontario.ca/speciesatrisk for more general information about all Ontario's species at risk.

1. Safe Handling of Turtles

1.1 Materials

a) The following materials are required for the handling, capture, temporary safe keeping and transport of turtles:

- » Large plastic bin and lid with air holes, a large bucket or a cloth/burlap bag. Ensure both sides of the container/bag and the lid are well marked with “live animal”. See section 1.5 to determine when it is appropriate to use a specific type of container.
- » Thick work gloves
- » Thermometer
- » SAR Notification/Contact Schedule
- » SAR Encounter Reporting Form
- » Broom or broom handle with small paint brush roller attached to end.

b) Equipment must be maintained on each job site.

1.2 Safety considerations

a) Generally, there is little risk associated with handling turtles. However, all turtles can scratch and bite, and work gloves should be worn to help avoid minor injuries.

b) Snapping, Spiny Softshell and Eastern Musk Turtles cannot completely retract into their shell and are more likely to bite in defence. These species should be handled more cautiously and as follows:

- I. **Always keep your hands as close to the back of the turtle’s shell as possible, and always behind the midpoint of the shell.** These species have a considerable reach above their shells. Snapping Turtles can reach the midpoint of the shell, and in some cases Spiny Softshell Turtles and Eastern Musk Turtles can almost reach the back of their shell.



II. Always maintain a safe distance between the front of the turtle and other people.

c) Snapping and Spiny Softshell Turtles have a powerful and painful bite that is likely to bruise and may break the skin. However, it will almost never break bone. The damage inflicted by a Snapping Turtle bite is greatly exaggerated (such as being able to bite a boat oar or golf club in half). Forcing a Snapping Turtle to bite hard implements may result in an injury to the turtle. Wearing gloves will significantly reduce the risk of injury from these turtles.

d) If bitten by a turtle, remain calm and allow the turtle to relax and let go on its own. Pulling away from the turtle may cause further injury to you or the turtle.

e) Always wash your hands after handling a turtle. Turtles (and many other animals, including humans) carry potentially harmful bacteria in their gut. Although it is possible to contract salmonella from handling turtles, there are few reported cases of contracting these bacteria from wild turtles. Cases of salmonella poisoning from turtles are almost always limited to pet turtles, since these captive turtles are forced to live in the same small space that they defecate in.

Turtles

1.3 Capture and handling of turtles

Safely handle, move or capture a turtle by following these steps:

- a) Always handle turtles carefully and slowly, yet firmly. Rough handling may cause injury or stress to the turtle and/or the developing eggs and may cause the turtle to be more defensive (increased biting and scratching).
- b) With the exception of very small individuals, always handle turtles with both hands. Turtles are good at freeing themselves with a bit of wiggling, kicking, clawing and biting, and a good grip is essential to ensure no harm comes to you or the turtle.
- c) Never pick up a turtle by the tail. This can dislocate bones throughout the tail and is extremely painful for the turtle. For larger, heavier turtles this may result in dislocation of bones in the spinal cord as well.
- d) Wear gloves when handling turtles to minimize risk from scratches and bites. If gloves are not available, handle turtles with clean hands that are free of insect repellent, antibacterial hand sanitizer, sunscreen, etc.
- e) **Painted, Map, Wood, Blanding's and Spotted Turtles:** Pick up these species using both of your hands, one on each side of the shell, between the front and back legs.



f) **Snapping Turtle:** Always wear gloves when handling a Snapping Turtle and always keep your hands behind the midpoint of the top or sides of the turtle's shell. To pick up a Snapping Turtle:

- I. Hold it by the back of the shell, placing your thumbs on the top of the shell and your fingers in the hind leg pockets (the space between the upper shell and the hind legs). Your hands will be at approximately 5 and 7 o'clock.



- II. Or use one hand to hold the base of the tail near the shell and slide your second hand under the turtle to support its weight. Lift the turtle using the hand underneath the turtle. Never pick up a turtle by the tail.



Turtles

- III. Or you can move it by guiding it into a pail or garbage can with a broom.



- IV. It is important to get a good, strong hold on the turtle's shell as the force that is exerted by the turtle snapping may result in an unexpected release. A good grip will ensure that both the turtle and the handler remain safe and uninjured.

- g) **Eastern Musk Turtle:** Pick up Eastern Musk Turtles by the back of the shell. This turtle species can be held with one hand, as long as you ensure that you have a good grip.



- h) **Spiny Softshell:** Always wear gloves when handling a Spiny Softshell, and always keep your hands well behind the midpoint of the top or sides of the turtle's shell. To pick up a Spiny Softshell turtle:

- I. Use both hands, one on each side of the shell, as close as possible to the back legs.



- II. Or place one hand under the turtle between its back legs (in the middle to balance its weight) and the other hand, also from behind, on the top of the turtle's shell (close to the back).

- i) Turtles can be difficult to capture. If a turtle escapes or heads for cover, let it disperse on its own, ensuring it is safe from harm before allowing activities to continue. If continuing activities poses a threat to the turtle, postpone activities for up to 24 hours to allow the turtle to disperse. If it is not possible to leave the area for 24 hours, have a Qualified Member relocate the individual. Do not disturb any natural cover under which the turtle has retreated. If necessary, contact MNR for further direction using the SAR Notification/Contact Schedule.

1.4 Moving turtles out of harm's way (distances under 50 metres)

- a) If it is necessary to move a turtle more than 50 metres, refer to section 1.6 on turtle relocation.
- b) Turtles should only be moved when they are in imminent, unavoidable danger.
- c) If possible, allow the turtle to move on its own by walking toward the turtle in the direction that you want it to move. This will not work for Snapping Turtles, as they often turn to face a potential threat head-on rather than running away. If the turtle does not move on its own, you may have to pick it up and move it (see section 1.3).
- d) When moving a turtle a short distance, such as across a road, move the turtle in the direction that it was heading, regardless of what the habitat looks like. These animals often make intentional movements to specific areas, and if you put them back where they started they may simply turn around and start their journey again. If it is not clear which direction the turtle was headed, move the turtle to the closest suitable habitat that will not be disturbed. In this case, suitable habitat includes a water body or the vegetation/forest at the edge of the road allowance, disturbed area or clearing.
- e) If possible, release the turtle near a retreat site (somewhere the animal can seek shelter from the elements and avoid predators, such as water or dense vegetation) to allow it to take cover. Do not release it in the open where it could be exposed to inclement weather, extreme sunlight or predators.

1.5 Temporary safe keeping and transportation of turtles

- a) You are responsible for this animal. Remember, once you have put it in a container, it depends on you to keep it safe and at the right temperature.
- b) Always create air holes in the lid of a container prior to placing an animal in the container.
- c) If the turtle will be in captivity for **less than one hour**, place the turtle in a cloth or burlap bag, a large bucket or a large plastic bin with a lid that has adequate air holes. Cloth or mesh bags should not be used for snapping turtles as they can become tangled and strangle themselves. Always use large plastic bins or large buckets for snapping turtles.
- d) If the turtle will be in captivity for **more than one hour**, avoid the use of cloth or burlap bags. For adults, use a large plastic bin or bucket with a lid that has adequate air holes and a small amount of water (no more than an inch deep). Ensure that the turtle is not fully submerged, as it will drown if it cannot breathe. For hatchlings and juveniles, use an appropriately sized container with a lid that has air holes and line the bottom of the container with wet towels or paper towels. Never transport small juveniles or hatchlings in water.



- e) It is extremely important to monitor the air temperature regularly in the container to ensure it **never exceeds 30°C or drops below 5°C**. Never leave the container in direct sunlight or in a closed vehicle parked in the sun, as this will cause the turtle to overheat and could be fatal.
- f) Never put more than one turtle in a container or bag at a time, especially in the case of Snapping Turtles. This will help to minimize stress and prevent injury to the turtles.
- g) Once the turtle is in the container or bag, ensure that the lid is secure or that the bag is tied tightly.
- h) **Never leave the container or bag unattended** in an unsecured location (e.g., side of road).
- i) If using a bag, ensure that it is in a secure location where it cannot fall if the turtle moves the bag. The movement of a turtle within a bag can easily cause the bag to fall off of a table.
- j) Do not offer the turtle any food. Turtles do not have to eat as often as mammals, and it is no problem for a turtle in temporary captivity to go a few days without food.
- k) Turtles should be checked periodically (every hour should suffice). Hatchlings are especially susceptible to dehydration and must be carefully monitored during transport.

1.6 Relocation of turtles

- a) A turtle should only be relocated if the destruction of its habitat is unavoidable or if it is not possible to release it at the capture location.
- b) Transport and release the turtle within one hour of capture in order to minimize stress on the animal.
- c) Turtles should not be relocated during their overwintering season. This varies depending on the species and location, but is generally from October to May. If you are unsure whether you should relocate the turtle or take it to a wildlife custodian, contact MNR for further direction using the SAR Notification/Contact Schedule.
- d) If it is not possible to relocate the turtle due to the time of year (October to May) or other conditions, transport the turtle to a wildlife custodian per the SAR Notification/Contact Schedule.
- e) **Turtles should never be moved more than 250 metres** from the location where they were found. Only move a turtle as far as necessary to avoid potential harm to the turtle, and avoid moving turtles more than 125 metres unless absolutely necessary. If it is not possible to relocate the turtle within 250 metres of the capture location, contact MNR for further direction using the SAR Notification/Contact Schedule.
- f) If hatchlings are found and must be relocated, move them to the nearest permanent body of water. Never place hatchlings directly into water. Release the turtle at the shoreline of the appropriate habitat (see below). The turtle may or may not choose to enter the water; do not force it.

- g) Whenever possible, release the turtle in the same water body where it was found and in the same type of natural habitat as the capture site. To determine if the habitat is of the same type, consider the water depth, water current, substrate type (mud, rock, etc.) and vegetation type (cattails vs. lily pads vs. aquatic vegetation).
- h) If possible, release the turtle near a retreat site (somewhere the animal can seek shelter from the elements and avoid predators, such as water or dense vegetation) to allow it to take cover. Do not release it in the open where it could be exposed to inclement weather, extreme sunlight or predators.
- i) To release the turtle, gently pick up the turtle (per section 1.3) from the container and set it down in the new location. To release a Snapping Turtle or Spiny Softshell Turtle, you may wish to tip the container on its side and allow the turtle to move out on its own. Allow the turtle to disperse on its own at this new location.

1.7 Injured turtles

- a) Use the methods outlined in section 1.3 to handle injured turtles whenever possible. If those methods are not applicable due to the turtle's injuries, use a shovel or other flat object to pick up the turtle. Ensure that any injured areas are supported.
- b) Place the turtle in a large plastic bin or large bucket with a lid that has air holes. Darkness helps to reduce stress to the turtle. Do not place anything else in the container with the turtle, including water or other turtles.
- c) Thoroughly wash your hands after handling injured turtles.
- d) Immediately transport the turtle to a veterinarian or wildlife custodian per the SAR Notification/Contact Schedule, in order to increase its chances of survival.

2. Safe Handling of Snakes

2.1 Materials

a) The following personal protective equipment should be worn when working with Massasauga rattlesnakes:

- » High-ankle hiking or rubber boots
- » Thick pants (jeans) or baggy pants
- » Leather work gloves

b) The following materials are required for the handling, capture, temporary safe keeping and transport of snakes:

- » Pail, large garbage can or bucket (1 metre deep) with air holes in the lid. Ensure both the side of the container and the lid are well marked “live animal” or “caution rattlesnake”.
- » A snake bag (for non-venomous species only). A snake bag must be cloth. (A pillowcase works well.) Plastic and non-breathable materials are not appropriate. Ensure the bag is well marked “live animal”.
- » Broom or broom handle with small paint brush roller holder attached to end. Never use “snake pinchers”.
- » Thermometer
- » SAR Notification/Contact Schedule
- » SAR Encounter Reporting Form

c) Equipment must be maintained on each job site.

2.2 Safety considerations

a) **The Massasauga is the only venomous snake in Ontario.**

The venom is an adaptation for hunting and is used to kill prey (primarily small rodents).

As a defence mechanism, Massasaugas may also bite when threatened, at which time they may or may not release venom. Camouflage, rattling and retreating are their primary defensive strategies, and they generally bite as a last resort.

Their maximum striking distance is about half of their body length. Generally, your safety zone is your height plus 50 centimetres away from the snake. (This accounts for the snake’s striking distance to you if you fall.)

A Massasauga bite is generally not deadly. Only two people have ever died from a Massasauga bite in Ontario. Neither person received medical attention, and both cases were almost 50 years ago.

If you are bitten by a Massasauga, remain calm and seek medical attention immediately. Do not apply a tourniquet or try to suck out the venom. Never try to capture the snake to take it to the hospital; if you were bitten by a venomous snake in Ontario, we know it was a Massasauga. Have someone else drive you safely.

b) **Never under any circumstances pick up a Massasauga rattlesnake.** Massasaugas occur in very specific regions of the province, and if you are well outside of those regions it should be safe to handle any native snake you find. If you are working within a region where Massasaugas may occur, never pick up a snake unless you are absolutely certain that it is not a Massasauga.

c) All other Ontario snakes are non-venomous and harmless. Despite being harmless, many of Ontario’s snakes will put on defensive displays to intimidate potential predators. These include:

Snakes

- I. Rearing up, hissing and striking.
- II. Eastern Hog-nosed Snakes will flatten out their necks like cobras, hiss loudly and pretend to strike (although their mouths remain closed).
- III. Eastern Foxsnakes, Milksnakes, Gray Ratsnakes and Eastern Hog-nosed Snakes sometimes vibrate their tails to imitate a rattlesnake. If their tails come into contact with rocks, dry leaves, or some other medium, they can produce a buzzing sound like that of a rattlesnake. Combined with their blotchy pattern, this mimicry is often very effective at fooling humans.

d) Holding the snake properly (see section 2.4) will significantly reduce stress to the snake and the likelihood that it will try to bite in self-defence.

2.3 Capture and handling of the Massasauga rattlesnake

Safely move a Massasauga by following these steps:

- a) Put on personal protective equipment (per section 2.1).
- b) Clear the area of unnecessary bystanders to lessen the stress on the animal.
- c) Determine your plan for capture to anticipate where the snake may move or retreat as well as any potential hazards you may encounter.
- d) If capturing injured snakes, avoid touching or manipulating injured areas.
- e) Tip the 1-metre-deep pail on its side.
- f) Use the broom to position the snake near the pail.
- g) Gently and slowly guide the snake into the pail, being careful not to push the snake too hard or lift it off the ground. Never pin a Massasauga or

use tools that constrict or pinch the snake. Quick, abrupt movements are threatening to the snake and may also cause it to make quick movements in an attempt to escape.



h) Be patient and gentle with the snake. Gravid (pregnant) females are carrying live young, and rough handling may cause damage to the developing snakes.

i) Once the snake is in the pail, slowly tip the pail upright and secure the lid.



j) Snakes can be difficult to capture. If a snake escapes or heads for cover, let it disperse on its own, ensuring it is safe from harm before allowing activities to continue. If allowing activities to continue is not safe for the snake, postpone activities for up

Snakes

to 24 hours to allow the snake to disperse. If it is not possible to leave the area for 24 hours, have a Qualified Member relocate the individual. Do not disturb any natural cover under which the snake has retreated. If necessary, contact MNR for further direction using the SAR Notification/Contact Schedule.

2.4 Capture and handling of non-venomous snakes

- a) If you are uncomfortable handling large, non-venomous snakes with your hands, you can use the above method for capturing venomous snakes (section 2.3). However, it is much easier to capture most non-venomous snakes using your hands. Some of the smaller species, such as the Butler's Gartersnake, are almost impossible to capture with a stick and a pail.
- b) If you elect to use thick gloves, be very careful not to squeeze the snake too hard, as you can crush internal organs and kill it. Do not use gloves to capture small snakes, as the risk of accidentally crushing them is too high.
- c) Clear the area of unnecessary bystanders to lessen the stress on the animal.
- d) Determine your plan for capture to anticipate where the snake may move or retreat and to anticipate any potential hazards you may encounter.
- e) Never grab the snake behind the head or grip the snake tightly in order to restrain it. This may injure or scare the snake, cause it to struggle and encourage it to bite in self-defence.
- f) Always support the snake's body with both hands and never pick up a snake only by the tail. Holding a snake only by the tail can result in dislocated bones or other serious injury to the snake.

g) To capture a large snake (more than 30 centimetres in length):

- I. Gently grab it by the back of the body to prevent it from getting away.



- II. Holding the snake by the back end while it is still on the ground, slide your other hand underneath the snake to support its weight and lift it up. Do not lift it off the ground by the tail.
- III. As soon as the snake is off the ground, continue to support its weight by keeping both hands under the snake, with one hand about a third of the way back and one hand about two thirds of the way back along the snake's body.



Snakes

- IV. As the snake tries to move forward, reposition the hand from the back of the snake to the front of the snake, and continue to rotate your hands between the front and back of the snake to allow it to continue to crawl through your hands. Calm and slow movements will help the snake relax and make it move more slowly.
 - V. Often a snake will stop moving once it no longer feels threatened. If the snake continues to move rapidly after a minute or so, you can try holding the back end of the snake more firmly to prevent it from continuing to move forward. Continue to support the unrestricted front half of the snake with your other hand.
- h) To capture a small snake (less than 30 centimetres in length):
- I. Grasp the snake gently but firmly with one or both hands. It may be necessary to gently restrain it against the ground with your hands initially to prevent it from escaping. Never use a stick, snake hook or any other object to pin a snake.



- II. Hold the back end of the snake in one hand and support the front of the snake with your fingers or your second hand. Allowing the snake's front end to remain free helps the snake remain calm.



- III. For very small snakes, hold the snake in the palm of your hand using your thumb or fingers to gently apply only enough pressure to prevent the snake from wiggling free.
- i) Snakes can be difficult to capture. If a snake escapes or heads for cover, let it disperse on its own, ensuring it is safe from harm before allowing activities to continue. If continuing activities poses a threat to the snake, postpone activities for up to 24 hours to allow the snake to disperse. If it is not possible to leave the area for 24 hours, have a Qualified Member relocate the individual. Do not disturb any natural cover under which the snake has retreated. If necessary, contact MNR for further direction using the SAR Notification/Contact Schedule.

2.5 Moving a snake out of harm's way (distances under 50 metres)

- a) If it is necessary to move a snake more than 50 metres, refer to section 2.7 on snake relocation.
- b) Snakes should only be moved when they are in imminent, unavoidable danger.
- c) If possible, allow the snake to move on its own by walking toward the snake in the direction that you want it to move. If the snake does not move on its own, you will have to pick it up and move it (see section 2.4). Unlike most snake species, Massasaugas may not

Snakes

move away when you walk toward them. Rather, they often adopt a defensive position (coiled), hold their ground and rattle (asking you to go the other way). To encourage a Massasauga to move away on its own, give it lots of space and observe it from a distance (ideally so the snake cannot see you).

d) When moving a snake out of harm's way, such as across a road, move the snake in the direction that it was heading, regardless of what the habitat looks like. These animals often make intentional movements to specific areas, and if you put them back where they started they will simply turn around and start their journey again. If it is not clear which direction the snake was headed, move it to the closest habitat that will not be disturbed. In this case, suitable habitat includes a rock pile or other cover that the snake can retreat under, or the vegetation at the edge of the road allowance, disturbed area or clearing.

e) If possible, release the snake near a retreat site (somewhere the animal can seek shelter from the elements and avoid predators: loose rocks, logs, rock crevices or dense vegetation) to allow it to take cover upon release. Do not release the snake in the open where it could be exposed to inclement weather, extreme sunlight or predators.

2.6 Temporary safe keeping and transportation of snakes

a) You are responsible for this animal. Remember, once you have put it in a container, it depends on you to keep it safe and at the right temperature.

b) Always use a pail, large garbage can or bucket (at least 1 metre deep) with adequate air holes in the lid for Massasaugas. Ensure the lid is properly secured, and always create the air holes before putting the snake in the container.

c) If using a snake bag:

- I. **Make sure it is properly closed.** To close the snake bag, gather the material at the opening together in one hand and run your other hand down the bag to ensure that the snake is in the bottom. Twist the neck of the bag and tie it into a tight knot. Never rely on a drawstring, as snakes can wiggle out of tight holes. When tying a snake bag, make sure the snake remains in the bottom of the bag so it does not get tangled in the part you are tying.



- II. **Make sure it is in a secure location** where it cannot fall if the snake moves the bag. The movement of a snake within a bag can easily cause the bag to fall off of a table.
- III. If transporting the snake or holding it for a longer time (over an hour), the closed snake bag should be placed in a well-ventilated hard container (such as plastic tub) for added protection.

Snakes

d) It is extremely important to monitor the air temperature regularly in the container or around the snake bag to ensure it **never exceeds 30°C or drops below 5°C**. Never leave the container or snake bag in direct sunlight or in a closed vehicle parked in the sun, as this will cause the snake to overheat and could be fatal.

e) **Never leave the container or snake bag unattended** in an unsecured location (e.g., side of road).

f) Do not offer the snake any food. Snakes do not have to eat as often as mammals, and it is no problem for a snake in temporary captivity to go a few days without food.

2.7 Relocation of snakes

a) A snake should only be relocated if the destruction of its habitat is unavoidable or if it is not possible to release it at the capture location.

b) Snakes should not be relocated during their overwintering season. This varies depending on the species and location, but is generally from October to May. If you are unsure whether you should relocate the snake or take it to a wildlife custodian, contact MNR for further direction using the SAR Notification/Contact Schedule.

c) If it is not possible to relocate the snake due to the time of year (October to May) or other conditions, transport the snake to a wildlife custodian per the SAR Notification/Contact Schedule.

d) Transport and release the snake within one hour of capture in order to minimize stress on the animal.

e) **Snakes should never be moved more than 250 metres** from the location where they were found. Only move a snake as far as necessary to avoid potential

harm to the snake, and avoid moving snakes more than 125 metres unless absolutely necessary. If it is not possible to relocate the snake within 250 metres of the capture location, contact MNR for further direction using the SAR Notification/Contact Schedule.

f) Release the snake in the same type of natural habitat as the capture site. If this is not possible, contact MNR for further direction using the SAR Notification/Contact Schedule.

g) If possible, release the snake near a retreat site (somewhere the animal can seek shelter from the elements and avoid predators: loose rocks, logs, rock crevices or dense vegetation) to allow it to take cover upon release. Do not release the snake in the open where it could be exposed to inclement weather, extreme sunlight or predators.

h) To release the snake from a pail, gently tip the pail onto its side, remove the lid, back away from the pail and allow the snake to leave on its own. If necessary, use the broom to gently guide the snake out of the pail or gently tip the pail on an angle to slide the snake out of the pail.



Snakes

i) To release a non-venomous snake from a bag, untie the bag, gently tip the bag by holding one of the bottom corners (make sure you are not holding the snake) and gently slide the snake onto the ground.



2.8 Injured snakes

- a) If dealing with an injured Massasauga, ensure compliance with all instructions and safety considerations provided in sections 2.1-2.3.
- b) If the methods of handling snakes that are outlined in section 2.3 or 2.4 are not applicable due to the snake's injuries, use a shovel or other flat object to pick up the snake. Ensure that any injured areas are supported.
- c) Place the snake in a large plastic bin or bucket with a lid that has air holes (the darkness helps to reduce stress to the snake). You can place newspaper in the container to provide cover for the snake and help to reduce its stress. Do not place anything else in the container with the snake or offer it any food.
- d) Thoroughly wash your hands after handling injured snakes.
- e) Immediately transport the snake to a veterinarian or wildlife custodian per the SAR Notification/Contact Schedule, in order to increase its chances of survival.

Snakes

3. Safe Handling Of The Five-lined Skink

3.1 Materials

a) The following materials are required for the handling, capture, temporary safe keeping and transport of Five-lined Skinks:

- » Small plastic container with a lid that has air holes. Ensure the container and the lid are well marked “live animal”.
- » Thermometer
- » SAR Notification/Contact Schedule
- » SAR Encounter Reporting Form

b) Equipment must be maintained on each job site.

3.2 Capture and handling of Five-lined Skinks

a) There is no risk associated with handling Five-lined Skinks. They may bite, but this will not cause any substantial injury – they have small mouths and tiny teeth.

b) Safely handle, move or capture a Five-lined Skink by following these steps:

- I. Always handle Five-lined Skinks gently and slowly. Rough handling may cause injury or stress to the animal. Skinks can drop their tail as an anti-predator defence and may do so if they feel threatened, even if they are not being held by the tail.
- II. **Never grab or pick up a Five-lined Skink by the tail.** This may cause the skink to drop its tail (even if you are being gentle) and can be detrimental to the survival of the animal.
- III. Do not pick up Five-lined Skinks by the body; exerting too much pressure by accident can result in internal injury.

IV. Capture a skink by cupping your hands over the skink while it is on the ground. (You have to be quick!)

V. Carefully close your hand(s) around the skink to pick it up. Note that they can fit through small holes between your fingers.

c) Always wash your hands after handling any wildlife.

3.3 Moving a Five-lined Skink out of harm's way (distances under 25 metres)

a) If it is necessary to move a skink more than 25 metres, refer to section 3.5 on Five-lined Skink relocation.

b) Five-lined Skinks should only be moved when they are in imminent, unavoidable danger.

c) If possible, allow the skink to move on its own by walking toward the skink in the direction that you want it to move. Skinks are fast and tend to hide whenever possible. If the skink continues to seek shelter within the area where work is taking place, it will have to be picked up and moved (see section 3.5).

d) When moving a skink out of harm's way, such as across a road, move the skink in the direction that it was heading, regardless of what the habitat looks like. These animals often make intentional movements to specific areas, and if you put them back where they started they will simply turn around and start their journey again. If it is not clear which direction the skink was headed, move the skink to the closest suitable habitat that will not be disturbed. In this case, suitable habitat includes rocks or other cover objects that the skink can retreat under.

Five-lined Skink

e) If possible, release the Five-lined Skink near a retreat site, which is somewhere the animal can seek shelter from the elements and avoid predators (vegetation, rocks, logs or leaf litter). Do not release it in the open where it could be exposed to inclement weather, extreme sunlight or predators.

3.4 Temporary safe keeping and transportation of Five-lined Skinks

a) You are responsible for this animal. Remember, once you have put it in a container, it depends on you to keep it safe, moist and at the right temperature.

b) Keep Five-lined Skinks in a small container with a lid that has air holes. Always create the air holes before putting the skink in the container.

c) Skinks can move very quickly and may try to escape before the lid is on the container. Be careful that the skink does not get crushed when you place the lid on the container.

d) It is extremely important to monitor the air temperature regularly in the container to ensure it **never exceeds 30°C or drops below 5°C**. Never leave the container in direct sunlight or in a closed vehicle parked in the sun, as this will cause the animal to overheat and could be fatal.

f) **Never leave the container unattended** in an unsecured location (e.g., side of road).

3.5 Relocation of Five-lined Skinks

a) A Five-lined Skink should only be relocated if the destruction of its habitat is unavoidable or if it is not possible to release it at the capture location.

b) Transport and release the skink within one hour of capture in order to minimize stress on the animal.

c) Five-lined Skinks should not be relocated during their over-wintering season, which is generally from October to May. If you are unsure whether you should relocate the skink or take it to a wildlife custodian, contact MNR for further direction using the SAR Notification/Contact Schedule.

d) If it is not possible to relocate the skink due to the time of year (October to May) or other conditions, transport it to a wildlife custodian per the SAR Notification/Contact Schedule.

e) Five-lined Skinks should never be moved more than 100 metres from the location where they were found. Only move a skink as far as necessary to avoid potential harm to the skink, and avoid moving skinks more than 50 metres unless absolutely necessary. If it is not possible to relocate the animal within 100 metres of the capture location, contact MNR for further direction using the SAR Notification/Contact Schedule.

f) Always release Five-lined Skinks in the same type of natural habitat as the capture site.

g) If possible, release Five-lined Skinks near a retreat site, which is somewhere the animal can seek shelter from the elements and avoid predators (vegetation, rocks, logs or leaf litter). Do not release them in the open where they could be exposed to inclement weather, extreme sunlight or predators.

h) To release Five-lined Skinks, remove the lid and gently tip the container onto its side and allow the animal to leave on its own. If necessary, gently tip the container on an angle to slide the animal out.

Five-lined Skink

3.6 Injured Five-lined Skinks

- a) Use the methods outlined in section 3.2 to handle injured skinks whenever possible. If those methods are not applicable due to the skink's injuries, use a shovel or other thin, flat object to pick up the skink. Ensure that any injured areas are supported.
- b) Place the Five-lined Skink in a small container with a lid that has air holes. Always create the air holes before putting the skink in the container.
- c) Newspaper or paper towels may be added to the container to give the skink something to hide in. Do not place water, other skinks, food or anything else in the container with the skink.
- d) Thoroughly wash your hands after handling injured skinks.
- e) Immediately transport the skink to a veterinarian or wildlife custodian per the SAR Notification/Contact Schedule, in order to increase its chances of survival.

Five-lined Skink

4. Safe Handling of Amphibians

Important Note: Many amphibian species absorb oxygen through their skin as well as breathing with lungs; some species rely completely on their skin for respiration. If their skin dries out, they can suffocate. Therefore, careful handling of amphibians (especially salamanders) includes ensuring that their skin is kept moist.

4.1 Materials

a) The following materials are required for the handling, capture, temporary safe keeping and transport of amphibians:

- » A pail, bucket or large plastic bin with a lid that has air holes (for frogs). Ensure both the side of the container and the lid are well marked “live animal”.
- » Plastic kitchen-style container lined with paper towel (needs to be wet when used) with a lid that has air holes (for salamanders and toads). Ensure both the side of the container and the lid are well marked “live animal”.
- » Thermometer
- » SAR Notification/Contact Schedule
- » SAR Encounter Reporting Form
- » Net (optional)

b) Equipment must be acquired and maintained on each job site.

4.2 Capture and handling of salamanders, toads and frogs

Note: Eastern Newts have toxins in their skin and some salamanders may release a white, mildly toxic substance from their skin and tail. If ingested, these toxins may cause mild nausea. There is no risk associated with handling Ontario’s amphibians, provided you wash your hands afterwards. Toads will not give you warts.

Safely handle, move or capture a salamander, toad or frog by following these steps:

- a) Always make sure your hands are clean and free of insect repellent, antibacterial hand sanitizer, sunscreen, etc. Amphibians have very wet, porous skin through which they absorb oxygen and other compounds. Harmful chemicals (such as bug repellent) are quickly absorbed through an amphibian’s skin and can cause serious damage to the animal.
- b) If possible, wet your hands before picking up salamanders in order to avoid drying out their skin. Some species rely completely on their skin for respiration. If their skin dries out, they can suffocate and die. You can also ensure dampness is maintained by picking up some wet soil with the salamander.



- c) Keep handling times to a minimum as oil produced by human skin can easily clog amphibian pores, causing suffocation in some species.
- d) Always handle amphibians gently and slowly. Rough handling may cause injury or stress to the animal. Salamanders can drop their tail as an anti-predator defence, and may do so if they feel threatened (even if you are not holding them by the tail).

Amphibians

e) Never grab or pick up a salamander by the tail. This may cause the salamander to drop its tail (even if you are being gentle) and can be detrimental to the survival of the animal.

f) Capture a **frog or toad** using a net or pick it up with your hands by:



- I. Cupping your hands over the frog or toad while it is on the ground. (You have to be quick!)
- II. Closing your hand(s) to create a “cage” around the animal and picking it up. Note that they are slippery and can fit through small holes between your fingers.
- III. If it is necessary to identify the species after picking it up, carefully allow it to partially crawl out of your hand between your thumb and forefinger and then gently tighten your grip around its back legs (near its waist), holding onto both back legs. Support its front legs with your other hand.



g) Pick up a **salamander or newt** by scooping it up in one or two hands and then closing your hands to create a “cage”. Note that these animals are slippery and can fit through small holes between your fingers.



h) Use a net, container or your hands to catch frog tadpoles or salamander larvae. A net is easiest.

Amphibians

4.3 Moving amphibians out of harm's way (distance under 25 metres)

- a) If it is necessary to move an amphibian more than 25 metres, refer to section 4.5 on amphibian relocation.
- b) Amphibians should only be moved when they are in imminent, unavoidable danger.
- c) Salamanders do not move large distances and will tend to hide whenever possible. If there is the need to move a salamander, you will have to pick it up and move it (refer to section 4.2).
- d) If possible, allow a frog and a toad to move on its own by walking toward it in the direction that you want it to move. If the frog or toad does not move on its own, you will have to pick it up and move it (see section 4.2).
- e) When moving an amphibian out of harm's way, such as across a road, move it in the direction that it was heading, regardless of what the habitat looks like. These animals often make intentional movements to specific areas and if you put them back where they started they will simply turn around and start their journey again. If it is not clear which direction the animal was headed, move it to the closest suitable habitat that will not be disturbed. Suitable habitat includes: any shoreline habitat in the case of frogs; leaf litter, rocks or logs in a vegetated/forested area that the animal can hide under in the case of salamanders; any cover, such as rocks or vegetation, in the case of toads.

4.4 Temporary safe keeping and transportation of amphibians

- a) You are responsible for this animal. Remember, once you have put it in a container, it depends on you to keep it safe, moist and at the right temperature.
- b) Make sure that all containers that will be housing amphibians are thoroughly washed and rinsed and do not contain any soap or chemical residue.
- c) Keep **frogs** in a pail, bucket or large plastic bin with a lid that has adequate air holes. Always create the air holes before putting the animal in the container. Fill the container with less than one inch of water. Frogs should never be fully submerged, or they will drown.
- d) Keep **toads** in a pail, bucket, large plastic bin or plastic kitchen-style container with a lid that has adequate air holes. Always create the air holes before putting the animal in the container. Line the bottom of the container with wet paper towels.



Amphibians

e) Keep **salamanders** in a plastic kitchen-style container with a lid that has adequate air holes. Line the bottom of the container with wet paper towels.



f) Keep **newts and mudpuppies** in a pail, bucket, large plastic bin or plastic kitchen-style container with a lid, and fill the container with water. Replace water twice daily to ensure proper aeration, as these animals breathe through gills (like fish).

g) It is extremely important to monitor the air temperature regularly in the container to ensure it **never exceeds 25°C or drops below 5°C**. Never leave the container in direct sunlight or in a closed vehicle parked in the sun, as this will cause the animal to overheat and could be fatal.

h) **Never leave the container unattended** in an unsecured location (e.g., side of road).

4.5 Relocation of amphibians

a) Amphibians should only be relocated if the destruction of their habitat is unavoidable, or if it is not possible to release the animal at the capture location.

b) Transport and release it within one hour of capture in order to minimize stress on the animal.

c) Amphibians should not be relocated during their over-wintering season. This varies depending on the species and location, but is generally from October to May. If you are unsure whether you should relocate the animal or take it to a wildlife custodian, contact MNR for further direction using the SAR Notification/Contact Schedule.

d) If it is not possible to relocate the animal due to the time of year (October to May) or other conditions, transport it to a wildlife custodian per the SAR Notification/Contact Schedule.

e) **Amphibians should never be moved more than 100 metres** from the location where they were found. Only move the amphibian as far as necessary to avoid potential harm to the amphibian, and avoid moving amphibians more than 50 metres unless absolutely necessary. If it is not possible to relocate the animal within 100 metres of the capture location, contact MNR for further direction using the SAR Notification/Contact Schedule.

f) Release amphibians as close as possible to the capture site.

g) Always release frogs and larvae in the same water body where they were found, or in the same type of natural habitat as the capture site.

Amphibians

- h) Release salamanders and toads in the same type of natural habitat as the capture site.
- i) If possible, release frogs, toads and salamanders near a retreat site, which is somewhere the animal can seek shelter from the elements and avoid predators (vegetation, rocks, logs or leaf litter in the case of salamanders; water or vegetation in the case of frogs). Do not release them in the open where they could be exposed to inclement weather, extreme sunlight or predators.
- j) To release frogs, toads and salamanders, remove the lid and gently tip the container onto its side and allow the animal to leave on its own. If necessary, gently tip the container on an angle to slide the animal out of the container.

4.6 Injured amphibians

- a) Use the methods outlined in section 4.2 to handle injured amphibians whenever possible. If those methods are not applicable due to the animal's injuries, use a shovel or other thin, flat object to pick up the animal. Ensure that any injured areas are supported.
- b) Place the amphibian in a small container with a lid that has air holes and line the bottom of the container with wet paper towels. Always create the air holes before putting the animal in the container.
- c) Newspaper or paper towels may be added to the container to give the amphibian something to hide in. Do not place water, other animals, food or anything else in the container with the individual.
- d) Thoroughly wash your hands after handling injured amphibians.
- e) Immediately transport the injured animal to a veterinarian or wildlife custodian per the SAR Notification/Contact Schedule, in order to increase its chances of survival.

Amphibians

5. Safe Handling of Birds

The protocol for handling birds is based on the size of the birds you may encounter.

Small Birds: e.g., Loggerhead Shrike, Prothonotary Warbler, Whip-poor-will

Large Birds: e.g., King Rail, Least Bittern, Peregrine Falcon

5.1 Materials

a) The following materials are required for the handling, capture, temporary safe keeping and transport of birds:

- » Sturdy cardboard box or large plastic bin and lid with air holes. Ensure both sides of the box/container and the lid are well marked with “live animal”.
- » Sheet or blanket large enough to cover a large bird
- » Thick work gloves
- » Safety glasses
- » Thermometer
- » Digital camera (optional)
- » MNR Notification/Contact Schedule
- » SAR Encounter Reporting Form

b) Equipment must be acquired and maintained on each job site.

5.2 Safety considerations

a) Generally, there is little risk associated with handling birds. However, some species can scratch or bite, and work gloves should be worn to help avoid minor injuries. Safety glasses are recommended for larger birds, especially the Least Bittern.

b) Always wash your hands after handling a bird. In addition, cloths, blankets and containers used to hold or transport birds should be washed with soap and water after each use. Discard a cardboard box after using it to hold or transport a bird.

5.3 Capture and handling of birds

a) The first consideration is to determine if the bird needs handling. It may be that the bird is healthy and can fly away. To find out, approach the bird slowly and wave your arms to make it fly or move away. Ensure that the direction in which the bird will fly is clear and free of obstruction. If this occurs (i.e., bird flies away), there is no need to proceed further with trying to catch it. If it doesn't fly and instead crouches down or wobbles, indicating that it can't fly, then it may be injured or a young bird not yet capable of flight.

c) Determine if it is a small or large bird from the list above. If possible, take a picture of the bird so that it can be identified without having to reopen the container.

Birds



d) **Small birds:** Use your bare or gloved hands, or the cloth or blanket, if that is more appropriate. Place your hands or the cloth/blanket over the bird around its body and over its wings to keep it from escaping. Gently pick it up and place it in the cardboard box or the large plastic bin. If it attempts to escape, work it towards a corner and attempt capture again.

e) **Large birds:** Use gloves and safety goggles for protection. Take the cloth or blanket and throw it over the bird to keep it from escaping. Use both hands to clasp the body of the bird through the cloth and gently restrain it. Pick up the bird, including the cloth, and place it all in the cardboard box/plastic bin. Free the bird from the cloth, remove the cloth, and then place the cover on the box.

If the bird jabs or bites at you during capture, use your gloved hand to fend off the attacks. Ensure it does not get close to your eyes if you are not wearing glasses.

f) Always handle birds carefully and gently, yet firmly. Birds may at any time struggle in an attempt to escape.



g) Never pick up a bird by the legs alone. Always support the body by grasping it around the wings.



Birds

5.4 Moving and releasing young birds or recovered birds

a) If the bird is a young bird incapable of long flight, it may be that its parents are nearby. Check around the site where the bird was found for the parents. If you locate parents, the young bird should be moved to a nearby tree, bush or ledge where the parents can attend to it and feed it. The location should be close to the parents and removed from danger. Watch the bird for 15 minutes and see if a parent attends to it.



b) In other cases, the captured bird may recover in the container and begin struggling to escape. In this case, you may wish to try releasing it in a natural habitat near where it was found. Place it in a location where it has shelter from the elements and can avoid predators. Allow it to move into cover. Do not release it in the open where it could be exposed to inclement weather, extreme sunlight or predators.

5.5 Temporary safe keeping and transportation of birds

a) You are responsible for this bird. Remember, once you have put it in a container, it depends on you to keep it safe and at the right temperature.

b) Always create air holes in the sides or lid of the box or container prior to placing the bird in it.



c) Place the box in a sheltered environment, preferably in the dark or semi-dark. This will quiet the bird down and let it rest.

d) Contact one of the MNR staff indicated on the SAR Notification/Contact Schedule. Ask for instructions on how to care for the bird. Send a picture of the bird if necessary.

e) It is extremely important to monitor the air temperature regularly in the container to ensure it **never exceeds 30°C or drops below 15°C**. Never leave the container in direct sunlight or in a closed vehicle parked in the sun, as this could cause the bird to overheat and could be fatal.

- f) Never put more than one bird in a container at a time, especially raptors (Peregrine Falcon).
- g) Once the bird is in the container, ensure that the lid is secure.
- h) **Never leave the container unattended** in an unsecured location (e.g., side of road) or on the edge of a car seat.
- i) Do not offer the bird any food or water unless instructed to do so following consultation with MNR staff on the SAR Notification/Contact Schedule.
- j) Birds should be checked periodically (every hour should suffice). Young birds are especially susceptible to dehydration and must be carefully monitored during transport.

5.6 Evaluation and disposition of captured birds

- a) Contact the MNR staff person listed on the SAR Notification/Contact Schedule immediately. Inform him or her of the capture and holding of the bird and ask for advice on the next steps.
- b) It may be useful to take a picture of the bird for identification purposes. Send the photo to the MNR staff person or another person as requested.
- c) You may be asked by the staff person to take the bird to a wildlife custodian.

5.7 Injured birds

- a) If the bird is injured, immediately request and follow instructions given by the MNR staff person listed on the SAR Notification/Contact Schedule.
- b) If so instructed, immediately transport the bird to a veterinarian or wildlife custodian per the SAR Notification/Contact Schedule, in order to increase the chances of the bird's survival.

6. Reporting Species at Risk Encounters

- a) Contact MNR to report the occurrence (including dead animals) within the period of time set out in the permit or agreement, or within 24 hours if not stipulated. Report injured animals to MNR immediately.
- b) Complete and submit the SAR Encounter Reporting Form, which includes the following information:
 - I. Name of Qualified Member
 - II. Contact number of Qualified Member
 - III. Date and time of the encounter
 - IV. Detailed location of the encounter (with lat-long or UTM coordinates, if possible). To obtain coordinates without a GPS, zoom into the area using Google Maps, right click on the location and select “what’s here?” from the right-click menu. The coordinates (in decimal degrees) will be provided to you in the Google Maps search bar.
 - V. Species encountered, with photo documentation, when possible. For assistance with species identification, see MNR’s *Ontario Species at Risk Quick Reference Guide*. Detailed species accounts can be found at www.ontarionature.org/atlas or the “Species Guides” at www.torontozoo.com/AdoptAPond.
 - VI. Action taken

Risk Encounters

7. Handling and Transporting Dead Animals

Dead species at risk that are encountered should be reported to the MNR as soon as possible. It is possible that the Ministry will request that the individual be stored and/or transported to the MNR.

Many researchers are currently studying the genetics of wild populations in Ontario, and genetic materials extracted from dead animals can make a valuable contribution to this research.

Examining a dead animal may provide important information about the cause of death or threats affecting the population.

If the MNR asks to see the species at risk and it is not possible to transport it on the same day it was found, the specimen should be stored in a freezer.

7.1 Materials

a) The following materials must be used for the handling and transport of dead species at risk:



- I. A plastic resealable bag or plastic kitchen-style container with a tight lid with label “dead SAR for transport to MNR”

- II. Permanent, water-resistant marker for labelling the bag or container with additional information, such as the date and location
- III. Latex gloves or thick work gloves that can be washed
- IV. Cooler with cold ice packs, if possible
- V. SAR Notification/Contact Schedule
- VI. SAR Encounter Reporting Form

7.2 Safety Considerations

Always wear gloves or wash your hands after handling any dead animal. Turtles (and many other animals) carry potentially harmful bacteria in their gut. Handling dead, rotting animals may also expose you to bacteria that can make you sick.

Handle a dead Massasauga with extreme caution

- I. The snake’s venom is still a serious biohazard even after the snake is dead.
- II. Never handle a dead Massasauga with your hands. Use a broom or sticks to place it into a container with a secure lid (not a bag).
- III. Although unlikely, nerves can trigger the Massasauga’s bite reflex even after the snake is dead.
- IV. In some situations, it can be very difficult to confirm that a snake is dead. For example, extreme shock can make a snake appear dead for several minutes until it slowly regains its senses. Unless you can confirm that the Massasauga is dead, always treat it as though it is alive and never place any part of your body within its potential strike range (approximately half of the snake’s body length).

Dead Animals

7.3 Handling a dead animal

a) Always make sure that an animal is actually dead before handling or capturing it. In some situations, live animals can easily be mistaken for being dead:

- I. Extreme shock can make a reptile or amphibian motionless and appear dead for several minutes until it slowly regains its senses.
- II. Air temperature controls the metabolism, and therefore the activity level, of reptiles and amphibians. If an over-wintering snake or turtle is encountered, it will only be 4 or 5°C and may be so inactive that it will appear dead. Very cold animals in the spring or fall may also be very inactive and appear dead until closely examined.
- III. Eastern Hog-nosed Snakes sometimes play dead as a defensive strategy to deter predators. This display includes rolling onto their back with their mouth gaping open and tongue hanging out, regurgitating food or defecating and emitting a foul smell. It is very difficult to determine if this species is actually dead without manipulating the snake and carefully inspecting it. If you flip the snake onto its belly, it will often roll back over and continue to play dead.

7.4 Temporary storage of dead animals

a) Place the dead animal in a plastic resealable bag or container with a tight lid that will not leak. Always use a thick container with a secure lid for Massasauga rattlesnakes.

b) Do not place anything else in the container with the animal.

c) Label the container with “dead SAR for transport to MNR” as well as the date, location and name of the observer.

d) Place the bag or container in a freezer as soon as possible. If a freezer is not immediately available, place it in a cool place, preferably a cooler with ice packs.

e) If the animal cannot be delivered to MNR on the same day that it was found, place it in a freezer until it can be delivered to MNR.

8 Appendices

Appendix I - Definitions

Species at Risk (SAR) Notification/Contact Schedule:

A contact list provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources District Office to be used when immediate guidance is required concerning species at risk (SAR) encounters. This list will include Ministry of Natural Resources staff as well as local veterinarians and wildlife custodians.

Species at Risk (SAR) Encounter Reporting Form:

A reporting form provided by Ministry of Natural Resources that must be completed any time that a species at risk (SAR) is encountered.

Qualified Member:

An individual who has received training by, in consultation with, or in a manner approved by Ministry of Natural Resources to capture, handle, move and relocate species at risk (SAR).



Appendices

Appendix II - References

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Parry Sound and Sudbury District. *Draft Turtle and Snake Capture and Relocation Protocol For Hwy 69/400 ESA Authorization Requirements*. Revised January 19, 2011.

Parks Canada. *The Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake Stewardship Guide: A Resource and Field Guide for Living with Rattlesnakes in Ontario*, Parks Canada, pp 84.

Karch, Mandy. 2008. *Standard Turtle Handling Practices and Protocols*. Prepared for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ontario Multi-species Turtles At Risk Recovery Team. 2008.

Unless otherwise noted, all photographs are credited to Jason Mortlock.



Appendices

Appendix III - Equipment and Materials Checklist

The following materials must be acquired and maintained on each job site, and are required for the handling, capture, temporary safe keeping and transport of species at risk:

All Species (including for dead animals)

- Thermometer
- Plastic resealable bag or plastic kitchen-style container with a tight lid with label “dead SAR for transport to MNR”
- Permanent, water-resistant marker for labelling bag or container with additional information, such as the date and location
- Latex gloves or thick work gloves that can be washed
- SAR Notification/Contact Schedule (from MNR District Office – see Appendix IV)
- SAR Encounter Reporting Form (See Appendix V)

Additional Materials for Turtles

- Large plastic bin or bucket and lid with air holes, with both sides of the container and lid marked “live animal”
- Cloth/burlap bag with both sides marked “live animal”
- Broom or broom handle with small paint brush roller attached to end

Additional Materials for Snakes

- Pail, large garbage can or bucket with air holes in the lid, with side of the container and lid marked “live animal”
- A cloth snake bag (e.g., pillowcase) for non-venomous species only, marked “live animal”

For Massasaugas:

- Pail, large garbage can or bucket (1 metre deep) with air holes in the lid, with side of the container and lid marked “caution rattlesnake”
- Broom or broom handle with small paint brush roller holder attached to end

Additional Protective Gear to be Worn When Working in or near Massasauga Habitat

- High-ankle hiking or rubber boots
- Thick pants (jeans) or baggy pants
- Leather work gloves

Additional Material for Skinks

- Plastic kitchen-style container and lid with air holes, marked “live animal”

Additional Materials for Amphibians (Salamanders, Newts, Mudpuppies, Frogs, Toads)

- Pail, bucket or large plastic bin with a lid that has air holes (for frogs), both side of container and lid marked “live animal”
- Plastic kitchen-style container and lid with air holes, marked “live animal”
- Paper towels (to be moistened and put in plastic kitchen-style container)
- Net (optional)

Additional Materials for Birds

- Sturdy cardboard box or large plastic bin and lid with air holes, with both sides of box/container and lid marked “live animal”
- Sheet or blanket large enough to cover a large bird
- Safety glasses
- Digital camera (optional)

Appendices

Appendix IV - SAR Notification/Contact Schedule



Appendices

Appendix V - SAR Encounter Reporting Form



