

Protection Measures for the Eastern Indigo Snake

The Eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon Corais Couperi*) could be present in the project study area. To minimize harm to this species, FDOT has committed to implement the following protection measures:

1. Provide Eastern indigo snake educational information to employees prior to the initiation of any clearing or construction. An educational exhibit that has been approved by USFWS shall be posted conspicuously at a site accessible to all employees and a handout will be distributed to employees.
2. The Contractor shall post and distribute educational information to all its workers. The exhibit and brochure shall include photographs of the Eastern indigo snake, information on life history and legal protection of the species in Florida, and how to avoid impacts to the species. This material shall be supplied to the contractor by the Construction Environmental Liaison at the pre-construction conference.
3. All construction activities shall cease if live indigo snakes are found within the project area. Work may resume after the snake or snakes are allowed to leave the area on their own.
4. Location of live sightings shall be reported to the Construction Environmental Liaison.
5. If a dead indigo snake is found on the project site, the snake shall be thoroughly soaked in water and then frozen as soon as possible. The Construction Environmental Liaison shall be notified immediately for further instructions.

Eastern Indigo Snake Education Plan

It has been determined through coordination with USFWS that the Eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon Corais Couperil*) may be present within the project study area. In an effort to reduce any potential harm to this species, FDOT has developed the following plan to educate the Contractor and its employees of the possible presence of the protected Eastern indigo snake in the project area prior to and during construction.

1. FDOT will inform the Contractor of the possible presence of the Eastern indigo snake at the pre-construction meeting.
2. FDOT will provide a description of the Eastern indigo snake to the contractor along with information on the ecology of the species at the pre-construction meeting.
3. FDOT will have color photographs of the Eastern indigo snake at the pre-construction meeting.
4. FDOT will inform the contractor on the protection status of the Eastern indigo snake and penalties that may be imposed if regulations are violated at the pre-construction meeting.

5. FDOT will at the pre-construction meeting provide to the contractor a sufficient number of exhibits to be conspicuously posted at the construction site so that the information is available to all construction employees. In addition, FDOT shall provide sufficient number of copies of the brochure to be distributed to construction personnel.
6. FDOT or its representative will verify that the contractor has conspicuously posted the exhibit(s) prior to the construction.
7. FDOT or its representative will periodically, during the construction of the project, inspect the Eastern indigo snake exhibit(s) posted at the project. FDOT or its representative will, after the inspection, immediately inform the contractor of any exhibit(s) which is (are) damaged/illegible or need(s) to be replaced.