



Copperheads are common in North Carolina, and it's not unusual to see them while climbing. Young snakes can be found in small cracks where protection is often placed. Your decision to rappel off the climb, walk to your vehicle, and drive to the nearest hospital was a good one; so was taking a photo of the bite when you got to your truck and arrived at the Emergency Department. In addition to taking pictures, you should have documented the progression of other signs and symptoms of envenomation, such as continued bleeding, when the bruising started, tenderness, pain, and swelling. Ideally, it would help to mark the progression on your friend's hand using a permanent marker or pen. It would also have been helpful to assess the progression of their signs and symptoms more often during the evacuation.