

OHS ALERT



OCTOBER 2024

BEWARE OF SNAKES!

COOL, DARK, PROTECTED AREAS SUCH AS UNDER SHEDS, RUBBLE, STORED MATERIALS, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT MAY ATTRACT THESE CREATURES.

PREVENTION

1. Minimize the food sources for snakes by removing anything that may attract mice or frogs.
2. Reduce the amount of rubbish and materials where a snake could shelter.
3. On return on the site after the break ensure everyone is made aware of the increased risk of the presence of snakes.
4. Wear gloves and boots when moving stored materials and rubbish as they will give a little protection.
5. An increased awareness and alertness is the best protection, the snake will not be looking for you so watch for it.

FIRST AID FOR SNAKE BITE IN AUSTRALIA

1. Ensure your first aid room kits have a snake bite kit available for use.
2. Immediately apply a broad firm bandage around the limb and on the bitten area.
3. Keep the limb and the victim as still as possible. Splint the limb.
4. Bring transport to the victim if possible.
5. Leave the bandage and splint on until medical care is reached.

IF A SNAKE IS SEEN OR REPORTED ON SITE

1. Note the area of the snake and work in this area stops until the hazard is removed.
2. **DO NOT** approach, attack or otherwise provoke the snake as 95% of those bitten have done this.

REMEMBER - IF PROVOKED WILL STRIKE

3. Contact

- The local council
- The Zoo 9285 9300
- Healesville Sanctuary 5957 2800
- Licensed snake removal or snake catcher

DO NOT:

- Cut or excise the bitten area.
- Apply an arterial tourniquet
- Wash the bitten area.

*Australian Venom Research Unit
First Aid Guidelines*

