

The Flying Doctor Snakebite Safety Guide

Every year there are around 3,000 reported snakebites in Australia.

What to do if a snake bites you

You won't always see the snake that bites you, in fact you might not even realise that you've been bitten. **Get help.**

Snakebites Do's and Don'ts

If a snake bites:

✘ Don't

Do not wash the wound or try to suck out the poison. Traces of venom in the bite can be used to identify which snake bit you

Don't waste time looking for the snake – venom identification is quicker, safer and more accurate

Do not apply a high tourniquet – this is extremely dangerous and could result in death when the tourniquet is removed

✔ Do

Apply a firm bandage and splint to immobilise and stop the venom spreading

Stay put – the patient should move as little as possible, by moving you will speed up the spread of the venom. Either put the patient on stretcher or bring transport to them

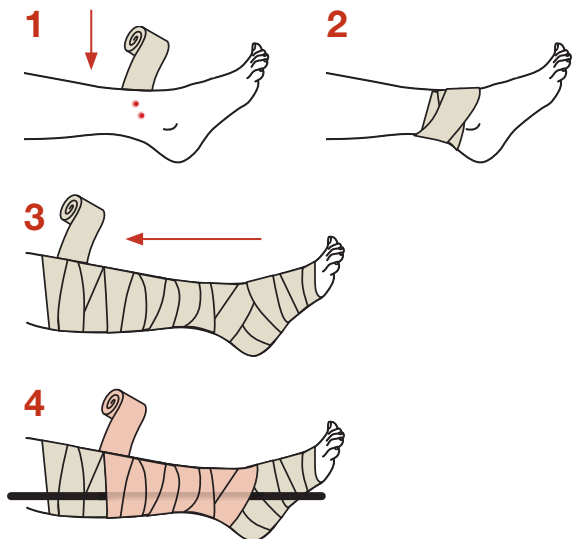
Seek urgent medical help, venom can cause severe damage and even death within hours



What you should do.

Don't panic. Keep calm and follow these steps.

1. **Call 000** – the faster that you can get professional help the better.
2. **Secure the wound** – if you have a first aid kit apply a pressure bandage and splint. If you don't, use as a splint and clothing as the bandage.



* If at any point the patient loses consciousness start CPR immediately.

ABOUT THE ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE

The Royal Flying Doctor Service has been taking the finest care to the furthest corners of Australia since 1928. The not-for-profit service provides **24-hour** emergency cover to 90% of the Australian continent, via a modern fleet of specially equipped aircraft and road vehicles. In the past year, the South Eastern Section had around 51,000 patient contacts and transported over 8,300 patients.



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Every year there are around 3,000 reported snakebites in Australia.

The most dangerous snakes in Australia that you need to know are:



Eastern brown snake
(*Pseudonaja textilis*)



Western brown snake
(*Pseudonaja mengdeni*)



Mainland tiger snake
(*Notechis scutatus*)

Source: www.australiangeographic.com.au

Symptoms of a snakebite:

PUNCTURE WOUND

SWELLING AND REDNESS AROUND THE WOUNDS

PAIN AT THE BITE SITE

DIFFICULTY BREATHING

VOMITING AND NAUSEA

BLURRED VISION

SWEATING AND SALIVATING

NUMBNESS

IF NO SYMPTOMS, GET HELP TO BE SAFE

The Australian Snakebite Project - Top Tips

Men are much more likely to be bitten by a snake.

3/4 of snakebites are **men in their 30's**.



Snakebites happen in urban areas.



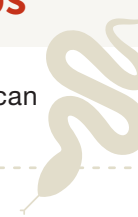
You are more likely to be bitten **close to home** rather than in the bush.

Lookout for snakes on your property.



Going for a **walk** and **gardening** are the most common activities when bites occurred.

Brown snakes can be aggressive.



41% of the recorded bites are from the **brown snake**.

Check arms and legs for puncture wounds.

Over **90%** of snakebites were found to occur on the **upper and lower limbs**.



For more information visit www.flyingdoctor.org.au/nswact