

## SAFETY ALERT

<b>To:</b>	All staff	<b>Issued:</b> 11/09/2024
		<b>Alert #:</b> 6
<b>Subject:</b>	Snakes	
<b>Purpose:</b>	To advise staff on the hazard	

## SAFETY ISSUES

With increasing temperatures marking the start of their breeding season, snakes are becoming more active therefore, the chance of interacting with them will become more prevalent.

### WHAT IS THE POTENTIAL RISK

- Bites are the most common harm associated with snakes. These bites, also known as envenomation, can cause serious injury and death.
- Potential falls, slips, and trips from rapid movement away from snakes and being frightened by their presence.

### POSSIBLE CONTROL MEASURES TO PREVENT INCIDENTS

**If you see a snake:**

1. Do not approach or attempt to catch it
2. Report it to Security
3. Stay at least 1.5m away
4. Call 000 if bitten
5. Provide first aid until help arrives.

**For people conducting outdoor activities:**

e.g., fieldwork and excursions, simple precautions, such as wearing long pants, thick socks, Snake Gaiters, and solid footwear when working or exploring outdoors greatly reduce the risk of being envenomated should there be a close encounter with a startled snake.

## ACTIONS

**For people undertaking Fieldwork/working alone**

- Learn first aid, and make sure a first aid kit with snake bite bandages is available.
- Ensure field work emergency procedures are current, including detailed location information for emergency response.
- Keeping areas well maintained – e.g., grass cut, etc.

**Snake bite first aid information available at ARC guidelines (links below):**

- [9.4.1 Australian Snake Bite](#)
- [9.4.8 Pressure Immobilisation Technique](#)
- [Red Cross Snake Bite](#)
- [St John Snake Bite](#)
- [Surf Life Saving Snake Bite](#)