

## Safety Alert: Number SA-26-003

<b>Title</b>	<b>Snake Awareness</b>				<b>SAFETY CRITICAL CATEGORY</b>  <b>Level 1 - Routine</b>
<b>Applicable Date</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>3 March 2026</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Until withdrawn</b>	
<b>Approved by</b>	<b>Melissa Northey, Head of Safety, Quality, Risk &amp; Environment</b>				
<b>Issued by</b>	<b>Melanie Norman, Safety Business Partner</b>				
<b>Location</b>	<b>M1 Network</b>				
<b>Distribution</b>	<b>All workers with MTS Operator Job Role</b>				

### Background

There has been an increase of snake sightings in and around the network. It is important to remember some of the hazards associated with gardens and the natural surroundings across our network.

Generally, snakes prefer to avoid humans, however they can occasionally be seen near paths and buildings. They are usually passing through and will be gone within a few hours and will only attack humans if hurt or provoked.

The most common snakes around Sydney are the Red-Belly Black snake and the Eastern Brown snake.

### If you see a snake

1. Keep your distance.
2. Do not harass the snake or attempt to catch it yourself.
3. Contact the Systems Infrastructure Response (SIR) Team Leader on 0438 325 718 (NW) and 0491 458 918 (CSW) who will contact an authorised snake catcher if the snake presents an immediate threat to people.
4. Remain calm and if required ensure the area is made safe and remove all personnel. If snake is located indoors isolate the room, close doors and block gaps.
5. Complete a Intelex HAZARD report for all snake sightings.



Red Belly Black Snake



Eastern Brown Snake

## Snake Bite First Aid

If bitten by a snake, it is important to remain calm, alert someone and seek medical attention by calling Triple Zero (000). First Aid should be applied as soon as possible.

St John NSW states that symptoms of a snake bite can include:

- Immediate or delayed pain at the bite site
- Bite marks (usually on a limb)
- Nausea and vomiting
- Abdominal pain
- Double or blurred vision
- Difficulty in speaking or swallowing
- Difficulty in breathing
- Swollen and tender glands in the groin or armpit of the bitten limb
- Swelling, bruising or local bleeding
- Faintness, dizziness
- Headache
- Oozing of blood from the bite site or gums
- Drooping eyelids
- Limb weakness or paralysis
- Occasionally, initial collapse or confusion

### What to do

1. Follow DRSABCD.
2. Call triple zero (000) for an ambulance.
3. Lie the patient down and ask them to keep still. Reassure the patient.
4. If on a limb, apply an elasticised roller bandage (10-15cm wide) over the bite site as soon as possible.
5. Apply a further elasticised roller bandage (10-15cm wide), starting just above the fingers or toes and moving upwards on the bitten limb as far as can be reached.
6. Use clothing or other material if an elasticised roller bandage is not available.
7. Apply the bandage as firmly as possible to the limb. You should be unable to easily slide a finger between the bandage and the skin.
8. Immobilise the bandaged limb using splints.
9. Keep the patient lying down and completely still (immobilised).
10. Write down the time of the bite and when the bandage was applied. If possible, mark the location of the bite site (if known) on the skin with a pen, or photograph of the site. Do not wash venom off the skin or clothes because it may assist in identification.
11. Stay with the patient until medical aid arrives.

