



HEALTH, SAFETY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Promoting a safer place to work and study

HSEM BULLETIN

Snakes

Who needs to read this?

All Curtin University Staff and Students

Information

Many of the world's most venomous snakes can be found in Australia. In spring and summer, many reptiles emerge to bask in the sun. During this time you should take precautions to minimise the chance of encountering snakes. Snakes usually shelter in or under fallen timber, roof sheets, long-grassed areas, etc. Some species of snakes are also attracted to sheds if they are not kept free of rats and mice.



Dugite. Photo Ann Storrie

Not all snakes are dangerous, but always treat them with respect and do not approach them.

Recommendations

If you come across a snake, do not aggravate it in any way. Back away to a safe distance and let it move away. Most bites occur when people accidentally step on snakes or try to handle, kill or harm them. Stick to the designated walkways and avoid walking in long grassed areas.

Report any snake sighting on campus to Properties on ext 2020, if it is afterhours, contact Security on ext 4444.

If bitten by a snake on campus, dial 000 and contact Security on ext 4444. Be aware of the [first aider](#) in your building. Advice on treatment for snake bites is available from [St John Ambulance](#).

If a fieldwork risk assessment has identified that there could be snakes on site, ensure that appropriate clothing is worn such as long pants, boots and gloves if sampling. Also ensure that the first aid kit has sufficient crepe bandages. Familiarise yourself with emergency response procedures and the closest hospital with antivenin.

Who do we call with questions?

If you have any queries, please contact Health and Safety on 9266 4900 or email healthandsafety@curtin.edu.au.

References

Department of Parks and Wildlife

Department of Environment SA

Australian Museum

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