



SAFework SA SNAKE FIRST AID

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Document Details

Responsible Officer	[REDACTED]
Version	2
Issued	Aug 2009
Next Review	Aug 2016
RecFind Number	SAFE08/0856 Pt3

Change History

Previous		Change from previous version	Author
Version	Issue Date	Developed	[REDACTED]
1	August 2009	Reviewed	[REDACTED]
2	July 2013	Reviewed	[REDACTED]

Contact Person

(for enquiries or amendments)

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Endorsed






**Executive Director
SafeWork SA**
31 March 2016



PURPOSE

Each animal listed is given a ranking according to how dangerous it is regarded as being.

This applies to animals with venom which has been known to cause death on numerous occasions	 VERY DANGEROUS
This applies to animals which rarely cause death or are considered potentially lethal	 DANGEROUS
These animals may cause discomfort or illness but are unlikely to cause critical problems	 TREAT WITH CAUTION
This refers to animals which present little or no danger to humans	HARMLESS

FIRST AID PROCEDURE FOR SNAKES

Phone or send for medical assistance.

Reassure the patient and encourage them to remain calm.

Have the patient remain as still as possible. Do not attempt to catch or kill the snake.

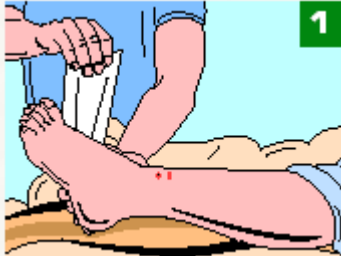
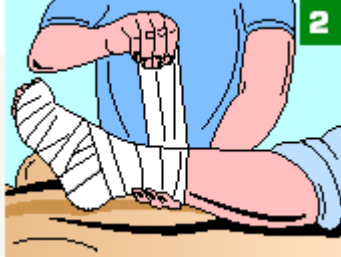
Apply a pressure bandage to the envenomed limb (see below). If the bite is to the trunk, apply firm pressure to the bitten area. Do not restrict chest movement.

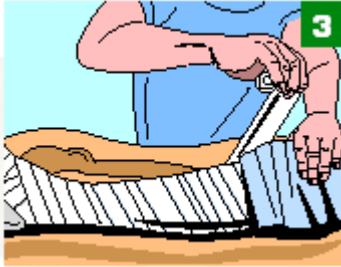
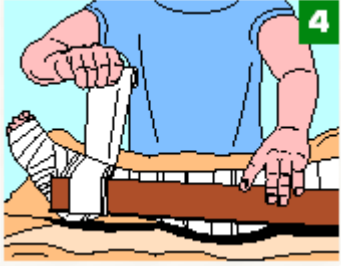
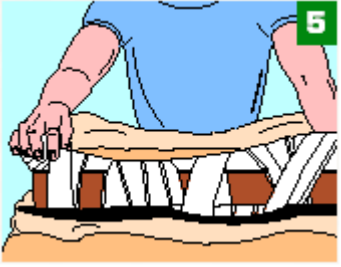
Splint or sling the limb to restrict movement. Where possible, help should be brought to the patient rather than moving the patient.

APPLYING A PRESSURE IMMOBILISATION BANDAGE

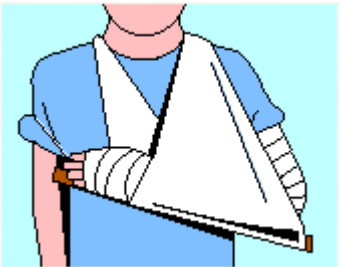
Immediately: If others are present, have someone phone for medical assistance. If unable to phone, send someone for help.

Reassure the patient and encourage them to remain calm and still.

First Aid for Bites to the Lower Limb	
 1	As soon as possible, apply a broad pressure bandage from below the bite site, upward on the affected limb (starting at the fingers or toes, bandaging upward as far as possible). Leave the tips of the fingers or toes unbandaged to allow the victim's circulation to be checked. Do not remove pants or trousers, simply bandage over the top of the clothing.
 2	Bandage firmly as for a sprained ankle, but not so tight that circulation is prevented. Continue to bandage upward from the lower portion of the bitten limb.

	<p>3 Apply the bandage as far up the limb as possible to compress the lymphatic vessels.</p>
	<p>4 It is vital to now apply a splint. Bind a stick or suitable rigid item over the initial bandage to splint the limb. Secure the splint to the bandaged limb by using another bandage, (if another bandage is not available, use clothing strips or similar to bind). It is very important to keep the bitten limb still.</p>
	<p>5 Bind the splint firmly, to as much of the limb as possible, to prevent muscle, limb and joint movement. This will help restrict venom movement. Seek urgent medical assistance now that first aid has been applied.</p>

First Aid for Bites on the Hand or Forearm

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As soon as possible, apply a broad pressure bandage from the fingers of the affected arm, bandaging upward as far as possible. Bandage the arm with the elbow in a bent position, to ensure the victim is comfortable with their arm in a sling. Leave the tips of the fingers unbandaged to allow the victim's circulation to be checked. 2. Bind a splint along the forearm. 3. Use a sling to further prevent limb movement.
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REVIEW

This information sheet should be reviewed every three (3) years from the date of issue. However, this document must be immediately modified if practices and/or procedures change.