

Snakes

Brisbane is home to several venomous and non-venomous snake species. They are not always easy to identify so all snakes should be treated as venomous. They are mostly active over spring and summer and are commonly seen in the mornings warming themselves up.



What if you come across a snake?



If you see a snake, **don't panic**. Back away to a safe distance and allow the snake to move away.



Do not approach, confront, or provoke the snake. When left alone, snakes pose little or no danger to people.



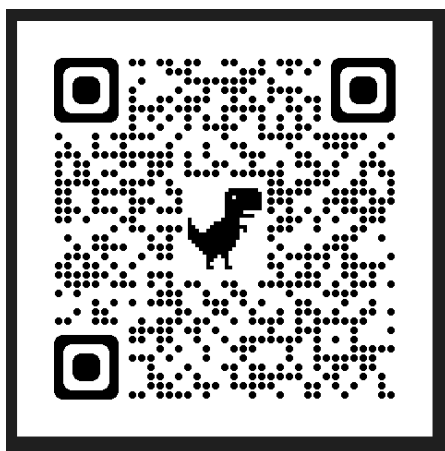
Note the location of the snake and remove all workers from the immediate area.



Advise your Catchment Group contact, and a snake catcher can be organised if required.

What should you do if a snake bites you or someone else?

- All snake bites must be treated as potentially life threatening.
- If you or someone else has been bitten by a snake call **000** or **112** immediately.
- It is important to keep the person at rest, reassured and under observation.
- Do not wash venom off the skin or clothes and complete **pressure-immobilisation first aid**.



Scan the QR Code with your camera phone to watch a quick video on **How to Treat a Snake Bite** or **click the link:**
[How to Treat a Snake Bite.](#)

Have you got a snake bite kit available in your work area and do you know where it is kept?

What are the signs and symptoms of a snake bite?

Some snake bites are so quick that you may not even notice the bite. Symptoms may not be obvious for an hour or more after being bitten. It is important to act quick if you suspect yourself or a team member has a snake bite.

Depending on the type of snake, signs and symptoms may include:



- Puncture marks to the wound
- Redness, swelling, bruising, or blistering around the bite.
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.
- Disturbed vision.
- Headaches.
- Drooping eyelids.
- Difficulty breathing.

How can we protect ourselves from snake bites?

- Wear appropriate PPE e.g., safety boots, gloves. (Consider snake gaiters).
- Never put your hands or feet where you can't see them without prior inspection.
- Observe your surroundings prior to starting works.
- Maintain a clean and tidy work environment. Removing any rubbish where a snake could shelter.
- Avoid travelling through long grass where possible.
- Stamp your feet when walking and use a stick/pole to prod ahead.
- Ensure you have adequate lighting for night works.

Remember

Report all snake bites to your Catchment Group President and fill out the required QWaLC forms.

Further information

If you need specialist advice or assistance regarding snakes, contact your Catchment Group for further details.

