

# Safety Notice – Snakes

Date of issue: February 6<sup>th</sup> 2025

**What Occurred:** A sub-contractor found a snake onsite when conducting a site clean.

**This applies to all trades & suppliers**

Facts	Prevention
<p>With the warmer summer months starting, it is important to remember some of the hazards associated with working outdoors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Snakes may be more visible during warmer months, but it is important to remember that they will generally avoid people.</li><li>• Cool, dark, protected areas such as under rubble, stored materials, plant &amp; equipment may attract snakes.</li><li>• A snake bite will result from a snake being frightened, surprised or cornered.</li><li>• Australian snake venom enters the lymphatic system first before entering the blood stream.</li><li>• You can speed up this process by moving around or slow it down by staying still.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduce the amount of rubbish and materials where a snake could shelter.</li><li>• Ensure all workers and others are warned that snakes can be more active during the warmer months.</li><li>• Wear gloves and boots when moving stored materials and rubbish.</li><li>• Be alert and aware of your surroundings.</li><li>• If you see a snake on site, notify the site supervisor immediately so they can organise for the removal of the snake.</li><li>• Take a photo of the area to assist with the removal.</li><li>• Do not attempt to capture or injure the snake as this puts you at a higher risk of being bitten.</li></ul> <p><b>What to do if bitten</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do not panic, it is unlikely the bite will be life-threatening.</li><li>• Call 000 for an ambulance.</li><li>• Apply a broad firm bandage around the limb and on the bitten area.</li><li>• Stay as still as possible.</li><li>• Seek urgent medical attention.</li><li>• Don't cut or excise the bitten area.</li><li>• Don't wash the bitten area.</li></ul>



Red-bellied black snake



Tiger snake



Brown snake

**Remember**

- If you have any concerns please contact the site supervisor, construction manager or the HSE department.