

SNAKE & SPIDER BITE

TREATMENT GUIDE

All snake bites should be treated as potentially lethal

SNAKE BITE WARNING

- ▶ DO NOT try to catch or kill the snake.
- ▶ DO NOT allow casualty to move if possible. Bring help to the casualty.
- ▶ DO NOT wash or wipe venom off the skin. Hospitals are able to identify snakes from venom samples taken from the bite site.
- ▶ DO NOT cut bite site or area.
- ▶ DO NOT try to suck venom out of the bitten area.
- ▶ DO NOT use a constrictive bandage (i.e. arterial tourniquet).
- ▶ DO NOT remove bandage or splint once applied.



SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

After a person has been bitten, signs are not always visible and symptoms may only start to appear an hour or more later.



SNAKE BITE

- ▶ Puncture marks or scratches
- ▶ Headache
- ▶ Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea
- ▶ Double or blurred vision
- ▶ Breathing difficulties
- ▶ Drowsiness, giddiness, faintness drooping eyelids, problems speaking or swallowing
- ▶ Pain or tightness in chest or abdomen

SPIDER BITE

- ▶ Pain (moderate or severe)
- ▶ Nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea
- ▶ Excessive sweating

In addition to 'Spider Bite' Symptoms:

FUNNEL WEB SPIDER

- ▶ Abundant discharge of saliva
- ▶ Difficulty in breathing and muscular twitching
- ▶ Confusion leading to unconsciousness

RED-BACK SPIDER


- ▶ Severe local pain which increases and spreads
- ▶ Small hairs stand upright

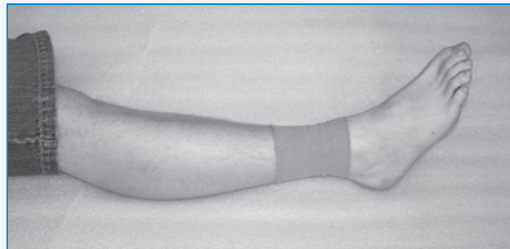
OTHER SPIDER

- ▶ Inflammation or swelling
- ▶ Burning feeling
- ▶ Blistering

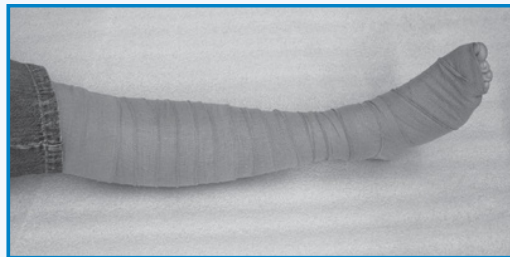
WHAT SHOULD I DO?

SNAKE, FUNNEL-WEB / MOUSE SPIDER BITES

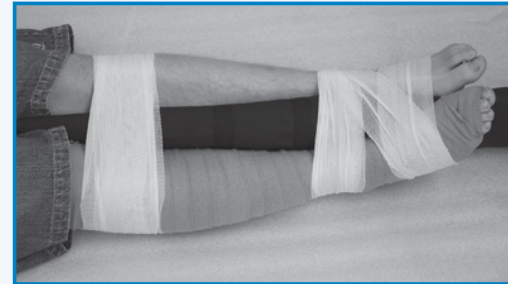
- 1. CALM THE CASUALTY.** Lie the casualty down. This will slow down the absorption of venom and reduce the effect of shock.
- 2. CHECK BREATHING AND CIRCULATION.** If casualty is unconscious, follow 
- 3. APPLY PRESSURE IMMOBILISATION BANDAGE.** Such as a crepe or conforming roller bandage around the bite site firmly.

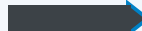


Then apply a firm crepe or roller bandage over the whole limb starting at the toes or finger tips. Bandage needs to be firm as for sprain but not too tight.



- 4. IMMOBILISE THE LIMB USING A SPLINT.** If bitten on the leg, use the other as a splint. Use bandage to tie legs together or to hold splint in place. Keep the bitten limb level with the rest of the body to slow down absorption of the venom in the body.



- 5. CALL 000 or MOBILE 112 FOR MEDICAL HELP.**
- 6. MONITOR CASUALTY.** Check at fingers or toes for circulation. If they lose consciousness or breathing fails 

RED-BACK SPIDER

- 1. APPLY WRAPPED ICE PACK** to bitten area to reduce pain.
- 2. RAISE LIMB** to limit swelling.

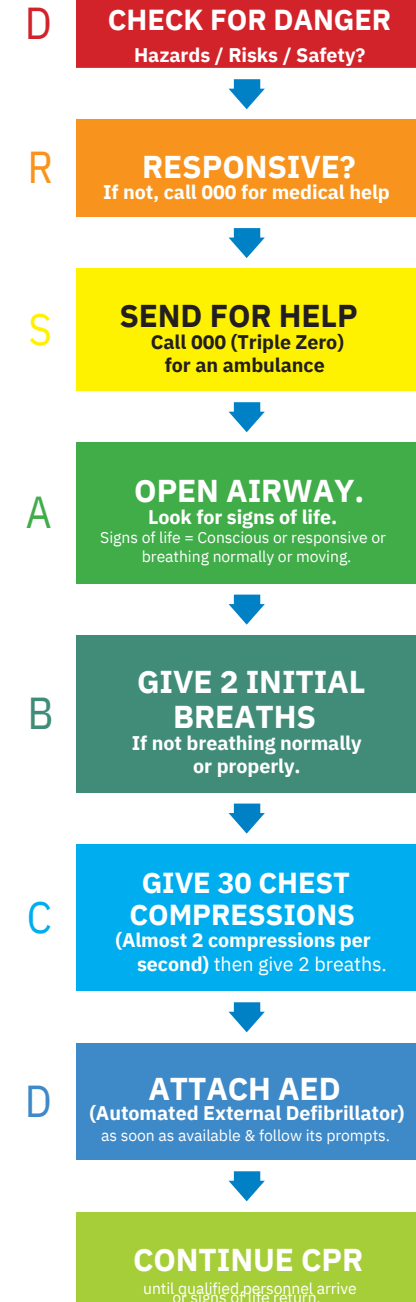


- 3. SEEK MEDICAL HELP.**

OTHER SPIDERS

- 1. WASH** with water and soap.
- 2. APPLY WRAPPED ICE PACK** to relieve pain or discomfort.
- 3. SEEK MEDICAL ADVICE.**

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT FLOW CHART



SNAKE & SPIDER IDENTIFICATION



WESTERN BROWN SNAKE (OR GWARDER)

Colour: from light brown to dark shade
Markings: sometimes with crossbands
Nature: Highly venomous and extremely fast
Location: WA, SA, NT, QLD, some of VIC



EASTERN BROWN SNAKE

Length: average 1.5-1.8m
Colour: from light brown to dark shade
Markings: sometimes with crossbands
Nature: timid but aggressive if provoked, extremely fast, highly venomous
Location: QLD, NSW, VIC, SA, arid parts of NT, WA (Kimberley region)



RED-BELLIED BLACK

Length: average 1.5-2m
Colour: gleaming black body
Markings: red lower scales
Nature: not very aggressive
Location: East coast, swamps, river flats.



TIGER SNAKE

Length: up to 2.1m
Colour: pale grey to dark brown
Markings: yellowish cross-banding
Nature: not especially aggressive, but numerous and deadly
Location: : Southern WA, SA, TAS, VIC, NSW. Mainly Coastal Areas.



FUNNEL-WEB SPIDER

Length: 10 - 50mm
Colour: dark, ranging from black to brown
Nature: extremely aggressive, rear back to bite
Location: Eastern Coast of Australia



DUGITE SNAKE

Length: up to 2m
Colour: grey, green or brown
Markings: sometimes with crossbands
Nature: generally avoid humans, most active October-November, highly venomous
Location: WA, coastal parts of west SA



DEATH ADDER

Length: up to 90cm
Colour: shades of grey through brown
Markings: irregular cross-banding
Nature: appears sluggish, strikes with speed
Location: Throughout Aus, except central deserts in SE NSW.



TAIPAN

Length: up to 3m
Colour: pale to dark brown
Markings: yellowish areas around head
Nature: extremely aggressive, given to unprovoked attacks, deadly venom
Location: Northern Australia



COPPER HEAD

Length: up to 180cm
Colour: varies from coppery mid-brown to yellowish, red, grey and black
Nature: shy, retiring & prefer to escape rather than fight
Location: Temperate territories of Southern & Eastern Aus, well adapted to cooler climates near water.



RED-BACK SPIDER

Length: 5-15mm
Colour: black body with prominent red stripe on its abdomen
Location: throughout Australia