Mawson Lakes School OSHC

Snake Procedure

IF A SNAKE IS SIGHTED ON THE OSHC GROUNDS, THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURE MUST BE FOLLOWED

1. MOVE CHILDREN TO SAFETY
If you sight a snake in the yard whilst outside with children and young people, the top priority is ensuring their safety. Calmly and quietly instruct the children to move away from the area, taking the safest route. An educator will position themselves behind the children to guide them away from the snake while maintaining a safe distance.

2. REPORT SNAKE SIGHTING
Immediately use a walkie-talkie to report the sighting to the Nominated Supervisor. Use clear and concise language, stating the location of the snake, its size if possible, and any distinguishing features like colour or pattern.

3. LOCKDOWN PROCEDURE
A siren will sound on the megaphone, signalling a lockdown in TR9. All educators and children must proceed to the designated lockdown area immediately.

4. DOCUMENT AND MONITOR THE SNAKE IF SAFE
A designated educator should record the time and location of the sighting from a safe distance. Where it is safe to do so, the educator should maintain visual contact with the snake without approaching or putting themselves or others at risk.

5. CHILDREN REMAIN INSIDE
Once inside the designated lockdown area, educators will ensure all children and young people are safe and accounted for by conducting a headcount.

6. CONTACT SNAKE CATCHER IF NECESSARY
The Nominated Supervisor will assess the situation and determine if contacting the professional snake catcher Roger on 0415 928 500 is necessary.

7. RESUME NORMAL OPERATIONS
Once the snake catcher has confirmed the area is clear, or the Nominated Supervisor has determined it is safe, children can return to normal experiences.

IN THE EVENT A CHILD OR ADULT IS BITTEN BY A SNAKE, THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURE MUST BE FOLLOWED

- **Move away from the snake.** Ensure the person is safely away from the snake without putting others at risk. Do not attempt to catch or identify the snake
- **Keep the person still and calm.** Reassure them and minimise movement, as movement can cause venom to spread more quickly
- **Follow DRSABCD first aid procedures** and assess the person's condition
- **Call Triple Zero (000) immediately** and request an ambulance. Clearly explain that a snake bite has occurred and follow the emergency operator's instructions. If calling 000 does not connect on a mobile phone, try 112
- **Apply a pressure immobilisation bandage** to the bitten area and the affected limb, where appropriate, following current Australian snakebite first aid guidelines. If the bite is on the trunk, apply firm, constant pressure over the bite site if possible, without restricting breathing
- **Keep the person still and do not remove the bandage.** Continue monitoring their condition and provide first aid as directed by the emergency operator until paramedics arrive
- **Notify the family or emergency contact** as soon as practicable, ensuring this does not delay calling an ambulance or providing first aid
- **Document the incident** in accordance with the service's incident, injury, trauma and illness procedures

IMPORTANT - Snake bites are a medical emergency, even if the person appears well or has no immediate symptoms. Call Triple Zero (000) immediately and follow the emergency operator's instructions.

Reviewed: October 2026