


## SAFETY ALERT

<b>To:</b>	All staff and students	<b>Issued: 26 October 2023</b>
		<b>Alert #: 2</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	Snakes now active  <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p><b>Image:</b> <a href="#">Eastern Brown Snake</a></p>	
<b>Purpose:</b>	To advise staff and students on the hazards posed by snakes and recommendations to avoid harm.	

### What is the hazard

With increasing temperatures marking the start of their breeding season, snakes are becoming more active therefore the chance of interacting with them will become more prevalent.

### What are the potential risks and harms

Bites are the most common harm associated with snakes. These bites, also known as envenomation, can cause serious injury and death.

### What can we do to minimise the risk



If you see a snake **1.** do not approach or attempt to catch it **2.** report it to Security **3.** stay at least 1.5m away **4.** call 000 if bitten and **5.** provide first aid until help arrives.

For people conducting outdoor activities e.g., field work and excursions, simple precautions, such as wearing long pants, thick socks, [Snake Gaiters](#) and solid footwear when working or exploring outdoors greatly reduces the risk of being envenomated should there be a close encounter with a startled snake.

### Actions to prevent future occurrences

For people undertaking Field work/working alone – learn first aid, make sure a first aid kit with snake bite bandages is available, ensure field work emergency procedures are up to date including detailed location information for emergency response and keeping areas well maintained – e.g., grass cut etc.

Snake bite first aid information available at: ARC guidelines [9.4.1 Australian Snake Bite](#) and [9.4.8 Pressure Immobilisation Technique](#), [Red Cross Snake Bite](#), [St John Snake Bite](#), [Surf Life Saving Snake Bite](#)

**Please contact Workplace Health and Safety:** [whs@scu.edu.au](mailto:whs@scu.edu.au) if you have any questions.