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St Joseph's School Snake protocol.

What to do when there is a snake sighting

Student - In the event of a snake sighting on or near the school grounds, please observe the following protocols:

Move away from the snake immediately and find the nearest teacher. If you cannot see a teacher go to the office and tell them.

Do not approach, scare or throw things at the snake or get in the path of the snake.

Tell other students who are nearby to move away from the area.

Staff - For staff who may be told of a sighting, regardless of where you are:

Contact the school office (or send a responsible student with a message of the location of the snake). The office staff will inform the principal/deputy who will immediately attend the scene.

At the same time, you should make your way to the vicinity of the snake to ensure other students have not approached it or are interfering with it, do not put yourself in danger but instruct others from a safe distance. In doing this, be clear to students that there is a 'no go zone'. This will be reinforced when back up staff arrive.

Do not leave the area of the snake sighting until instructed to do so.

What to do in the event of a snakebite

ACTION

- Call 000 immediately (even if you are not 100% certain of a snake bite). If the snake is still visible (or within striking distance), move away to minimise the risk of a second bite.
- Contact the school office to inform them of the incident and to ask them to call 000 if you haven't already done so.
- The school office will inform the principal or deputy who will attend the scene immediately. The school office will contact the family of the victim. At the same time the School office will refer to the students' records to find out more about the victim's

medical history. This will also assist the medical staff in treating the bite. The principal and staff member will call on other staff to evacuate/supervise the students whilst they remain with the victim. The principal and school office will remain in mobile phone contact.

- Following this the school office will contact a local Commercial Controller (Registered Snake Handlers). (See list at end)

BASIC FIRST AID AND MONITORING

- If at all possible, try to identify the snake if it is still visible as this will help the medical staff in providing the best medical care. If the snake has moved away and is no longer visible do not go looking for it. You are increasing the risk of another bite. Remember, identifying the snake is helpful, but not paramount in treating the victim.
- Reassure the victim. Keep the patient calm.
- Restrict movement. Limited movement will reduce the spread of the venom. A crepe bandage is advised for this but may not be available. If not available, a T-shirt or windcheater will suffice.
- Remove all restrictive jewellery. Remove watches, rings, bracelets etc.
- If needed cut away restrictive clothing.
- Keep the patient warm. This reduces the risk of shock.
- Monitor the vital signs until the ambulance arrives.
- Be prepared for CPR. Maintain airways and ensure proper ventilation and maintain cardiovascular integrity.

RECOVERY

Depending on the circumstances, appropriate information and support will be offered to students and staff to assist in recovery.

An announcement will be made immediately the danger is past.

CONTACTS

The Department of Primary Industry (Ph. 136186) maintains a list of Commercial Controllers (Registered Snake Handlers). Our local snake handlers are Craig 0428 300 210. Or Tanya, 0409575144. Either of these will be contacted for the snake to be removed (if still visible) from the grounds.

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