



Badger Creek Primary School

Snake Management Policy

Purpose

Badger Creek Primary School is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for the community. This policy aims to define the risk of snakes at the College, procedures for preventing snake bite and the appropriate response for dealing with a snake sighting and a possible bite.

Scope

This policy applies to students, parents/guardians, staff, contractors, volunteers and visitors to Badger Creek Primary School.

Key Responsibilities

Position/Roles	Responsibilities
School Council	Review and endorse Policy
Leadership Team	- Develop and maintain safe and healthy environment for students, staff and volunteers. - Development and implementation of college policy and procedures - Provide resources and support for staff in undertaking their responsibility in this area
All staff	- Be aware of the Snake Policy and Procedures - Educate students, parents, contractors and visitors on minimising the risk of snake bite - Take reasonable care of their own health and safety and that of others affected by their work or actions - Reporting hazards and accidents/incidents in accordance with the College OHS procedures
All Students, Parents, and Visitors	- Be aware of the Snake Policy and Procedures and follow instructions from Staff - Take reasonable care of their own health and safety and that of others affected by their actions.

Key Elements of the Policy

Badger Creek Primary School is located in a bush setting in which it is known that snakes inhabit. They are most prevalent in the warmer months (September to April) but could be encountered on a sunny day at any time of the year. Unprovoked, snakes rarely attack humans and are generally shy, timid animals that will avoid conflict if given the opportunity. It is recommended that particular care be taken in warm weather, near long grass or hollow logs, near water or near rocks in sunny positions. Snakes are protected under the Wildlife Act 1975 and should not be harmed or killed. Bites can occur if people try to kill snakes.

Implementation of Policy

- First Aid Kits are available to administer first aid in response to snake bites
- Staff trained in First Aid
- Following all procedures as set out in this policy

Snake Bite Prevention Behaviours

- Leave snakes alone
- Wear adequate clothing and protective shoes (not sandals/thongs) when walking in long grass
- Never put hands in hollow logs, holes or thick grass without prior inspection
- When stepping over logs, carefully inspect the ground on the other side
- Remind students on a regular basis that if they encounter a snake, to move away quietly and report the sighting immediately to a teacher
- Yard duty teachers to inspect yard for snakes
- Keep grass mown and minimise piles of paving, building supplies and debris
- Reduce mice populations

What to do if you see a snake at Badger Creek Primary School

- Calmly move students away from the snake
- Staff must not attempt to touch or harm the snake
- Contact a member of the Leadership Team who will gain expert advice from the listed contacts
- Administer first aid in the event of a snake bite

First aid for snakebite

- Stay calm and call or send someone to the Office for help. In a critical situation phone for an ambulance.
- Reassure the patient and encourage them to remain calm and still. Do not move the patient.
- Do not attempt to catch or kill the snake.
- DO NOT WASH the bite. Traces of venom that are left on the skin can be used to identify the snake.
- The most effective first aid for snakebite is the pressure-immobilisation technique. The principle is to minimise the movement of the venom around the body until the victim is in a hospital by applying a firm bandage (or suitable alternative) to the bitten area and limb, and to immobilise the victim.

Assistance with snakes

- Healesville Sanctuary



First aid fact sheet

Snake bite



All known or suspected snake bites must be treated as potentially life-threatening, and medical aid should be sought urgently.

Signs and symptoms

Signs of a snake bite are not always visible. In some cases, the patient may not have felt anything. Symptoms may not appear for an hour or more after the person has been bitten.

Depending on the type of snake, signs and symptoms can include some or all of the following:

- immediate or delayed pain at the bite site
- swelling, bruising or local bleeding
- bite marks (usually on a limb) that can vary from obvious puncture wounds to scratches that can be almost invisible
- swollen and tender glands in the groin or armpit of the bitten limb
- faintness, dizziness
- nausea and vomiting
- headache
- abdominal pain
- oozing of blood from the bite site or gums
- double or blurred vision
- drooping eyelids
- difficulty in speaking or swallowing
- limb weakness or paralysis
- difficulty in breathing
- occasionally, initial collapse or confusion followed by partial or complete recovery.

What to do

Pressure bandage & immobilise

- 1 Follow DRSABCD.
- 2 Call Triple Zero (000) for an ambulance.
- 3 Lie the patient down and ask them to keep still. Reassure the patient.
- 4 If on a limb, apply an elasticised roller bandage (10–15 cm wide) over the bite site as soon as possible.
- 5 Apply a further elasticised roller bandage (10–15 cm wide), starting just above the fingers or toes and moving upwards on the bitten limb as far as can be reached.
 - Apply the bandage as firmly as possible to the limb. You should be unable to easily slide a finger between the bandage and the skin.
- 6 Immobilise the bandaged limb using splints.
- 7 Write down the time of the bite and when the bandage was applied. If possible, mark the location of the bite site (if known) on the skin with a pen, or photograph the site. Do not wash venom off the skin or clothes because it can assist identification.
- 8 Stay with the patient until medical aid arrives.



In a medical emergency call Triple Zero (000)

DRSABCD Danger ▶ Response ▶ Send for help ▶ Airway ▶ Breathing ▶ CPR ▶ Defibrillation

You could save a life with first aid training • www.stjohn.org.au • 1300 360 455

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