

# UNDERSTANDING SNAKES IN THE GREATER DURBAN AREA

## VENOMOUS SNAKES



## HARMLESS SPECIES



### WHAT NOT TO DO IF YOU SEE A SNAKE

- ▶ DO NOT try to kill it. This will put you at high risk of being bitten. If you try and hurt it, it will defend itself
- ▶ DO NOT try to capture the snake. Snakes do not know if you are trying to help them or not, and thus see humans as a threat. Therefore, the snake may bite



### WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE A SNAKE

- ▶ DO leave it alone, and move away slowly. If you do this, the snake will not do anything to you
- ▶ If it is out in the bush, leave it in peace
- ▶ If the snake is in or around your home, call a snake catcher immediately for advice or to remove it
- ▶ If you call a snake catcher out, please watch the snake from a safe distance (5m or more)



### WHAT TO DO IF YOU OR SOMEONE AROUND YOU IS BITTEN BY A SNAKE

- ▶ Someone with a driver's license must transport the patient to the nearest hospital or clinic
- ▶ Alternatively, an ambulance should be called
- ▶ DO NOT waste any time
- ▶ DO NOT try to kill or capture the snake to take to hospital. This is not necessary and is dangerous
- ▶ A photo of the snake may be helpful but not necessary

## Contact details



**Snake catcher**  
Nick Evans - 072 809 5806



**Snakebite Advisory Group**  
Dr Hardcastle: 082 468 1615  
Dr Garach: 082 495 0135



**Hospitals**  
St Augustine's Casualty: 031 268 5559  
Hillcrest Hospital: 031 768 8000



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