


## Safety Alert

### SA 17-287 - Snake Alert

	<p><b>Audience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Infrastructure and Services employees</li> </ul>	<p><b>Contact:</b></p> <p>Graham Jackson, Director Safety and Engineering Systems 9422 5450 Kylie Mills, Associate Director Safety Services 9200 0243</p>
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#### What happened

Spring brings warm weather and with this change warm weather and with this change native snakes increase their movements, even in urban areas. In years passed a worker performing routine signalling tasks in the North Main corridor was bitten on the leg by a snake around this time of year. The individual was not aware there was a snake in the area until they sighted the snake head into the nearby bushes, by this time the snake bite had been received. The work team on site responded promptly, to apply the appropriate first aid and contact the emergency services.

#### Lessons Learned



Red-Bellied Black Snake,  
*Rseudechis porohyriscus*



Common Brown Snake,  
*Demansia textilis*

The unseasonal weather in Sydney has made snakes active earlier in the year than would generally be the case and workers are reminded to be vigilant and report all snake sightings to the site based Environmental and Safety representatives.

Should an expert handler be required they can be contacted via **13 00 094 737** or [www.wires.org.au](http://www.wires.org.au).

**Under no circumstances should a staff member handle, injure or move a snake**  
It is an offence to harm native fauna and flora;

**All native animals in NSW are protected under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act* .**

The legislation may be enforced through criminal proceedings with a maximum penalty of \$11,000 or 6 months imprisonment, or both.



### **Actions Required**

TfNSW Safety Engineering and Systems branch to share the lessons learnt from this safety alert with other industry stakeholders via consultative mechanisms.

TfNSW Principal Representative are required to distribute this Safety Alert to personnel under their management or control and request the following actions:

- Ensure their first aid risk assessments considers the possibility of snake bite and ample equipment is available for responders
- Disseminate this information at the next Toolbox talk and include the site based protocols for responding to Snake or Spider bites
- Provide evidence to the TfNSW Principal Representative that these actions have occurred.

**Issued and authorised by the Director Safety and Engineering Systems**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



Name: Graham Jackson, Director Safety and Engineering Systems  
Dated: 09 Sep 2017

