

Snake Bites

SAFETY AWARENESS KEPT SIMPLE

Safety Talk Delivery Pack

This Safety Talk contains:

- 5 - Page Talk Text
- 5 - OHP Presentation Slide Pack
- 10 - A5 Talk Handout Sheets
- Assessment and Assessment Answers Sheet
- Employee Attendance Register
- A "How to Present Safety Talks Guide"

Using the talks (Extract "How to Present Safety Talks"):

Plan which topic you want to discuss with your team.

Read through the script before you hold the meeting to familiarise yourself with the material.

Start the talk with a comment that makes the topic relevant to the team. For example, if you have seen a number of people using ladders incorrectly, use this as your opening comment.

Follow the script but don't read straight from the page. The script is only a prompt and it will sound better if you use your own words.

Ask the questions as they appear in the script. It is important you do this because they are a lead in to the next section of your talk.

Give the team enough time to answer the questions. Safety talks can be boring for the team if you are the only one talking.

Hand out the information sheets as they appear in the script. Don't hand out all the information sheets at the start of the talk otherwise there is a temptation for the team to read ahead and not listen to the points you are making.

Collect the information sheets at the end of the talk so they can be used again.

To obtain your Safety Talk Delivery Pack go to: www.smartsafe.com.au

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INTRODUCTION

In Australia we have a large variety of snakes, some of which are considered to be highly venomous. Snakes are cold blooded and are mostly seen in the summer months.

Snake bites are very rare [in Australia] and often the fault of the person themselves most bites occur when people are trying to kill a snake or show off and, since the development of anti-venom, fatalities have been low between four to six deaths a year.

Snakes naturally prey on small animals such as mice and rats and **do not** hunt humans. They will not bite you unless you provoke them.

Some of the more venomous Australian snakes include:

- Brown Snakes;
- Tiger Snakes;
- Taipans;
- Red Bellied Black Snakes; and
- Death Adders.

Brown Snakes are the deadliest snakes in Australia and are responsible for 24 of the 41 deaths that have occurred because of snake bite since 1980.

This safety talk will look at:

- some of the more common types of snakes;
- what they look like;
- where they are found;
- how we can best avoid them; and
- the symptoms and treatment of snake bite.

TYPES OF SNAKES



Hand out sheet 1 – Locations of Australian Snakes

Brown Snakes (All States of Australia)

Brown Snakes:

- have a long, slender head and body shape;
- they range from 0.6 to 2.7 metres in length; and
- vary in colour from straw yellow, apricot, light brown, chocolate brown to almost black.

Different species of Brown Snakes are found throughout Australia.

Aggressive, fast moving and known for their bad temper, brown snakes are responsible for more deaths every year in Australia than any other group of snakes. They are second most toxic of any land snake in the world and they thrive in populated areas, and farms in rural areas.

If disturbed, the eastern brown raises its body off the ground ready to strike.

The (Mulga Snake) is also, known as the King Brown deliver the highest amount of venom as high as 150mg in a single bite

Tiger Snakes (South-eastern Australia and Tasmania)

There are also many different types of Tiger Snakes in Australia. Their common characteristics are:

- a blunt or flat head and thick rounded body;
- a length of from 0.9 to 2.0 metres; and
- vary in colour from black to dark grey, olive brown and steel blue, with yellow or cream stripes or bands.

Tiger snakes are found in the south-eastern areas of the Australian mainland and all areas of Tasmania.

Mainland tiger snakes are responsible for the second-highest number of bites in Australia, as they inhabit highly populated areas along the east coast, including some metropolitan areas of Melbourne.

Bites are fatal if untreated, symptoms include pain in the feet and neck, tingling, numbness and sweating, followed by breathing difficulties and paralysis.

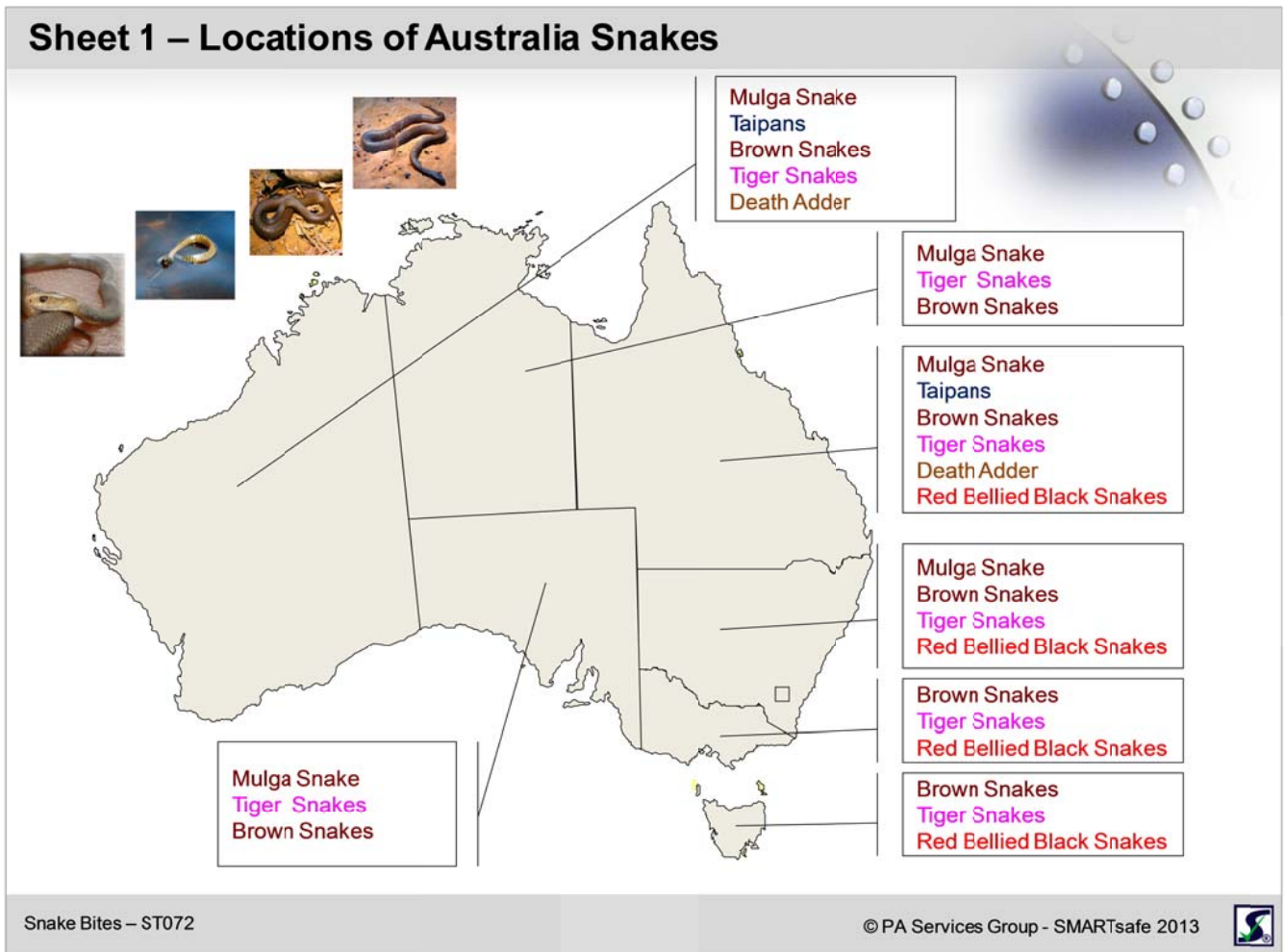
Taipans (Northern Australia and Queensland)

Taipans:

- have a large rectangular-shaped head, narrow neck, rounded body and red eyes;
- usually grow to approximately 2 metres in length but can grow up to 2.8 metres in length;
- vary in colour from light brown, to dark brown or black, coppery-red or olive; and
- have a pale creamish colour around its head and lips.

Taipans are only found in the most northern areas of the Australian mainland and along the coast of Queensland.

Sample OHP Presentation Slide



Sample A5 Handouts

Sheet 4 – Treating a Snake Bite



1. Keep the patient still and reassure them.
2. Apply a firm, broad bandage to the bitten area and along the limb.
3. Keep the limb still by applying a splint.
4. Collect the snake if it is dead so it can be identified.
5. Send for a doctor or transport the patient to a hospital in a calm and safe manner.

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