

SAFETY ALERT

SNAKES



Date: 18/9/2023

ID/Ref # HSW 2023-003

With the warmer summer months starting it is important to remember some of the hazards associated with a bush campus.

Snakes are sometimes sighted on our campuses. Generally they prefer to avoid humans, however they can occasionally be seen near paths and buildings due to natural bush surrounds.

The Red-bellied black and Brown snakes have been reported during the spring and summer months.

Red-bellied black snake



Brown snake



What you need to do.

Snakes in general are timid creatures and will retreat if they are aware of people's presence. If you encounter one, remain calm and wait for it to move away from you. Do not approach and report the location of the sighting through AIMS.

What happened.

Snakes have been spotted in a bush areas at Callaghan and Ourimbah campuses.

Who does this impact.

Staff, students and visitors around Callaghan and Ourimbah campuses. Also be mindful of snakes in field work bush locations.

What the university is doing.

Signage in risk areas to remind people to be alert. Publication of this safety alert. Removal of snakes where possible.

Recommended ongoing actions.

If you see a snake in a building notify people in the area and contact IFS on 16500 and they will arrange for WIRES to come and relocate it – try and have someone watch the snake from a distance to see where it goes to.

Background/Related info.

It is illegal to kill snakes and most snake bites occur while a person is trying to kill or capture the snake. There has never been member of staff or student bitten by a snake at the University.