

# Safety Alert

## Hazards on a bush Campus!

### Number 18 - 08

#### 1 BACKGROUND

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With the warmer weather we have received reports of snakes and spiders on campus.

1. **Snakes:** Snakes generally prefer to avoid humans, however due to the natural bush surrounds they can occasionally be seen near paths and buildings.
2. **Spiders:** While there are many different types of spiders, in the warmer months following a period of wet weather, Funnel Web Spiders are one of the spiders to be avoided.

#### 2 ACTION REQUIRED

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##### 1. Snakes:



- a. Please pay attention while walking around campus. Snakes in general are timid creatures and will retreat if they are aware of people's presence, however if you encounter one, remain calm and wait for it to retreat.
- b. 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 – if it is safe to do so, try and have someone watch the snake from a distance to see where it goes to,.
- c. It is illegal to kill snakes and most snake bites occur when a person is trying to kill or capture the snake. There has never been a snake bite reported at the University.

##### 2. Funnel Web spiders:

- a. Funnel Web Spiders generally live in the ground and around loosely placed rocks and logs in garden beds, therefore avoid rubble and areas of rocks, logs and rubbish where spiders can hide.

When indoors, please be sure to check inside shoes and other items that have been left on the ground or floor for spiders, particularly if it has been raining.



Reference: [NSW Government Health Avoiding tick and spider bites](#)

#### 3 ASSISTANCE

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If you have any further questions or concerns, please contact the Health and Safety Team on 49218847 (x18847).