

Safety Alert – Summer hazards on Campus!

Number 18 - 1

1 BACKGROUND

With staff and students returning to campus for the start of the year it is important to remember some of the hazards associated with summer and a bush campus.

1. **Mosquitos:** There are over 30 different types of mozzies in the Hunter region and only female mosquitoes bite, they select their host by detecting a mix of attractants including carbon dioxide, warmth, moisture and odours as well as by sight at close distances. Mozzies are prevalent at the Callaghan and Ourimbah campuses during the warmer months of the year and can be a great irritation to staff and students.
2. **Snakes:** Snakes are not a big issue in general as they prefer to avoid humans, however they can occasionally be seen near paths and buildings due to natural bush surrounds.

2 ACTION REQUIRED

1. **Mosquitos:** When dealing with mozzies, prevention is better than cure!



- a. When outside avoid getting bitten by covering-up with loose-fitting long sleeved shirt and long pants.
- b. Apply mosquito repellent to exposed skin, avoiding eyes, mouth and open cuts and wounds;
- c. Take special care during peak times for mosquito activity particularly around dawn and dusk;
- d. At home, check out your garden and remove potential mosquito breeding sites such as pooled rain water and make sure window and door screens are intact. If you notice potential mosquito breeding sites on campus please report it as a hazard

through the online Health & Safety incident management system [AIMS](#) and log a [Maximo](#) for maintenance work to be completed.

- e. Take extra precautions when travelling overseas in areas with a high risk of serious mosquito-borne diseases.

The [NSW Health Department](#) has some very good information on Mosquitos:

2. Snakes:

- a. 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 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 – 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 while a person is trying to kill or capture the snake. There has never been a snake bite reported at the University.



3 ASSISTANCE

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