

Government
of South AustraliaDepartment for Infrastructure
and Transport

Snake Awareness

Safety Alert

The recent rise in temperature has resulted in the presence of snakes within the Adelaide Metropolitan Area.

The Department for Infrastructure and Transport encourages all contractors to ensure workers are trained in snake awareness and understand the risks of working in areas where snakes may be present.

Contractors should assess site specific snake risks, implement appropriate controls, and ensure workers know what to do if a snake is sighted, including keeping a safe distance and reporting the sighting. Workers should be aware of emergency response procedures and how to access first aid assistance. Suitable first aid kits must be available, regularly checked, and appropriately stocked.

What is snake habitat?

Snakes are most likely to be found in:

- Areas of long grass.
- Stockpiles of material.
- Structures with poor security such as gaps.
- Under doors and holes in walls.
- Drainage structures such as culverts.
- Around permanent water sources.



Snake safety while working

Things you can do to help prevent encounters with snakes:

- Avoid walking through thickly vegetated areas, especially during spring.
- Step onto structures, rather than over structures, as there may be a snake on the other side.
- Do not step or put your hands where you do not have clear vision of your surroundings.
- Wear over the ankle boots and loose-fitting long pants.
- Snakes can hear low frequency sounds like the thud of approaching footsteps and on sensing movement of a large object, will generally either move away or hide to avoid detection.

What to do if you see a snake

Never attempt to catch or kill a snake. They will defend themselves if confronted or threatened. Most snake bites occur when people try to catch or kill a snake.

Contact a licensed snake catcher to have the snake removed from the worksite.

Keep an eye on the snake from a safe distance until the snake catcher arrives.

In South Australia, all native snakes are protected under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972.