



Spider bite

Most bites from spiders are harmless causing localised pain and swelling although some can be very serious especially in children.



For all medical emergencies dial Triple Zero (000) immediately and ask for Ambulance

SPIDER AWARENESS

During hot, humid weather, especially if the ground is saturated from recent rain, spiders are very active.

If someone suffers a bite from a snake or spider, make the person comfortable, keep them still and dial Triple Zero (000) immediately and ask for Ambulance.

Spiders leave their burrows to look for a mate and hide in cool dark areas. Their hiding places may include shoes or clothing left on the floor as well as garden areas.

People should be particularly careful at night as this is when spiders, especially funnelweb spiders, exhibit their most predatory behaviour.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

It is advised that people should take the following precautions:

- > Check all clothing, particularly if it has been lying on the floor. Visually inspect it and shake it.
- > Make a habit of checking in and around the garden and sheds before working or relaxing in these areas.
- > Everyone should wear shoes outdoors, day and night.
- > Wear protective gloves when gardening.

Apart from pain at the site, signs of a funnelweb spider bite could include feeling nauseous, stomach pain, headache, pale and sweaty skin, dribbling spit, weak and rapid pulse, pinpoint pupils, breathing difficulty and confusion leading to unconsciousness.

A firm bandage should be applied over the site of the bite, extending to the end of the limb and back again up the limb. The bandage should be firm but should NOT cut off the blood supply.

FIRST AID COURSES

The Ambulance Service of New South Wales encourages everyone to learn first aid. This can give you the confidence to assist when someone is injured or ill. To enrol in a first aid course contact an accredited provider listed with the Workcover Authority.

For further information please contact: