



Funnel Web and Redback Spider bites First Aid advice

Document Number SOP2008-019

File No. 05/35-06

Date issued 19 May 2008

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Summary This procedure provides directions for Operation Centre personnel to provide first aid advice for Funnel Web and Redback Spider bites.

**Applies to
(bold indicates
selection)** All Ambulance Service of NSW staff
All Operational Staff
All Administration staff
All Headquarters staff
Division staff (select Aero medical, Northern, Southern, Sydney,
Western)
Operations Centres (select **All**, Aero medical, Northern, Southern,
Sydney, Western)

Review date May 2010

Previous reference N/A
Status Active

Approved by Chief Executive

Compliance with this policy directive is **mandatory**.



Rationale

The current version of MPDS protocols (Version 11.1, protocol 2) provides first aid advice for snake bites which is also appropriate instructions to be given for cases of funnel web spider bite. Redback spider bite requires different advice to that of funnel web spider bite and that is also outlined.

Procedure – Funnel Web Spider Bites

In cases where a patient is reported to have been bitten by a funnel web spider, the instructions outlined for snakebites in MPDS – Protocol 2, are to be given to the caller to treat the funnel web spider bite.

The following Post Dispatch Instructions should be provided for both snake bites and funnel web spiders bites:

1. Keep her/him from moving around
2. Keep the bitten limb down
3. Bandage the limb from the area of the bite to the hand/foot, then back up to the body
4. Immobilise the limb by splinting if possible
5. Tell her/him to keep calm
6. Do not move her/him at all
7. Wait there for the paramedics (ambulance).

Procedure – Redback Spider

MPDS does not offer first aid advice for redback spider bites however in those cases where a patient is reported to have been bitten by a redback spider, the following first aid advice should be provided in the form of Post Dispatch Instructions:

1. Keep her/him from moving around
2. Apply ice or ice packs to the affected area to relieve pain
3. Do not apply compression bandages
4. Do not move her/him
5. Wait there for the paramedics (ambulance).

If further information regarding this procedure is required, please contact your Operation Centre Supervisor or Operation Centre Management.