

**Issue #7**

## Lessons from an Incident - Always Inspect Lab Glassware

There was a serious accident at a leading university recently involving a chemical process in a fume hood. A glass filter on a vacuum filtration unit broke and released chemicals, including iron chloride, diethyl ether, zinc metal, ammonium chloride, 2-methoxyethanol, and a nitrobenzene compound, onto the clothing of two people in the area.

An incident investigation revealed there were cracks in glassware which weren't identified, causing the glassware to fail.

This incident serves as a reminder of the importance of inspecting lab glassware before use. Cracks or chips in the glass can weaken its structural integrity and may cause it to break or shatter unexpectedly during use, which can result in injury or the accidental release of hazardous materials. By performing a visual inspection of the glassware before using it, we can identify any potential issues and choose an alternative piece of equipment if necessary. This will help to prevent accidents and ensure the safe and successful completion of experiments.

Read the full safety alert on UNSW's website [here](#)

# HSW Induction Materials

Supervisors or managers of an area are responsible for providing the specific local information, instruction or training required to keep a worker (staff, research postgraduates, etc) safe whilst undertaking work in the area. Access must not be permitted to a hazardous area or task until the required information, instruction or training is provided.

The [Corporate HSW Induction](#) delivers a base level of information applicable to all staff and is available online. Further information required will depend on the worker's role and the hazards in their area of work.

The [HSW induction/orientation FAQ \(Information Sheet\)](#) has been reviewed and updated to better support supervisors deliver local HSW information to new personnel to the area/activity. Appendices to the Information Sheet provide simple checklists to support a local HSW induction, one for inherently high risk areas, and one for low risk areas. The accompanying FAQ provides advice to supervisors on the content to cover, record keeping and when further information, instruction and training is required.

HR Induction checklists available [HERE](#) prompt the following actions:

- Provide a [Local Health and Safety Induction](#) which covers the information that the new starter should know in order to operate safely within their new work environment; including any general safety information required by the School/Branch/area.
- Complete the [Corporate HSW Induction](#) within the first week of commencement.
- Ensure that the new starter had loaded [UniSafe](#) onto their mobile phone and understands how to report a safety issue.

For more information, refer to the [HSW Information, Instruction and Training Procedure](#) and the [HSW Training and Induction webpage](#).

## Snake Awareness

As we move into the hotter months, it is important to be aware of the hazard snakes pose around campus, and when you are undertaking an off-campus activity in areas they are likely to be present

**Caution Areas** - Whilst you should be cautious on all campuses, you should be especially mindful of the possibility of a snake encounter around garden and bush areas at Waite and Roseworthy, or any place that provides a dark warm refuge for a snake.

**If you see a snake** - Make sure to keep your distance and under no circumstances try to kill, capture, or otherwise provoke a snake. If you spot a snake on campus, a trained and accredited snake handler should be utilised to capture and relocate the snake to a safe area. Contact security where required:

**North Terrace** - Level 4, Kenneth Wills building  
- 8313 5990

**Roseworthy** - Security and Campus Services building - 8313 7999


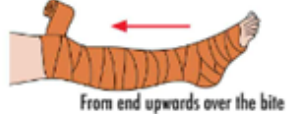

**Waite** - Security Cottage - 8313 7200

**If bitten by a snake** - it is important to remain calm, alert someone, and seek medical attention by calling 000. First Aid should be administered as soon as possible (see snake bite first aid guide below). If bitten on campus or in immediate surrounding areas, call campus security.

1. Check for hazards and ensure the snake does not still pose a threat.
2. Wait for ambulance or medical assistance to arrive and follow **DRSABCD** if the patient

collapses.

# SNAKE BITE

- 1. STOP - ALL MOVEMENT - CALL 000** 
- 2. PRESSURE BANDAGE**   
From end upwards over the bite
- 3. SPLINT THE LIMB**   
Keep completely still
- 4. GET TO HOSPITAL (BY AMBULANCE IF POSSIBLE)**

## Policy Updates

### REVISED – HSW Workplace Monitoring Procedure

The updated HSW Workplace Monitoring Procedure was endorsed by the Chief Operating Officer as policy custodian on the 14 December and is now available on the [HSW website](#).

The procedure has been updated to include responsibilities for relevant University staff in the Workplace Inspection and Assurance program, a program due to commence from February 2023, required as part of the University's enforceable undertaking agreement with SafeWork SA. Other updates reflect changes in responsibilities arising from organisational changes.

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