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| Floods- animals and insect hazards |
| Information on how to deal with animals and insects after a flood  |
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When returning to a flood-affected area, wild animals, including rodents, snakes or spiders, may be trapped in your home, shed or garden.

# **Dealing with snakes**

* When outdoors:
* wear sturdy boots, gloves and long pants to protect your legs
* pay extra attention to your hands and feet when cleaning after a flood
* if you see a snake, step back and allow it to go on its way - do not touch it
* be aware of snakes swimming in the water
* you should remove waste from around your house because it can attract snakes, spiders, and rodents.
* If you find a snake in your house, do not panic, step back from it slowly and allow it to proceed on its way. Do not touch it. Call the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action on 136 186 for a list of snake catchers in your area.
* If you are bitten by a snake:
* do not wash the skin around the bite
* keep still and get urgent medical help by calling 000
* lie down or sit with the bite below the level of your heart.
* cover the area with a clean and dry dressing. If available, a firm bandage around the area where the bite occurred is also recommended.
* note the time of the bite and when the bandage was put on
* do not apply a tourniquet, cut the bite to release the venom or try to suck the venom out of the wound.

# **Dealing with spiders**

* If you are bitten by a spider:
* wash the area and use ice packs to help with the pain
* do not apply pressure
* seek medical help immediately if you were bitten by a redback spider or if your symptoms worsen.

# **Dealing with rodents and insects**

* Rodents such as mice and rats carry diseases. You should remove food and other items that can provide shelter to rodents.
* Get rid of garbage and place a lid on the rubbish bin. Lay rodent traps in dry areas if needed.
* Stay away from stagnant water as mosquitoes breed in it. Cover your body as much as possible and use a mosquito repellent.
* Flies carry diseases. Clean up food waste immediately as it is a breeding ground for flies.
* If bitten or injured by an animal or stung by insect seek advice from your doctor or call NURSE-ON-CALL 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on 1300 60 60 24.

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