



Snake Bites

AFRICA SAFE-T EMERGENCY
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🐾 DO:

Apply pressure immediately to the bite, continue this pressure with a crepe bandage wrapped and then pulled up and then wrapped and pulled, moving in the direction of the outer extremities and back over the bite until the entire limb is pressure bandaged. Leave a finger or a toe out so that you can check for blood circulation. (push the nail and it will turn white, it should turn back to pink again almost immediately, if not, remove the bandage while maintaining pressure on the bite point and begin again).

Torn clothing can be used should you not have bandages.

Check pulse and eyes continuously.

Should the person stop breathing administer CPR and heart massage until the person continues to breathe unassisted.

Continuously speak reassuringly to the victim and ensure you have their attention. Keep them focused and calm.

Remain calm and convey a relaxed and in control message to the victim.

Call for medical assistance -calmly state all relevant information – name – from Makumu Private Game Lodge in the Klaserie private nature reserve– require evacuation for a snake bite victim- (Africa safe-t) do have the exact co-ordinates for Makumu, a signal person will be on standby to guide in a helicopter. The assistant will require further information and will attempt to guide the situation telephonically.

If applicable send a person to the landing spot in the event that you do not have the victim there by the time the helicopter arrives.

In the event that someone is bitten out in the bush, apply applicable medical practice as above and radio ahead.

Should a person be bitten out on a walk, apply applicable medical practice as above and return to Makumu as quickly and as calmly as possible. If the victim is too heavy to carry then walk and sit, walk and sit. Encourage calm rhythmical breathing and remain focused. Check eyes and pulse continuously.

In the event of the victim being at Makumu and no cell phone signal then place one person at the radio, one efficient person with the victim they can then convey the medical assistance via the radio and on to the person with the victim.

🐾 DO NOT:

Cut open the bite.

Attempt to suck out the venom.

Try to kill the snake for identification purposes.

🐾 ONLY TOURNIQUET A MAMBA BITE:

If you are not absolutely sure that the victim was bitten by a mamba do not use the tourniquet method.

In the event of a mamba bite use a tourniquet at the nearest pulse point to the bite. For example, if the person was bitten on the finger you would use a tourniquet at the wrist, directly on the pulse point. Using either a rolled bandage or a strip of clothing, very tightly twist the tourniquet around a stick and knot as tightly as possible. It will be very painful but do not release for thirty minutes. On thirty minutes release, tourniquet for five seconds and re-tie, continue until you reach medical assistance.

🐾 SUMMARY:

- 1. Apply pressure to the point of bite.**
- 2. Apply any form of pressure bandage – begin at the bite work out and back over the bite to cover the entire limb.**
- 3. Aid breathing when necessary.**
- 4. Call for medical assistance.**
- 5. Keep victim calm and focused.**