

# Spider Bite Emergency Protocol



In South Africa, there has never been a verified death from a spider bite. Of the approximately 2240 species of spider in southern Africa, only about 18 species are considered medically important. There are 4 groups of medically important spiders in Africa. The average spider is completely harmless to humans.

If the spider can be captured, take it together with the patient to professional medical assistance.

## First Aid Techniques

**Black Button Spider**



- Calm the patient and arrange for transportation.
- Immediate hospitalisation.
- Antivenom may be necessary.

**Brown Button Spider**



- Calm the patient and arrange for transportation.
- Immediate hospitalisation.
- Antivenom may be necessary.

**Sac Spider**



- Ensure the bite-site is dry and clean.
- Apply antiseptic cream.
- Monitor for infection.

**Violin Spider**



- Ensure the bite-site is dry and clean.
- Apply antiseptic cream.
- Monitor for infection.

**Six-Eyed Sand Spider**



- Calm the patient and arrange for transportation.
- Immediately seek professional medical assistance.

**Other Spiders**



- Ensure the bite-site is dry and clean.
- Apply antiseptic cream.
- Monitor for infection.

For assistance contact the Poison Information Helpline on +27(0)21 931-6129.



## Bites In The Night

Bites in the Night is a venomous animal employee engagement program that focuses on the 3 principles of working in areas inhabited by venomous animals. These 3 principles greatly reduce the chances of being bitten or stung by offer a unique understanding of venomous animals. Bites In the Night also promotes your environmental policy, reinforces your emergency protocols and empowers employees to react in a responsible way to venomous animals in the workplace. Presented by Jonathan Leeming.

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