

# DANGEROUS SNAKES OF THE FREE STATE



The Free State has thirty six different types of snakes. Sixteen species are not venomous, while five can inflict rather painful bites. Four species are considered potentially deadly.

**VERY DANGEROUS**

Has caused human fatalities

**DANGEROUS**

Painful bite, but does not require antivenom



**VERY DANGEROUS**

Cape Cobra  
(*Naja nivea*)



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Cape Cobra  
(*Naja nivea*)



**VERY DANGEROUS**

Cape Cobra - juvenile  
(*Naja nivea*) Photo Marius Burger



**VERY DANGEROUS**

Boomslang - male  
(*Dispholidus typus*)



**VERY DANGEROUS**

Boomslang - female  
(*Dispholidus typus*) Photo Andre Coetzer



**VERY DANGEROUS**

Boomslang - juvenile  
(*Dispholidus typus*)



**DANGEROUS**

Coral Shield Cobra  
(*Aspidelaps lubricus lubricus*)



**VERY DANGEROUS**

Rinkhals  
(*Hemachatus haemachatus*)



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Rinkhals  
(*Hemachatus haemachatus*)



**DANGEROUS**

Stiletto Snake  
(*Atractaspis bibronii*) Photo Warren Dick



**DANGEROUS**

Stiletto Snake  
(*Atractaspis bibronii*)



**DANGEROUS**

Berg Adder  
(*Bitis atropos*)



**DANGEROUS**

Night Adder  
(*Causus rhombeatus*)



**VERY DANGEROUS**

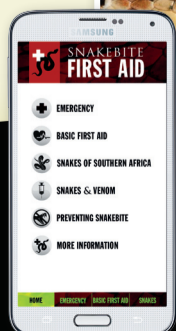
Puff Adder  
(*Bitis arietans arietans*)



**VERY DANGEROUS**

Puff Adder  
(*Bitis arietans arietans*)

**Johan Marais** is the author of various books on reptiles including the best-seller *A Complete Guide to Snakes of Southern Africa*. He is a popular public speaker and offers a variety of courses including **Snake Awareness, Scorpion Awareness** and **Venomous Snake Handling**. Johan is accredited by the International Society of Zoological Sciences (ISZS) and is a Field Guides Association of Southern Africa (FGASA), NOSA and Travel Doctor-approved service provider. His courses are also accredited by the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA).



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## EMERGENCY PROTOCOL

In the event of a snake bite

- 1 Keep the victim calm, immobilized and transport the victim to the closest hospital **without delay**.
- 2 If the victim stops breathing, resort to artificial respiration or make use of a Bag Valve Mask.
- 3 Call the Poison Information Centre help-line for further advice: 0861 555 777.

**DO NOT**

- ... apply a tourniquet.
- ... cut and suck the wound.
- ... use ice or very hot water.
- ... give the victim alcohol.
- ... apply electric shock.
- ... inject antivenom randomly.

Antivenom (if required) must be administered by a doctor in a hospital environment.