

# DANGEROUS SNAKES OF THE NORTHWEST



The Northwest Province has forty four different types of snakes. Nineteen species are not venomous, while six can inflict rather painful bites. Eight species are considered potentially deadly.

**VERY DANGEROUS**

Has caused human fatalities

**DANGEROUS**

Painful bite, but does not require antivenom



**VERY DANGEROUS**

Black Mamba  
(*Dendroaspis polylepis*)



**VERY DANGEROUS**

Cape Cobra  
(*Naja nivea*)



**VERY DANGEROUS**

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*)



**VERY DANGEROUS**

Twig Snake  
(*Thelotornis capensis capensis*)



**VERY DANGEROUS**

Snouted Cobra  
(*Naja annulifera*)



**VERY DANGEROUS**

Snouted Cobra - banded variety  
(*Naja annulifera*)



**VERY DANGEROUS**

Mozambique Spitting Cobra  
(*Naja mossambica*)



**VERY DANGEROUS**

Rinkhals  
(*Hemachatus haemachatus*)



**VERY DANGEROUS**

Puff Adder  
(*Bitis arietans arietans*)



**DANGEROUS**

Night Adder  
(*Causus rhombeatus*)



**DANGEROUS**

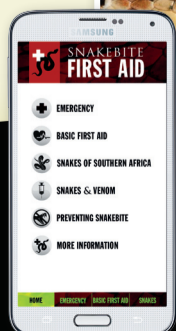
Horned Adder  
(*Bitis caudalis*)



**DANGEROUS**

Stiletto Snake  
(*Atractaspis bibronii*) Photo Warren Dick

**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.