



OFFICIAL MANAGING AGENT FOR THE ELISENHEIM HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Circular 26: SNAKES **09/12/2015**

Mr Binneman, one of your homeowners, sent me the e-mail below about snakes and he requested that I inform all Homeowners about the issue of snakes. It is written in Afrikaans and I translated the important information for those who do not do Afrikaans.

Contact Mr Theard, The Snake Catcher when you find a snake on your property.
FRANCOIS THEARD CELL NO; 081 290 0343

Please save his name and number on your cellphone.

Mr Theard does not charge for catching snakes but he does accept a donation for his work. I suggest that he be paid an amount of N\$200.00 for his trouble to keep you safe.

- Please DO NOT kill the snake.
- Leave the serpent alone.
- Remove yourself from the environment.
- If he is in your house, close the doors and isolate him in the room that he is in.

For information about snakes, spiders and scorpions go to

<http://www.ultimatefieldguide.com/>

Elisenheim is a common breeding ground for the Sebra Snake. It is not very pleasant to be bitten by one. On the above website under the following sub section is a comprehensive discussion about it.

[http://www.ultimatefieldguide.com/Snakes/western_barred_spitting_cobra - naja nigricollis nigricincta.htm](http://www.ultimatefieldguide.com/Snakes/western_barred_spitting_cobra_-_naja_nigricollis_nigricincta.htm)

What follows below is a guideline for managing snakes and snake bites on your property

There are NO effective snake repellents

1. Avoid storing building material such as bricks, pipes and sheets of iron near the house.
 - a. Fitting a rolled up piece of chicken mesh, or a ball made of plastic into the opening of a pipe may stop the snake of going in there.

2. Avoid compost heaps, rockeries, aviaries, chicken coops, fish ponds and loose rocks as they may provide a source of food or a hiding spots for snakes.
 - a. If you need to have a compost heap, again you can close it up with chicken mesh securely anchored to the ground without spaces for the snake to get in.
 - b. A rockery is a nice feature to have but if you have to work there, wear shoes, socks a long sleeved shirt and thick plastic gloves.
3. Avoid planting creepers, thick hedges and shrubs especially against house walls and open windows.
 - a. If you do have creepers, hedges and shrubs it may be a good idea to first poke into them with a loooooong stick if you think there may be a snake in it.
4. Store animal feed in rat proof containers. Note all buildings should be kept rat free. Where there are rats there are going to be snakes.
5. Close off all of the cracks/holes where snakes might fit through.
 - a. A good product to use is the foam crack filler.
6. Keep doors and windows closed during the day as many snakes seek shelter.
 - a. It is advised to fit a fly screen or two inside your windows for fresh air.

What to do in case you encounter a snake:

1. Please DO NOT try to kill the snake as this may result in a bite!
 - a. Snakes, left alone, will quietly go on their daily business.
 - b. It will not charge at you if it does not feel threatened.
2. Any reptile will get aggressive if it is cornered. LEAVE THE THING ALONE!
3. Keep CALM!
 - a. Breathe in slowly.
 - b. Stand absolutely still! Most snakes will go away immediately.
 - c. If the snake stands its ground, retreat slowly.
 - d. Most snakes will not even know that you are there. If you just stand still, he will just go on his way where ever he was going.
 - e. For god's sake, do not scream or faint!
4. Contact your nearest snake catcher to deal with the situation.

Avoiding snakebite:

1. Wear proper clothing when walking in the veld preferably boots, long trousers and long sleeved shirts.
2. Wear sunglasses as this provides protection against spitting cobras.
3. As a rule, always wear long plastic gloves in the garden.
4. Watch your step. Rather step onto logs and rocks and not over them.
 - a. Avoid kicking logs and rocks around; the snake may be waiting for you under them.
5. Do not collect fire wood at dusk or at night that's looking for trouble.
 - a. We are in any case not allowed to collect fire wood at the Estate.
6. If you're a mountaineer be careful where you place your hands, as many snakes like to bask in the sun on the ledges.
7. Do not pick up any snake no matter how harmless it may seem.
8. Do not pick up what appears to be a dead snake, as some venomous species fake death.

9. Use flash light when walking at night and keep your eyes open.
10. Avoid walking in long grass.

Basic first aid:

1. Keep the victim calm and reassured.
2. Remove jewellery and tight clothing.
3. Victim must lie down and kept as still as possible.
4. Elevate limb and transport to Hospital.
5. Pressure bandages should ONLY be applied to Neuro toxic snake bites!! (Black Mamba, Cape Cobra and Anchieta Cobra)
6. If you cannot ID the snake apply a pressure bandage. Note this should obviously not be used for Spitting Cobras.
7. If victim stops breathing resort to mouth to mouth resuscitation.
 - a. (If the victim is a beautiful girl, you may do mouth to mouth resuscitation **before** she stops breathing)

DO NOT:

1. Do not cut or suck on the wound.
2. Do not apply tourniquet.
3. Do not apply ice or give the victim alcohol to drink.
 - a. You may take a tot to give you the courage to cope with the emergency!
4. Do not inject anti-venom as a first aid measure.

In case of venom in the eye:

1. Rinse it out with running water for 10-15min.
2. Avoid rubbing eyes.
3. Seek medical attention.

NB! Do not attempt to kill the snake rather take a picture from a safe distance for identification by medical personnel.

From: Binneman, Francois [mailto:Francois.Binneman@nampower.com.na]
Sent: Monday, December 7, 2015 1:54 PM
To: elisenheim@eonproperty.com
Subject: Slange

Hallo Schalk

Ons het twee weke gelede 'n sebraslang in ons agterplaas gehad. Ons het 'n slangvanger gebel (die man se naam is (ook) Francois – ek het ongelukkig nie

sy van nie). Sy nommer is [081 290 0343](tel:0812900343) en sal ENIGE tyd uitkom. Hy werk wel op donasies.

Intussen was daar nog 'n sebraslang by iemand anders se huis. Ek reken die slange sal nou begin loop en dit sal dalk goed wees vir mense om kennis te dra van verskillende soorte en wat om te maak.

Aangeheg is 'n voorlegging van ESKOM wat redelik breedvoerig giftige slange, skerpioene en spinnekoppe in Suidelike Afrika dek. Wat dit wel nie bevat nie, is sebraslange. Ek het ook 'n goeie webwerf gekry wat oor slange handel.

<http://www.ultimatefieldguide.com/>

Vir sebraslange, kyk bietjie na die volgende.

[http://www.ultimatefieldguide.com/Snakes/western_barred_spitting_cobra -
_naja_nigricollis_nigricincta.htm](http://www.ultimatefieldguide.com/Snakes/western_barred_spitting_cobra_-_naja_nigricollis_nigricincta.htm)

Ek dink nogal die ander Elisenheimers kan baat vind hierby, veral die met klein kinders wat soms in die koppies gaan speel.

Kan jy dit dalk op 'n manier vir die mense uitstuur, of dit op 'n webwerf vir mense sit om af te laai?

Mooi dag en geniet die reen.

Groete
Francois Binneman
[081 324 3436](tel:0813243436)