Purpose:
To describe the steps that need to be taken in case of a snake bite by a venomous snake in Biology room 617BD.

Do:
- Move to an area away from the snake.
- Identify the snake. This will help in the treatment of the bite.
- Keep the person that has been bitten as calm as possible to slow down diffusion of venom.
- Call 9-911 and notify the EMS personnel what has happened and that the patient needs to go to UMC;
- Include both the common and scientific names of the snake involved.
- Until EMS personnel arrive, following the directions included in the yellow plastic box,
  - Use the Sawyer extractor (located in the venomous snake room) to remove as much fluid as possible at the site of the bite.
  - Once you cannot easily get more fluid, gently rinse the affected area with the isotonic saline in the water bottle that is kept in the venomous snake room to remove any residual venom in the wound or on the skin (this prevents diffusion into the skin).
- Remove any clothing or jewelry that may restrict blood flow or swelling.
- Keep the affected limb immobilized (with a splint, the Pilstrom tongs will do for an arm or a leg; for a finger use a pen or pencil wrapped with gauze) but keep it loose enough not to restrict blood flow.
- Make sure to keep the affected area below the level of the heart (do not allow gravity to help disseminate the venom)
- After EMS personnel arrive, again direct them to take the patient to UMC.

Do Not:
- Apply tourniquet, ice, or tap water
- Cut near the bite wound
- Give the person anything to eat or drink

Report the incident to the Animal Care Services Manager; 806-834-2872 or the IACUC Coordinator; 806-834-6183.