This SOP describes what to do in case of a snake bite by a venomous snake in Biology room 617BD.

- 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. While waiting for EMS personnel to arrive, use the Sawyer extractor (located in the 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 water to remove any residual venom in the wound or on the skin. After EMS personnel arrive, again direct them to take the patient to UMC.
- Never cut near the wound; in addition you should not need to use a tourniquet. If you feel that it might help, use loose pressure, like a belt, that can be applied for no more than 10 minutes on and 20 minutes off (EMS personnel should arrive long before that). It should never completely cut off blood flow, only slow down diffusion of the venom.
- Keep the affected limb immobilized (with a splint, the Pillstrom tongs will do for an arm or a leg; for a finger use a pen or pencil wrapped with gauze) and try and keep the affected area below the level of the heart (do not allow gravity to help disseminate the venom).
- Report the incident to the Animal Care Services Manager; 806-834-3437 or the IACUC Coordinator; 806-834-6183.