

MARINE STINGERS

BLUE RING OCTOPUS

The Blue Ringed Octopus grows up to 20cm in diameter, has a small sac-like body and eight tentacles. It's usually a brown-yellow colour, but when irritated becomes bright yellow and many small bright blue rings appear. It bites with its small beak on the underside of the body – the venom is in the saliva.



Blue Ringed Octopus live in tide pools and shallow reefs. When exploring, look but don't touch any animals– you might not realise it's a Blue Ring until too late!

Symptoms and First Aid

The bite may be painless, but numbness can start to occur within minutes, and weakness and difficulty breathing may develop rapidly. If untreated, severe bites can be fatal.



Call 000. Use a compression bandage and immobilise the patient. Perform and continue CPR if required.

STINGRAY

A stingray is a large flat fish with a whip-like tail. It borrows under the sand and can be difficult to see. People frequently step on them, and the stingray will attack with the barb on the end of its tail.



First Aid

Place the affected area (or limb) in hot water. Patients must be referred to a doctor to have the barb removed.

More Information

Book into a First Aid or CPR course.

Visit the [BeachSafe website](#), or the Beachsafe App for [iOS](#) and [Android](#)

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CONE SHELL

Inside the cone shell lives a snail, which has a harpoon-like dart which can deliver paralyzing venom. Never pick up any cone shells on the beach, even if they are washed up on the shore.

Symptoms and First Aid

The venom can cause nausea, weakness, numbness and paralysis. It can eventually stop your breathing!

Call 000. Use a compression bandage and immobilise the patient. Perform and continue CPR if required.



STONEFISH

Stonefish can grow up to 30 centimetres *long*, and resemble a rock or piece of coral. They can be found sleeping in the mud or sand, or camouflaged amongst rocks. They have a number of barbs along their back – most stings occur as a result of stepping on one!

Symptoms and First Aid

The Stonefish venom can cause severe pain and swelling. It can send you in to shock and stop your breathing.



Call 000. Place the affected area in hot water to relieve the pain. Perform and continue CPR if required.

More Information

Book into a First Aid or CPR course.

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