

FIRST AID FACT SHEET

Tropical Jellyfish Stings

The Box Jellyfish and Irukandji are found in tropical waters that range from Geraldton and extend north around the coastline of WA.

The Box Jellyfish are large, cube-shaped and have tentacles draping from the body which produce very potent venom. The stings from these are painful and can be fatal to humans.

The Irukandji are small jellyfish and at times too small to be seen, the sting can be minor but can cause severe generalised pain.

What to do

1. Follow DRSABCD St John Action Plan.
2. Remove casualty from water.
3. Urgent medical aid. Call **Triple Zero (000)** for an ambulance.
4. Calm casualty.
5. Flood stung area with vinegar for at least thirty (30) seconds.
6. If vinegar unavailable, flick tentacles off using a stick or gloved fingers and rinse with seawater.
 - + **DO NOT** use freshwater, this will cause further stinging cell discharge.
7. Apply a cold pack.
8. Rest and reassure, monitor vital signs and consciousness until medical aid arrives.
9. Give CPR if necessary.

Caused by

- + Contact with jellyfish tentacles.

Signs & symptoms

- + Pain at site (sometimes extreme).
- + Respiratory and cardiac arrest in minutes.
- + Severe pain (back and abdomen).
- + Nausea.
- + Vomiting.
- + Sweating.
- + Feeling of impending doom.



In a medical emergency
call **Triple Zero (000)**

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Information provided is as per Australian Resuscitation Council Guidelines. These first aid protocols are for the Australian market only. All care has been taken in preparing this information but St John takes no responsibility for its use. This information is not a substitute for practical first aid training with St John.