

BearWise Outdoor Safety Tips

Black bears are seldom aggressive and rarely injure people. Follow these BearWise tips to avoid encounters.

Camping

- Keep a clean camp.
- Don't burn food scraps or trash in your fire ring or grill.
- Do not store food, trash, clothes worn when cooking, or toiletries in your tent. Store in approved bearresistant containers OR out of sight in a locked vehicle OR suspended at least 10 feet above the ground and 10 feet from any part of the tree. Local storage regulations vary.
- Cook downwind and as far from your tent as possible.
- Set up backcountry camps away from dense cover and natural food sources.



Precautions for Cycling, Jogging

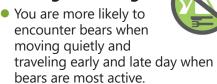
If you travel quickly or quietly, you can easily surprise bears. **Stay alert**; music and phones are distracting. Be aware of your surroundings; make noise periodically.



Hiking, Walking

- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Try not to hike alone.
- Keep kids within sight and close by.
- Make noise periodically so bears in the area can avoid you.
- Keep dogs leashed at all times, or leave them at home. Don't force a bear to defend itself.
- Double bag your food and pack out all food and trash. Leaving scraps, wrappers or "harmless" items like apple cores teaches bears to associate trails and campsites with food.

Fishing, Hunting



- Follow tips for hiking and camping safely.
- Know that carcasses, gut piles, and bait may attract bears.
- If a bear beats you to your catch or kill, don't try to reclaim it; leave the area when it is safe to do so.

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Carry Bear Spray & Know How To Use It

Keep bear spray accessible; it's proven to be the easiest and most effective way to deter a bear that threatens you. It doesn't work like bug repellent, so **never** spray your tent, campsite or belongings.

If You Encounter a Black Bear

- If you see a bear before it notices you, don't approach. Stand still, enjoy the moment, then quietly move away.
- If a bear sees you, back away slowly. Never run; running may trigger a chase response.
- If a bear approaches, hold your ground, wave your arms and yell "Hey Bear" until it leaves. Always stay with your group.
 If the bear keeps approaching, use bear spray.
- If a black bear makes contact with you, do NOT play dead; fight back aggressively.

Black bear is a species; colors include black, brown and cinnamon.



Helping People Live Responsibly with Black Bears

