

BE BEAR AWARE



As more people come to visit our National Forest, the opportunity for meeting a bear increases. There are ways to protect yourself and the bears while enjoying outdoor activities. The following safety tips can help you to reduce your chance of encountering a bear.

1. Store your food, drinks and scented items (like toothpaste and deodorant) in a place where a bear can't get to them (car trunk or trailer, bear-safe container or hang at least 15 feet off the ground in trees).
2. Keep your cooking grill clean. Clean utensils and other food preparation items. Don't pour oils or grease on the ground. Put in a container and take it home with you.
3. Don't toss food scraps on the ground. Keep your campsite or picnic site clean.
4. Don't bury garbage.
5. Wash your hands and face well after a meal.
6. NEVER approach or feed a bear. When you feed a bear, it will become aggressive and lose its fear of people.
7. Set up your cooking and eating areas 100 feet downwind from your sleeping area if you can.
8. Pitch tents away from trails when in the backcountry. Always sleep inside your tent.
9. Do not keep food, ice chests or scented items in your tent.
10. Be more aware at dawn or dusk. Bears are more active then.
11. Hike with a group. Make noise as you hike through dense cover. Keep kids in the center of the group. Control your pets.
12. Stay away from any animal carcasses you find.
13. Do not get between a bear and its young. Do not pick up any bear cubs you may find.

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources <http://wildlife.utah.gov/>

