

## Bear Spray

Prior to entering bear country, ensure that every person in your party has a can of bear spray on their person, knows how to use it, and is ready at a moments notice.

### Readiness

- ◆ Bear spray is a powerful weapon; handle carefully and treat it like a firearm.
- ◆ Bear spray should ONLY be used to deter charging or attacking bears.
- ◆ When you're ready to hit the trail, cut away any zip tie that locks the safety cap or clip.
- ◆ When camping, keep bear spray in your tent at night.
- ◆ Do not apply bear spray to people, clothing, tents, packs, or to the ground.
- ◆ Accidental discharge of bear spray can ruin gear and vehicles. Store carefully, away from heat (120°F). Never leave a can of bear spray in a hot vehicle!

### About

*An Alaskan study of bear spray incidents found that spray effectively deterred undesirable behavior in bears more than 90% of the time.*

## Common Causes of Conflict

- ◆ Surprising a bear, especially a mother with cubs.
- ◆ Attempting to approach, interact with, or feed a bear.
- ◆ Being perceived as a threat to a bear's space, a food source, or its young.
- ◆ Hiking alone, off the trail, or at dawn, dusk, or night.

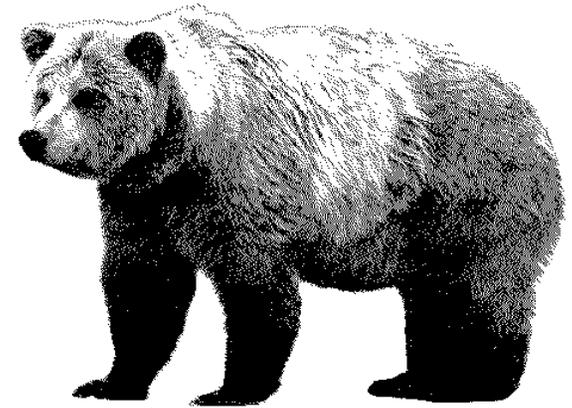
## Safety Techniques

- ◆ Wildlife + Distance = Safety for people and animals.
- ◆ Always follow local regulations and review trailhead signs before hiking.
- ◆ Let someone know where you're going and when you plan to return.
- ◆ Watch for bear signs such as tracks, diggings, overturned rocks/logs, scat and claw marks.
- ◆ Don't hike alone or at night. Groups tend to make more noise, appear more formidable, and can provide assistance to one another.
- ◆ Make your presence known! Talk, sing, yell and/or clap to alert bears of your presence.
- ◆ Be especially careful in low-visibility and noisy areas, such as thick brush, trail switch backs, and creek bottoms.



United States Department of Agriculture

# Visitor's Guide to Recreating in Bear Country



Additional bear information can be found at:

<http://www.bebearaware.org/>

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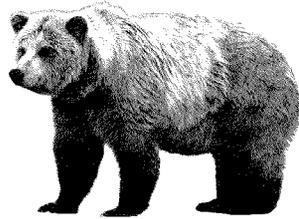
Forest  
Service

Northern  
Region

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## Why is Proper Food Storage Important?

To co-exist safely with bears, there are actions we can take to prevent human-bear conflicts and food-conditioned bears.



Failure to comply with food storage orders may result in injury, or property damage, or a citation, and can have a negative impact on bears.

## What Attractants Do I Need To Keep Away From Bears?

- ◆ All human food, including canned goods and beverages.
- ◆ All toiletries, including toothpaste, lip balm, sunscreen, and deodorant.
- ◆ All garbage.
- ◆ Wildlife carcasses, birds, fish, or other animal parts.
- ◆ All pet and livestock food (except baled or cubed hay without additives).

## Food Storage Requirements

- ◆ *During daytime hours, attractants, including human, pet and livestock food, and garbage shall be attended or stored in a bear-resistant manner when unattended.*
- ◆ *During nighttime hours, in front country areas, attractants must be stored in a “bear resistant manner” unless it is actively being prepared for eating, consumed (eaten/drunk), transported, or prepared for acceptable storage.*
- ◆ *Attractants (such as food leftovers or bacon grease) shall not be buried, discarded, or burned in an open campfire. Leftover food or food waste may be placed in an appropriate sealed container and packed out with garbage, burned in a contained stove fire or placed in a suitable container (i.e. tin can) to prevent leaching into the ground and burned over an open campfire.*
- ◆ *For more information reference the Lolo and Kootenai National Forest Food Storage Orders below:*
- ◆ [http://igbconline.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/161204\\_Lolo\\_F11-005-LOLO.pdf](http://igbconline.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/161204_Lolo_F11-005-LOLO.pdf)
- ◆ [http://igbconline.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/161221\\_KootenaiNF\\_FSO.pdf](http://igbconline.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/161221_KootenaiNF_FSO.pdf)

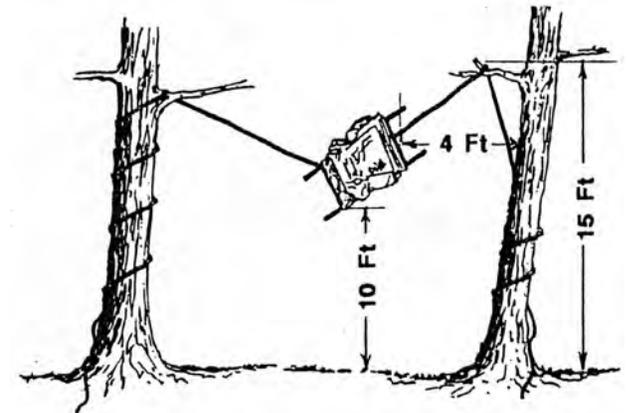


## How Should I Store My Attractants?

- ◆ Secured in a hard-sided camper or trailer or in a vehicle with all windows rolled up all the way.



- ◆ Secured in a hard-sided dwelling or storage building.
- ◆ Suspended at least 10 feet up (from the bottom of the suspended item) and 4 feet out from any upright support, i.e. tree or pole.



- ◆ Stored in an approved bear-resistant container. Bear-resistant coolers are available on the market but they **must** be locked closed while unattended.