

# BE BEAR AWARE CAMPAIGN

## Bear Spray

The Be Bear Aware Campaign promotes the carrying and proper use of a quality bear spray when hiking, biking, fishing, camping, hunting, horse riding, and rafting in bear country. We recommend you purchase bear spray that has a spray duration of at least 7+ seconds and has a spray distance of at least 30+ feet. Meeting or exceeding this standard gives you extra protection for more than one charge, multiple bears, wind, rain, cold, erratic spraying, or spraying over top of the bear.



Know the Performance and Capability of Your Bear Spray. They are not all the same.

Keep in Mind that wind, rain, and cold will all affect the performance of your bear spray.

Carry Bear Spray readily accessible on your waist, hip, shoulder, or chest. Never in a backpack or hard to reach place. If it is winter, carry your bear spray in an outer coat pocket to keep it warm.

Every Age-Appropriate Person Should Carry Bear Spray. It may be someone else who saves you with their bear spray.

Know how to use Your Bear Spray and Practice. Visualize yourself in different bear encounter scenarios and determine how you would respond. Practice removing your bear spray from the holster and pulling off the safety clip. It should be a spontaneous action.

To Remove the Safety Clip on your bear spray, place your thumb in front of the curled lip and pull back to reveal the trigger.

Be Sure to Hold the Can Firmly so it does not tilt up and spray over top of the bear.

Ready Your Bear Spray anytime you suspect a bear may be in the area. Know how to identify bear signs such as tracks, scat, claw marks on trees, rocks/logs rolled over, and foul odors from carrion or a bear that has rolled in it. Watch for circling birds as they are a sign of a fresh animal kill.

If a Bear is Charging, Spray and Continue to Spray Until the Bear Diverts Its Charge. No Short Bursts unless a bear is attacking a tent you are occupying. A short burst may also temporarily work on a nuisance bear searching campgrounds or residences for food.



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# BE BEAR AWARE CAMPAIGN

## How & When to Use Bear Spray

Bear spray plays an important part in reducing attacks during human encounters with bears. It is a good last line of defense, but it is not a substitute for vigilance and it does not replace appropriate bear avoidance safety techniques.

**Know Your Bear Spray.** They are not all the same quality. These instructions are based off a bear spray that has a spray duration of at least 7+ seconds and a spray distance of at least 30+ feet.

### What If You Encounter a Bear?

If you see, or suspect, a bear is in the area, stop, group together, and get your bear spray ready for quick use.

If the bear is in the distance and **does not** notice you, take a route that detours around the bear and remain cautious.

If the bear is in the distance and **does** notice you, stop, talk in a non-threatening monotone voice, and assess the situation. Can you back away and take a detour? Is the bear approaching you? Does it appear agitated, aggressive, or ready to charge?

### What If You are Charged by a Bear?

When the charging bear is about **60 feet away**, spray slightly downward to a point about 30 feet in front of you. The bear spray will come out with a whooshing sound and reddish-orange coloring, this sometimes is enough to deter the bear from its charge.



When the bear charges from **30 feet**, spontaneously spray downward toward the front of the bear. The bear spray will make a cone-shaped cloud that expands outward and upward. **DO NOT AIM**, just spray and keep spraying until the bear diverts its charge.

If the charge is from **15 feet**, spray if you are prepared. If contact is inevitable, drop and lie flat on your stomach and clasp hands behind your neck. If you can, spray the area both you and the bear are in.

**It is Never Too Late to Use Bear Spray.**



*CORRECT*



*INCORRECT*

