

BE BEAR AWARE CAMPAIGN



Sudden Unexpected Encounter

When riding quickly on trails you are at risk of surprising a bear, cougar, moose, or even a rattlesnake

BEAR AVOIDANCE SAFETY TECHNIQUES FOR BIKERS

Carry Bear Spray readily accessible on your waist, hip, or shoulder. Do not use a chest holster as people have been injured during a fall over the handlebars.

When Buying Bear Spray look for 7+ seconds of spray duration and a spray distance of at least 30+ feet.

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

Ride after Dawn and Before Dusk. Wild animals, such as bears, are more active at these times of day. Avoid riding off-trail and at night.

Ride with a Partner or in a Group. If riding with children, keep them close and within sight.

Look, Listen & Smell for bear signs such as tracks, scat, claw marks on trees, rocks/logs rolled over, and foul, pungent 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.

Make Your Presence Known - Call Out periodically and when travelling near or through thick brush, around blind corners or cresting a hill, on windy days, and when near noisy streams and rivers.

Bicycle Lights do NOT provide enough light to see a bear in the bushes or at a distance.

Wearing Ear Buds and listening to music obstructs your ability to hear natural noises.

Riding with Dogs in bear country poses additional risks to you and your group. An aggressive animal may chase them back to you.

If You Encounter a Bear, stop and quickly assess the situation as you ready your bear spray. Follow bear encounter protocol.



bebearaware



bebearaware



be_bearaware

How to Avoid Encounters

Proper Food Storage

Bear Identification

What to do in an Encounter

How to Deploy Bear Spray

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, and hunting 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.

Bikers should avoid using chest holsters to carry their bear spray. It can be a hazard if you flip over the handlebars. It is best to keep bear spray on your person, not your bike. You may be leaving the bike between you and the bear. Please balance speed with caution. Stop and assess surroundings when visibility or ability to hear is obstructed.



What If You Encounter a Bear?



If you see, or suspect, a bear is in the area, stop 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 to the bear in a 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 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.**