# 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

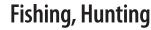
If you travel quickly or quietly, you can easily surprise bears. Stay alert; music and phones are distracting. Be aware of your surroundings; make noise periodically.

### Hiking, Walking



- 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.

## You are more likely to



- encounter bears when moving quietly and traveling early and late day when bears are most active.
- 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.



#### **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

