



## Montana Bear Encounter Information



1. Bears can be anywhere, assume their presence.
2. Both grizzly bears and black bears pose a risk. The bear's behavior should determine your response.
3. Avoiding an encounter is easier than dealing with a conflict.

### Food and Attractants

- Keep food, garbage, gear, and anything smelly, away from bears.
- Securing food and garbage means keeping it in an approved bear resistant container (locked car, bear box, bear resistant garbage can, etc.) See <http://igbconline.org/certified-products-list/> for list of approved products.
- Never feed a bear.

### Bear Encounters

- Avoid encounters by...
  1. Staying alert, especially when hearing or visibility is limited.
  2. Traveling in groups and with members together.
  3. Making noise, the human voice is best.
  4. Carry bear spray in a very accessible place and know how to use it.
  5. Avoid traveling at night, dawn or dusk.
  6. Avoid carcass sites and places you see lots of scavengers, like ravens.
- **During a bear encounter never run or approach a bear. What you do next depends on the situation.**
  1. *If you see a bear that does not seem aware of you and you can move away undetected, do so quietly while the bear is not looking at you.*
  2. *If the bear sees you, stand your ground and watch its behavior.*
  3. *If the bear “disengages,” then slowly move away.*
  4. *If you've surprised the bear and it is agitated, charges, or appears ready to charge...*
    - a. Stand your ground
      - i. *If it charges, use your bear spray*
        - i. Always fight back when being attacked by a **black bear**
        - ii. If a **grizzly bear** contacts you, go face down on the ground and cover your neck
  5. *If a bear slowly, purposefully, or methodically approaches you...*
    - a. Stand your ground and get intimidating: wave your arms and shout. Get bear spray out and ready
    - b. *If the bear charges, follows or stalks you, use your bear spray.*
    - c. *If the bear contacts you, fight back*

For more information, please visit <http://igbconline.org/>

