

Montana Bear Encounter Information



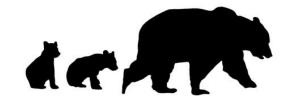
- 1. Bears can be anywhere, assume their presence.
- 2. Both grizzly bears and black bears pose a risk. The bear's behavior should determine your response.
- 3. Avoiding an encounter is easier than dealing with a conflict.

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/