



Appendix 8

Safety in Grizzly and Black Bear Country

If You Encounter a Bear...



- Remember the 3 S's... Stop, Stand still, Stay calm.
- Ensure others know that a bear is in the vicinity.
- Do not run.
- Leave the bear an open avenue of escape.

...at a DISTANCE

- Alert the bear to your presence – speak in low tones, slowly wave your arms.
- Quietly walk back the way you came or make a wide detour.
- Keep an eye on the bear.
- Stay downwind.
- Consider using warning shots, noisemakers.

...that is NEARBY

- Do not shout or make sudden movements.
- Avoid direct eye contact.
- Back away slowly.
- Climb at least four metres up a tree to escape a grizzly. (Ineffective against black bears).

Deterrents...



- Include... 12 gauge cracker shells, air horns, flares, and chemical repellents such as pepper spray.
- Are not completely effective against every bear in every situation.
- Should not make you less careful to avoid bear conflicts.
- Are potentially dangerous – use with extreme caution.

If a Bear Charges...



- Many charge are bluffs – the bear will often veer to the side at the last minute.
- Use a chemical repellent only at close range.

- If you have a firearm and contact appears unavoidable, shoot to kill.
- Play dead only during a grizzly bear attack (lie on your side, curl into a ball with your legs tight to your chest, hands clasped behind your neck).

If you must shoot a bear in self-defense, report the kill to a Renewable Resource Officer as soon as possible. If an Officer is not immediately available, skin the bear and preserve the hide. The hide must be turned in to an Officer. You may not keep any part of a bear killed in self-defense.

For Further Information...



For further information, contact any Environment and Natural Resources Office:

Area Code (867)

Aklavik	978-2248
Deline.....	589-3421
Fort Good Hope.....	598-2271
Fort Liard.....	770-4311
Fort McPherson.....	952-2200
Fort Providence.....	669-3002
Fort Resolution.....	394-4596
Fort Simpson.....	695-7433
Fort Smith.....	872-6400
Hay River.....	875-5554
Inuvik.....	678-6670
Lutsel K'e.....	370-3141
Norman Wells.....	587-3500
Behchokò.....	392-6511
Tsiigehtchic.....	953-3605
Tulita.....	588-3441
Tuktoyaktuk.....	977-2350
Ulukhaktok.....	396-4505
Yellowknife.....	873-7181



Northwest Territories Environment and Natural Resources

May 2009

Safety in Grizzly and Black Bear Country



Black Bear

Welcome to Bear Country



Grizzly and black bears can be found throughout the Northwest Territories. They are an important part of the northern ecosystem.

Northerners are committed to maintaining healthy populations of all wildlife, including grizzly and black bears. Treat them with respect. Remember that you are in a bear's territory.

While You are Travelling...



- Always be alert.
- Travel in groups.
- Travel only during daylight.
- Avoid carrying strong smelling foods.
- Make noise where visibility is limited.
- Avoid bear feeding areas such as flood plains, berry patches and areas rich in horsetails and other grasses.
- Avoid bear travel areas like shorelines, trails along the water or near berry patches.
- Watch for fresh bear droppings and tracks.
- Carry bear deterrents.

If You are Camping...



- Avoid camping in areas frequented by bears.
- Always sleep inside a shelter (tent, cabin, etc.).
- Don't keep food in tents or areas of camp other than the cook tent.
- Keep a clean camp - wash all dishes and utensils after every meal.
- Avoid cooking greasy foods.
- Burn all garbage every day or take it to a bearproof disposal site. Burying garbage does not eliminate odors.
- If you're going to leave the campsite:
 - bearproof your camp - store food and other attractants (dish detergent, toothpaste, etc.) in an inaccessible place.
 - let someone know where you are going.
 - take a partner and bear deterrents with you.



Grizzly Bears

If You are Fishing...



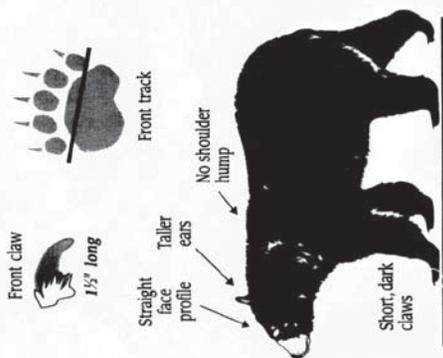
- Be cautious near streams or lakes - bears frequent these areas.
- Clean fish away from camp and store them underwater.
- Burn fish guts away from camp.
- Store fish-cleaning knives away from camp.
- Don't wear clothes that smell like fish to bed.

If You are Hunting...



- Avoid hunting late in the day and returning to camp in the dark.
- Stay alert when dressing game or handling meat and only do so away from camp.
- Avoid shooting more than your party can pack out in a single load.
- If you must leave meat in the field, leave it near a visible landmark with a clear approach route and cover it with a tarp to discourage scavengers.
- Don't keep bloodied clothes in your tent.

Black Bear



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Grizzly Bear

