

TOOL TYPE **CHECKLIST**

LAST REVIEWED **30, AUG 2010**

GEOGRAPHY **ALL**

SOURCE

BEAR SAFETY TRAINING CHECKLIST

BENEFITS

Canadian employers have a duty to protect workers from all hazards in the workplace. And for some jobs, wild animals, such as bears, wolves, snakes and spiders, pose a genuine hazard to workers.

HOW TO USE THE TOOL

If bears pose a threat to your workers, use this checklist to ensure that the bear safety training you give them covers all the bases.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Community: [Post a question in the discussion forum to identify other members who have dealt with this issue.](#)

BEAR SAFETY TRAINING CHECKLIST

INFORMATION ABOUT BEARS

- Recent statistics regarding bears and bear sightings or activities in the area, include bear attacks
- Bear ecology and biology (on both black and grizzly bears), including habitats, diet and annual cycles (spring/summer, fall/winter)
- Bear identification (on both black and grizzly bears), including physical attributes, differences in tracks, coloring and why workers must know how to distinguish bear type
- Bear signs, including tracks, tree markings, digging, scat, carcasses, bedding sites and the significance of signs
- Clear, written instructions as to what actions workers are to take when signs of bears or bear activity are detected, including communication, evacuation of area, mustering, continuance or stoppage of work

INFORMATION ABOUT BEAR AVOIDANCE

- Feeding habits
- Noise and noise making devices, including the importance of making noise while traveling and working in bear country
- Garbage in work areas, including food storage
- Bear senses, including bears' acute sense of smell and hearing
- Wind direction, including the need to stay downwind of bears whenever possible

ENCOUNTERS WITH BEARS (SIGHTINGS, ETC., NOT ATTACKS)

- The importance of having an escape mechanism thought out prior to entering and working in bear country. (All bear encounters do not result in attacks.)
- Trees, including the pros and cons of climbing trees, good and poor climbing trees, climbing techniques

BEAR ATTACKS

Predatory

- Traits bears will exhibit if a predatory attack is eminent
- How to minimize the continuance of this type of attack
- Guidelines on how to fight or fend off a bear

Provoked

(That is, resulting from people stressing the bear: sudden or surprise encounters, female bear defending her cubs or any bear defending a food source)

- Traits bears will exhibit if an attack is eminent
- How to minimize the continuance of such an attack
- Guidelines on how to “play dead”

INFORMATION ON HOW TO CONTROL BEARS

Bear Repellent Aerosols

- Which workers are issued bear repellent aerosols
- Training in the safe use of bear repellent aerosols
- Training in the proper storage and transport of bear repellent aerosols
- Control of the product
- Follow-up investigation whenever bear repellent aerosols are used
- Return of unused full canisters to the employer
- Disposal of used or partially used canisters

Guns

- Control of the guns and ammunition, including who controls, who is licensed to have and use the guns and proper storage of guns and ammunition
- Written rules as to use of the guns, including when, under what circumstances, etc.

- Follow up accident investigations whenever guns are used

Ministry of Environment Conservation Officers

- When to call them
- Who is responsible for calling them
- Using conservation officer for bear control or to remove bears

Bear Watch Persons (if utilized)

- Training for the watchperson, including bear signs, bear recognition (types of bear), use of control mechanisms (guns, mace, etc.), communication with crew and supervisor, man-check on the watchperson and proper use of evacuation/mustering procedures

Communication

- Written instructions regarding bear sightings/encounters and proper mechanisms for communication