

# BEAR SAFETY



Both black and grizzly bears can be dangerous. The most dangerous situation is to get between a sow and her cubs. Here are some ways you can reduce the risk of a confrontation:

- Store food and garbage in a cache, bear bin and away from your sleeping/ living area
- Know where bears are most likely to be in your area such as meadows or forests
- Look for fresh diggings, scat or tracks that indicate the presence of a bear
- Know that bears are most aggressive in the spring breeding season
- Bears generally feel threatened if your are closer than 75m, stay back

If you come across a bear in the wilderness, you can reduce the risk of an attack in these ways:

- Make some noise so the bear knows you are there, generally the bear will move away to avoid you
- Spread out if your are in a group so the bear can see all of you
- Don't run or climb a tree, bears will chase. Black bears are excellent climbers and grizzlies can climb if they need to
- If the bear hasn't seen you, quickly and quietly remove yourself from the vicinity

You should carry at least one item of bear defence when spending time in the wilderness.



Here are some of your options:

- Bear spray – effective if the bear is less than 10ft from you
- Bear bangers – be sure these explode between you and the bear so you don't chase the bear towards you
- Firearm – ensure you have the appropriate licences to carry a firearm

# COUGAR SAFETY



If you come across a cougar in the wilderness, here are some ways you can reduce the risk of an attack:

- Stand your ground and chase the cougar off
- Yell, through objects like sticks and rocks, make yourself as big as possible
- If the cougar hasn't seen you, move away quietly to avoid confrontation



You should carry at least one item of cougar defence when spending time in the wilderness. Here are some of your options:

- If the cougar is stalking you, yell, wave your hands and try to stop the cougar pouncing on you
- 6" knife – as cougars are very quiet, you might not hear them until they are on you so you will need to fight back and use your knife
- Firearm – ensure you have the appropriate licences to carry a firearm

Cougars are shy animals that generally avoid humans unless they are starving and/ or injured. However, small children can look like easy prey to cougars.

Here are some ways to reduce the risk of confrontation with a cougar:

- Supervise small children at all times
- Store food away from your sleeping area so they aren't attracted to your camp
- Look for signs such as scat or fresh tracks on the trail