

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

**FOR THE ASTON BAY PROPERTY
(ALSO KNOWN AS STORM PROPERTY)
NUNAVUT, CANADA**

Prepared For:



Prepared By:



Effective April 2025

Table of Contents

1. Introduction	1
1.1. Environmental Policy.....	1
2. Environmental Protection Measures	2
2.1. Vegetation, Soil and Permafrost Disturbance Mitigation	2
2.2. Air and Noise Quality	3
2.3. Surface and Groundwater.....	5
3. Archaeological or Paleontological Sites	7
4. Impacts and Mitigation.....	8
4.1. Wildlife and Habitat	8
4.1.1. Migratory Birds and Avian Species.....	8
4.1.2. Aquatic Life.....	10
4.1.3. Caribou Mitigation and Monitoring	11
4.1.1. Muskox	12
4.1.2. Carnivores and Dens	12
4.1.3. Polar Bears	13
4.2. Wildlife Monitors	17
4.3. Firearms.....	17

Tables

Table 1 Information Summary for Species at Risk.....	14
---	-----------

Appendices

Appendix A: Environmental Emergency Contacts	18
Appendix B: Bear Safety	21

1. Introduction

This Environmental Management Plan (“EMP”) applies to mineral exploration activities conducted by, or on behalf of, Aston Bay Holdings Ltd. (“Aston Bay”) at the Aston Bay Property (the “Property” or the “Project”, also known as the “Storm Property” or the “Storm Project”), Somerset Island, Nunavut. This EMP will come into effect April 2025, pending approval. Copies and updates to this plan may be obtained by contacting Aston Bay.

The purpose of the Aston Bay Property Environmental Management Plan is to outline the companies’ environmental policy, and to address environmental issues related to exploration at the Aston Bay Property. The plan includes the following:

- An overview of Aston Bay Property environmental protection measures;
- A discussion of dealing with anthropological or archaeological sites;
- Possible disturbances to land, flora, and fauna related to exploration;
- Wildlife management practices and appropriate use of firearms;
- Environmental requirements for diamond and reverse circulation drilling;

Emergency response guidelines are beyond the scope of this plan. In the event of an environmental emergency, personnel will defer to the Aston Bay Property “Emergency Response Plan” and “Spill Prevention and Response Plan” for guidance.

The Aston Bay Property hosts remote, early-stage exploration projects for both copper and zinc. The Property covers both Crown Land and Inuit Owned Land (IOL) on Somerset Island, in the Qikiqtaaluk Region of Nunavut, with a small portion in the western corner of the Property overlapping the RB-02 IOL land package. Proposed exploration activities are on Crown Land, and no exploration is planned on the IOL. The Property is located at an approximate latitude of 73°31’N and longitude of 94°20’W or Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) coordinates of 457776mE and 8158588mN, North American Datum (NAD83, Zone 15). The Property is approximately 112 kilometres south of Qausuittuq (Resolute Bay) on Cornwallis Island, and 305 kilometres west of Ikpiarjuk (Arctic Bay) on Baffin Island. Authorizations for the use of land and water for the purpose of exploration have been granted by the Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) and the Nunavut Water Board (NWB). Aston Bay’s proposed exploration programs are of limited scope and will be operated seasonally due to weather limitations. Further information on the potential exploration activities undertaken at Aston Bay Property can be found in the Non-Technical Summary.

1.1. Environmental Policy

Aston Bay is firmly committed to the protection and conservation of the natural environment, and to ensuring the health and safety of all employees, contractors, and people in surrounding communities. The environmental policy for the Aston Bay Property is to:

- Develop the Project in a socially and environmentally responsible manner;
- Fully comply with all applicable environmental legislation and regulations;
- Work in cooperation with federal, territorial, and local governments, as well as other relevant regulatory bodies, and the general public, on all aspects of environmental protection and policy;
- Assess and mitigate any potential environmental impacts and minimize risks to the health and safety of all employees, contractors, and the general public;
- Ensure contractors operate according to the Aston Bay Property environmental policies and procedures;
- Employ planning and training to reduce the impacts of unforeseen events;
- Provide ongoing instruction on Aston Bay Property environmental policies and spill prevention and response plans for all employees and contractors;
- Keep employees, contractors, inspectors, government, and regulatory bodies informed of any changes at the site or with project activities.

2. Environmental Protection Measures

Exploration activities at the Aston Bay Property will be assessed for environmental impact risks and every measure available will be taken to ensure the protection and preservation of the natural environment. The Project Supervisor will be responsible for implementing environmental policies, training staff and managing the environmental monitoring program.

Environmental training, monitoring, reclamation, and site clearance surveys will be built into the program budget to ensure adequate resources are being allocated to environmental management. Preference will be given to contractors with high standards of environmental stewardship, and who have a proven track record of sound environmental practice.

Wildlife reports, containing information on sightings and interactions of all wildlife, denning sites, nests and any work suspensions will be submitted annually to CIRNAC, NWB, and the QIA (and any other interested parties, including the Government of Nunavut Ecosystem Biologist).

2.1. Vegetation, Soil and Permafrost Disturbance Mitigation

Vegetation at the Aston Bay Property consists mainly of moss, lichens, stunted plants and Arctic grasses. The grasses are typically observed growing at lower elevations in areas associated with river drainage basins.

Vegetation and permafrost can potentially be impacted by camp and drilling activities. Mitigation measures to reduce impact include limiting the amount of vegetation disruption to ensure proper shade coverage and reduction in the potential for ground thaw and subsidence. Footpaths can be marked using stakes and flagging tape to ensure that impacts to vegetation are confined to a small area or boardwalks can be built between camp buildings to reduce damage to vegetation on high-traffic footpaths. Areas that have patterned ground, clay-rich soil and or wetlands will be avoided. Heat radiating from camp buildings may thaw permafrost, so all heated camp structures will be slightly elevated above the ground to allow air circulation. Earth may be required to be moved in order to construct sumps in camp and at drill sites; however natural depressions and areas free of vegetation will be used whenever possible. Any topsoil moved will be collected to use in re-vegetation efforts. If a sump is excavated, it will be barricaded until it can be back-filled.

Soil quality can be impacted from spills of fuel and other materials and waste discharge. Preventative measures include appropriate and approved storage locations and containers with secondary containment. All fuel, hazardous materials and drilling will be a minimum 31 metres away from any watercourses. Refueling will be done with precision and appropriate due diligence will be taken. Drums and hoses will be inspected regularly for leaks and pans or absorbent pads will be placed below fuel transfer areas and stationary machinery. See the Aston Bay Property “Spill Prevention and Response Plan” for more information.

2.2. Air and Noise Quality

Impacts on air quality can result from discharge of exhaust from airplanes, helicopters, drilling operations and generators, as well as emissions from incineration. An Environment Canada approved batch feed controlled-air dual chamber incinerator will be selected to burn combustible waste, therefore reducing harmful emissions. Airborne dust created by reverse circulation drilling will have short term impact on the area proximal to the drill, this impact is temporary and will not have any long-lasting effects. Given the remote location and lack of air quality issues currently within the Project location, the short duration and small scope of activities are not expected to result in any measurable air quality impacts.

Noise can result from the use of planes, helicopters and drills and to a lesser degree from activities within the camp, which can disturb wildlife. Mitigation measures for noise disturbing wildlife are as follows:

- Helicopters and fixed wing aircraft will avoid areas with known nests, dens, staging areas, or large mammals.
- Helicopters and fixed wing aircraft will avoid low altitude flights when possible.
- Pilots will be instructed not to land where wildlife is present, unless it is an emergency situation. If a landing occurs for any reason in the presence of wildlife, it will be documented and submitted to CIRNAC and the Nunavut Department of Environment as part of the “Wildlife and Environment” section of the Aston Bay Property Annual Report.
- Position drill sites away from any wildlife nests or dwellings.
- All activities, including drilling, will cease if sightings of caribou are within 10 km.

The remoteness of the Project allows for noise without the concern of disturbing communities or people. If it is known that a group of people are within the vicinity on Somerset Island, they will be notified about the activities taking places and the potential disturbances.

2.3. Surface and Groundwater

Drilling contracts will be awarded to companies that exhibit high standards of environmental practice and who are willing to adhere to the environmental policies for the Aston Bay Property. The following conditions are imposed for drilling activities:

- Sites will be as small as possible while still allowing adequate area for fire protection.
- All stored fuel and drill additives will be stored in secondary containment at a minimum of 31 metres from the ordinary high-water mark. Policies and procedures outlined in the “Spill Prevention and Response Plan” will be followed to mitigate the chance of a spill.
- Biodegradable drill additives will be used whenever possible. See Appendix D of Aston Bay’s “Spill Prevention and Response Plan” for the SDS of possible drill additives used.
- Recirculation and filtration equipment will be used to minimize the amount of water used and additives released into the environment. Secondary containment for additives will be placed around the hole.
- Any residual water will be syphoned off and cuttings will be shoveled into sumps or an equivalent natural depression, preventing the drill fluids from entering water bodies directly and allow for slow infiltration into the soil. Sumps will be positioned a minimum of 31 metres from the ordinary high-water mark of any water body. Sumps will be positioned down slope from the drill collar in such a manner that runoff flows into the sump.
- If any artesian water flow is detected, the hole will be plugged and cemented in bedrock to prevent continued flow. Any artesian water flow will be reported to CIRNAC and the Nunavut Water Board.
- Appropriate screens will be placed over all water intakes at camp and at the drill to reduce the potential for fish entrapment.
- Ensuring the capacity of water source is sufficient in that de-watering does not occur. And that small streams or watercourses will not be used for water withdrawal during low-flow events.
- Aston Bay will ensure that water withdrawals rates remain <10% of actual (instantaneous) flow and does not results in flows <30% of mean annual discharge.
- If water is withdrawn during the winter, Aston Bay will ensure that the 2010 Protocol for Winter Water withdrawal in NWT and Nu will be followed. A maximum of 10% of under ice water volumes will be withdrawn.

Camp grey water will be stored and treated in an excavated sump, which will allow for slow infiltration into the soil and will be located at least 31 metres away from the ordinary high-water mark of any body of water. The grey water sumps at Storm Camp are approximately 2'x2' in dimension and approximately 3' deep. They are constructed with plywood walls and filled with loose cobbles to aid in filtration, to support the walls and to prevent slumping. Filters and grease traps will be installed on kitchen drains to ensure solid food wastes do not enter the sumps and attract wildlife. The sump and pipe will be inspected at regular intervals for leaks or overflows. Filled sumps will be covered with enough material for future ground settlement. Upon seasonal shutdown, if the sumps are not full, they are covered with plywood to be used in the future.

Pacto toilets will be used at Storm Camp. All Pacto bags will be incinerated on site in a batch feed dual-chamber controlled air incinerator. Aston Bay ensure that the incinerator is a model that is specifically designed to be capable of incineration this type of waste, and is located at least 31 metres away from the ordinary high-water mark of any body of water. Incineration of sewage will occur on a regular schedule. Upon seasonal shutdown, all sewage will be incinerated and the Pacto structure winterized.

Recovery and reuse options at the Aston Bay Property are limited due to the site's remote location and are restricted by the technology and equipment available on the Property. Any available opportunity for waste recovery and reuse will be taken. All waste will be covered and stored inside sheds or other secure buildings to keep rain and snow out of the waste and reduce the attraction for wildlife. Materials that cannot be incinerated or burned, such as hazardous waste, will be stored and sealed in appropriate containers in a designated area until they can be removed from site for treatment and/or disposal at an accredited facility. All storage of waste will be at a minimum of 31 metres away from the ordinary high-water mark of any body of water. See Aston Bay "Waste Management Plan" for more detailed information.

3. Archaeological or Paleontological Sites

Actions will be taken to ensure that any archaeological or palaeontological sites or artifacts are not disturbed. These include, but are not limited to:

- No staff, contractors or Project visitors will operate any vehicle over a known or suspected archaeological or palaeontological site.
- No staff, contractors or Project visitors will remove, disturb, or displace any archaeological artifact or site, or any fossil or palaeontological site.
- Aston Bay will immediately contact the Government of Nunavut Department of Culture and Heritage (“CH”) and the Land Administration division at CIRNAC should an archaeological site or artifact, or a palaeontological site or fossil, be encountered or disturbed by any land use activity. A report will be prepared documenting the discovery and sent to CH and CIRNAC. Reports will include GPS coordinates, a brief description of the site and/or artifact and photos (if possible).
- All staff, contractors or Project visitors will immediately cease any activity that may disturb an archaeological or palaeontological site if encountered during the course of a land use operation until permitted to proceed with the authorization of CH and CIRNAC.
- All staff, contractors or Project visitors will follow the direction of CH in restoring disturbed archaeological or palaeontological sites to an acceptable condition. If these conditions are attached to either a Class A or B Permit under the Territorial Lands Act CIRNAC’s directions will also be followed.
- All staff, contractors or Project visitors will provide all information requested by CH and CIRNAC concerning all archaeological sites or artifacts and all palaeontological sites and fossils encountered in the course of any land use activity.
- If possible, when conducting till sampling, geological mapping, prospecting and/or ground geophysical surveys all relevant field personnel will have maps with any known sites marked.
- Before commencing any work where ground disturbance may occur, the area will be surveyed for the potential for archaeological or paleontological sites.
- Building of inuksuk is prohibited.
- Aston Bay will ensure that all personnel working under its authority are aware of these conditions concerning archaeological sites and artifacts and palaeontological sites and fossils.

No known archeological or paleontological sites or artifacts have been discovered on the Aston Bay Property to date. Tent rings and remains of camps from Thule culture (AD 1000 - 1400) can be found near the Arctic Watch Lodge, along the northern coast of Somerset Island approximately 37 km north of the Property.

4. Impacts and Mitigation

4.1. Wildlife and Habitat

Avoidance is the primary method of wildlife and habitat mitigation. Intentionally approaching, disturbing, or feeding wildlife is strictly prohibited. Any incidents will be thoroughly investigated and disciplined. All wildlife, and their dwelling sites, will be respected and efforts will be made to avoid them. All personnel will be required to record any wildlife sightings and will be properly trained in wildlife disturbance mitigation, including deterrent and interaction measures.

All sightings of wildlife, including the specific species mentioned throughout this document, will be recorded in the “Wildlife Record Log” and submitted to CIRNAC and the Government of Nunavut Department of Environment (“DOE”) as part of the Aston Bay Property Annual Report. Protection measures based on species and/or wildlife are outlined below, including stop work thresholds and procedures. Any nuisance or aggressive wildlife will be reported to the Project Supervisor and the Government of Nunavut DOE Resolute Wildlife Office.

4.1.1. Migratory Birds and Avian Species

Aston Bay understands that there is a risk that migratory birds and avian species, their nests and their eggs can be inadvertently harmed or disturbed as a result of mineral exploration activities. Appropriate mitigation measures will be utilized to reduce any potential disturbance and harm that may come to birds and their nests. Compliance of these measures will be enforced with strict penalties for those who do not adhere to the proper operating procedures including, but not limited to, termination of employment.

Species of concern listed in Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act* (“SARA”) or those designated as “at risk” by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (“COSEWIC”), are as follows:

- Red-Necked Phalarope
- Buff-Breasted Sandpiper
- Ivory Gull
- Red Knot (*islandica* subspecies)
- Ross’s Gull
- Short-Eared Owl

Aston Bay has implemented the following mitigation measures to prevent potential impacts on birds and waterfowls. All Aston Bay employees, contractors and visitors will be instructed and must strictly adhere to the following:

- All staff, contractors and Project visitors will be educated in, and comply, with all applicable legislation and regulations.
- Approaching any birds or nests will be strictly prohibited.
- The nests or eggs of any birds are never to be moved or destroyed.
- Attempt to prevent birds from nesting on man-made structures.
- Avoid disturbing nests and known concentrations of birds by maintaining a 1.5 km buffer when in transit by aircraft.
- Minimize flights during migration, nesting and molting, and take particular care when approaching areas near Leopold Island and Creswell Bay migratory bird habitats.
- Avoid known areas used by flocks of migrating waterfowl by 3 km.
- Avoid excessive hovering or circling over areas likely to have birds.
- Any inadvertent disruption of migratory birds, nests or eggs will be immediately reported.
- Special care and concern, including monitoring, will take place during breeding and migratory bird nesting periods, between May and September (Nesting Zone C8).
- If a new nest is found, the location will be recorded, photographed and reported to the Project Supervisor for further action.

4.1.2. Aquatic Life

The large, mammalian species of concern listed in Schedule 1 of the SARA or those designated as “at risk” by the COSEWIC, are as follows:

- Atlantic Walrus (High Arctic population)
- Beluga Whale (Eastern High Arctic Baffin Bay population)
- Killer Whale (Northwest Atlantic/Eastern Arctic population)
- Bowhead Whale (Eastern Canada/West Greenland population)

The above-mentioned species have the potential to be observed within the waters surrounding Somerset Island. To our knowledge, there is no known critical habitat, thus the impact should be very low. However, the Aston Bay has been identified by the NPC as an area of beluga whale and narwhal calving. To the best of Aston Bay’s ability, sealift activity will be minimized during May 1 and August 31 to avoid impacts on cetacean calving windows.

The following practices will be undertaken to protect aquatic life, waterbodies and their tributaries. All Aston Bay employees, contractors and visitors will be instructed and must strictly adhere to the following:

- No waste or discharge of any kind will enter a body of water.
- All sumps, fuel caches, waste storage and camps must be located at least 31 metres from the ordinary high-water mark of any water body.
- Work conducted near waterbodies must not disturb aquatic life and habitat.
- Fishing is strictly prohibited for all employees and contractors and will result in immediate termination and potential charges for any territorial violations.
- Waterlines must be properly placed and screened in accordance with the “*Freshwater Intake End of-Pipe Screen Guideline.*”, and a notification of work will be submitted to the Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO).
- No permanent water pump installations are on Property. Temporary use of water pumps are used to fill camp reservoirs and stored at camp when not in use.

4.1.3. Caribou Mitigation and Monitoring

The Aston Bay Property resides within the range of the Peary caribou. Peary Caribou are considered a threatened species under both SARA and COSEWIC. The Barren-ground Caribou are known to inhabit the Boothia Peninsula, located south of Somerset Island, and could potentially migrate further north. The Barren-ground Caribou are considered threatened under COSEWIC. The NPC have identified a caribou calving ground to the southwest of the Property, likely utilized by Peary Caribou, and a caribou ice crossing corridor between the western coast of Somerset Island, south of the Aston Bay, and Prince of Wales Island.

The following measures will be used to mitigate potential impacts on both species of caribou:

- Caribou avoidance will always be the priority mitigation measure.
- Exploration activities will be planned to avoid critical caribou timing windows.
 - No exploration, including ground and airborne, will occur within the overlapping caribou calving grounds between June 13 and July 12 or during migration of caribou.
- Aston Bay will, to the best of their ability, avoid any activities that may disturb ice crossing, including sealift activity between December 1 and July 31, along the western coast of the island, south of the Aston Bay.
- A caribou alert system will be established to alert personnel of the number and distance of caribou from camp, drill sites, and exploration areas. Pilots and passengers will monitor for caribou during flights, and any potential sightings will be reported to the Project Supervisor.
 - Reports should include the number of caribou sighted, distance from the camp or work site, direction of movement, and general behaviour.
- When safe to do so, flights lower than 300 m (e.g. airborne surveys and shorter transportation flights) will be suspended in the presence of caribou cows and calves and migrating caribou.
- In the event cows/calves come within 10 km of the camps or work areas, operations will be suspended (e.g. drilling, mapping, prospecting, sampling, helicopter flights, snowmobile and ATV) in all work areas occupied by cows and calves until caribou have moved out of the 10 km radius.
- Activities will be suspended should pregnant cows, cows with young calves or concentrations of caribou (50 or more) approach within 1 km of drilling operations. Activities will not resume until all of the caribou have moved out of the area.
- To the best of Aston Bay's ability, it will ensure that no exploration activities will cause a diversion to the migration patterns of any caribou.

Aston Bay will communicate with the local HTO's and any other interested parties regarding caribou sightings and appraised movements in the area, in addition to submitting any observations with the annual report to the applicable regulatory bodies.

4.1.1. Muskox

Muskox may be observed on the Aston Bay Property area during exploration activities. Staff are not to approach or interact with muskox herds to avoid herd dispersion and displacement from calving areas, which could have negative effects on muskox breeding. Critical time to avoid male muskox is during breeding season (August to September).

The Government of Nunavut recommends that field workers not approach muskox closer than 200 metres during the calving season (April to June). Similar to the Caribou Protection Measures, Aston Bay's work programs are to also cease the use of ground equipment/vehicles (drills, snowmobiles and ATVs) and aircraft overflights at altitudes less than 610 meters when muskox, especially when pregnant cows, cows with calves, or groups of 50 or more approach within 1 km of operations.

4.1.2. Carnivores and Dens

- Proper measures will be taken in camp, drill sites and in the field to reduce the attraction of wildlife including proper storage and handling of food and waste.
- All bears, wolves, wolverines and other wildlife, as well as their dens, will be avoided at all times by field crews.
- Any human-wildlife interaction will be reported immediately to the Project Supervisor for further action.
- All personnel on site will have bear safety training that includes the penalties for shooting bears (and other wildlife), even in self defense.
- As per the recommendations in the "*Northern Land Use Guides*" drilling and exploration buffers will be as follows:
 - 1 km around active bear dens between September 30 to March 30.
 - 300 m around all bear species between May 16 to July 15.
 - 300 m around berry habitat between July 15 to September 15.
 - 2 km around active wolverine dens between October 15 to July 15.

4.1.3. Polar Bears

Polar Bears are listed as Special Concern by SARA and COSEWIC. The Property resides within the range of the Lancaster Sound Polar Bear Subpopulation. Denning normally begins in late fall, located in areas with abundant snow cover in early winter and near the coast to provide high seal populations in the spring when the bears emerge. Dens are often excavated from snow and closed off by snowdrifts. It is unlikely any work will be ongoing during the denning period as the snow inhibits access and exploration activities on the Property. Noise and activity from exploration work near dens could cause disturbance, therefore the following mitigation measures will be undertaken in addition to the applicable measures mentioned in 4.1.2 Carnivores and Dens:

- All Polar Bears and their dens will be avoided at all times.
- No work will be conducted in the proximity of a Polar Bear den.
- If a den site or suspected den site is discovered, its location will be recorded with GPS coordinates and a report submitted to the Project Lead for further instruction. Coordinates will be submitted to the appropriate regulatory bodies.
- Between September 15 to April 15, a 1 km radius buffer around occupied Polar Bear dens must be observed or until it is documented and reported that the family group has left the den.
- If Polar Bears are in the proximity of camp or work areas, work is to cease until the bears have moved safely out of the area.

Table 1 Information Summary for Species at Risk

Species	Distinguishing Features	Sensitive Period	Status
Polar Bear  (<i>Ursus maritimus</i>)	• Thick white or yellowish fur • Longer necks with narrow heads	September – April (denning and birthing)	SARA / COSEWIC: Special Concern
Wolverine  (<i>Gulo gulo</i>)	• Looks like a “small bear” • Glossy, coarse fur (brown to black) • Pale facial mask, and tan-yellowish lateral body stripes • Long, bushy tail	May – August (breeding) January – May (implantation, pregnancy and birthing)	SARA / COSEWIC: Special Concern
Peary Caribou  (<i>Rangifer tarandus pearyi</i>)	• Smallest North American Caribou • Mostly white with a slate back and grey stripe down the front legs • Slate color antler velvet	June – July (calving) Late September – October (rutting)	SARA / COSEWIC: Threatened

Beluga Whale (Eastern High Arctic Baffin Bay)  (<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>)	• Medium-sized toothed whale • White in color	June – August (calving)	COSEWIC: Special Concern
Red-necked Phalarope  (<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>)	• Breeding adults have a white throat with a reddish patch on the neck • Non-breeding adults are grey with a streaky back and black ear patches • Center stripe down tail	June – July	SARA / COSEWIC: Special Concern
Buff Breasted Sandpiper  (<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>)	• Medium sized shorebird with buff colored face • Brown to black speckling on wings and back	Late May to early September	SARA / COSEWIC: Special Concern

Ivory Gull  (<i>Pagophila eburnea</i>)	• Entirely white plumage as an adult • Short black legs • Large dark eyes	Year round, patchy breeding distribution	SARA / COSEWIC: Endangered
Red Knot (islandica subspecies)  (<i>Calidris canutus islandica</i>)	• Medium-long bill with a small head • Plumage is rufous red during breeding • Upper plumage is dark brown or black	June - July	SARA: Special Concern COSEWIC: Not at Risk
Ross's Gull  (<i>Rhodostethis rosea</i>)	• Small Arctic gull with quick, shallow wingbeats • Wedge-shaped tail • Distinctive black collar	Unknown – (tendency to skip breeding due to weather conditions and change breeding locations)	SARA: Threatened COSEWIC: Endangered

Short-eared Owl  (<i>Asio flammeus</i>)	• Active during daylight • Mottled brown bodies • Yellow eyes • Black markings around the eyes resembling eye shadow	April – August	SARA: Special Concern COSEWIC: Threatened
--	--	----------------	--

4.2. Wildlife Monitors

Wherever possible, wildlife and environmental monitors will be employed from local communities. Monitors will be in place, at camp or on site, to mitigate any response to bears or other wildlife presence. To ensure compliance, the independence of the monitors will be maintained through readily available resources, which include access to internet, satellite phones, and personal communication devices.

4.3. Firearms

Registered firearms will be located in camp and at drill sites to ensure the safety of all personnel on the Property. Firearms will be stored unloaded and in a locked cabinet or gun case. All persons carrying or handling a firearm must have a valid Firearms License and be approved by the Project Supervisor. Hunting is strictly prohibited for all employees and contractors and will result in immediate termination and potential charges for any territorial hunting violations. Firearms discharge of any kind must be reported immediately to the Project Supervisor. Non-lethal deterrents will always be used whenever possible to deter problem wildlife with lethal rounds only being used in defense of life or property and only as a last resort.

Appendix A: Environmental Emergency Contacts

Wildlife Emergency Contacts

Name	Position-Company	Phone Number(s)
Chris Livingstone	Project Supervisor-APEX Geoscience Ltd.	778-847-7450 (mobile)
Thomas Ullrich	Chief Executive Officer-Aston Bay	416-456-3516
Nunavut Department of Environment	Iqaluit Main Office	867-975-7700
Nunavut Department of Environment	Resolute Conservation Office	867-252-3879
Nunavut Department of Culture and Heritage	Iqaluit Main Office	867-975-5500 Fax: 867-975-5504

Hazardous Waste Contacts

INAC Manager of Field Operations 867-975-4295

Environmental Protection Division
Nunavut Department of Environment
Inuksugait Plaza, P.O. Box 1000, Stn. 1300
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0
Tel: 867-975-7700
Fax: 867-975-7742
Email: environment@gov.nu.ca

Dr. Michael Patterson
Office of Chief Medical Officer of Health
Nunavut Department of Health
P.O. Box 1000, Stn. 1000
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0
Tel: 867-975-5760
Email: MPatterson@gov.nu.ca

Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission
Qamutiq Building, 2nd Floor
630 Queen Elizabeth II Way, Box 669
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0
Tel: 867-979-8500
Fax: 867-979-8501

NU-NT 24 Hour Spill Report Line
Tel: 867-920-8130
Fax: 867-873-6924
Email: spills@gov.nt.ca

Nunavut Department of Community
and Government Services
W.G. Brown Building, 4th Floor
P.O. Box 1000, Stn. 700
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0
Tel: 867-975-5400
Fax: 867-975-5305

Nunavut Emergency Management
Emergency 24 Hour
Emergency Services Response 24 Hours:
867-979-6262 / 1-800-693-1666

Fire Marshall
Safety Services
Nunavut Department of Community and
Government Services
Tel: 867-975-5310
Fax: 867-979-4221

Emergency Services Response 24 Hour TOLL Free: 1-800-693-1666

Emergency Services Response 24 Hours: 867-979-6262

Appendix B: Bear Safety

This pamphlet was developed for national parks in the Arctic. Polar bears and bear encounters are more numerous in Ukkusiksalik and Wapusk National Parks than other Arctic national parks. Independent travelling in these parks is not recommended, but guided trips are available. Contact Ukkusiksalik or Wapusk National Parks for further information.

CREDIT: Bromley, Marianne. 1996. *Safety in Polar Bear Country*. Northwest Territories Renewable Resources, Yellowknife, NWT. 24 pp.

Bromley, Marianne. 1996. *Safety in Polar Bear Country*. Northwest Territories Renewable Resources, Yellowknife. 24 pp.

Canadian Wildlife Service. *Hinterland Who's Who*. <http://www.hww.ca/hww2.asp?id=99>

Stirling, I. 1988. *Polar Bears*. University of Michigan Press. Available in soft cover from Fitzhenry and Whiteside, Markam, ON. 220 pp.
Safety in Bear Country Society. 2006. *Polar Bears: A Guide To Safety*. Available from Distribution Access, 1-866-999-5292. DVD.

Polar Bear CONSERVATION

Nanuq, the great white bear, is found in many of Canada’s northern national parks and in some national historic sites. Whenever bears and people occupy the same area, conflict can arise. Polar bears and people have coexisted for thousands of years but contact between the two must be minimised to continue this legacy. Successful polar bear conservation requires your co-operation.

For your safety, and the safety of the bears, learn about safe travel in polar bear country and take precautions.

By choosing to travel in polar bear country you not only accept the associated risks, but also the responsibility to alter your plans, actions and attitudes to accommodate these magnificent animals.

Report all polar bear sightings and signs to park staff, as soon as possible.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Auyuittuq National Park and Quttinirpaaq National Park
Box 353
Pangnirtung, NU X0A 0R0
PHONE: **867-473-2500**
E-MAIL: nunavut.info@pc.gc.ca

Sirmilik National Park
Box 300
Pond Inlet, NU X0A 0S0
PHONE: **867-899-8092**
E-MAIL: sirmilik.info@pc.gc.ca

Ukkusiksalik National Park
Box 220
Repulse Bay, NU X0C 0H0
PHONE: **867-462-4500**
E-MAIL: ukkusiksalik.info@pc.gc.ca

Torngat Mountains National Park
Box 471
Nain, NL A0P 1L0
PHONE: **1-800-922-1290** or **709-458-2417**
E-MAIL: torngats.info@pc.gc.ca

Wapusk National Park
Box 127
Churchill, MB R0B 0E0
PHONE: **204-675-8863**
E-MAIL: wapusk.np@pc.gc.ca

Western Arctic
Ivvavik National Park
Aulavik National Park
Tuktut Nogait National Park
Pingo Canadian Landmark
Box 1840, Inuvik, NT X0E 0T0
PHONE: **867-777-8800**
E-MAIL: inuvik.info@pc.gc.ca

Margo Supplies

A supplier of bear deterrents and warning devices.
www.margosupplies.com

ISBN: 978-1-100-16418-2 R62-342/2010E



parks canada.gc.ca

Safety in Polar Bear Country

Bringing you Canada's natural and historic treasures

WAVE LUNCH



Parks Canada

Parcs Canada

Canada

After a polar bear attack or encounter follow this emergency check list:

1. STAY CALM and ensure you are safe.

2. Check that all people in your group are accounted for.

3. Call for help by radio or satellite phone. (Get contact numbers at your orientation to the park.)

4. Report location and time of incident.

5. Report number of people involved.

6. Report extent of injuries and property damage.

7. Report numbers and last locations of all polar bears involved in the incident.

8. Report reason for the attack if known (female protecting cubs, surprise, defending food source, etc.)

9. Report description of bears (male or female, size, markings, etc.).

10. Stand by to provide additional information to rescuers.

Polar bear behaviour is very different from that of grizzly and black bears.

Polar bears are predators, primarily hunting seals, while grizzlies and black bears mostly eat plants. As predators, polar bears will investigate humans, their camps and may even consider humans as a food source.



Travel in groups and stay together to increase your safety.

The larger the group the greater the chances of deterring a bear.

Travel in daylight and avoid areas of restricted visibility.

Be especially careful in areas along the coast, where a polar bear may be hidden behind boulders, pressure ridges (pushed up sea ice), driftwood or vegetation.

Be alert and aware of your surroundings.

Ask Parks Canada staff about current bear activity. Some areas may be closed due to bear activity; obey written and oral warnings.

Ask Parks Canada staff about current bear activity.

Never feed bears.

A bear that finds food from a human source begins to associate humans with food. This can result in the bear losing its natural tendency to avoid people and becoming persistent in its search for human food. The consequences for you and the bear can be serious. A bear that associates food with humans is more likely to injure people and these bears may have to be relocated or killed. It is also illegal to feed any wildlife in a national park.

Use sealed bags and containers or bear-proof canisters to store food and garbage.

Eliminate or reduce odours from yourself and your camp.

Avoid using scented soaps and cosmetics and avoid bringing strong smelling foods.

Consider hiring a guide if you are uncertain about your ability to deal with polar bears.

Ask about their experience, how they will avoid encountering a polar bear and about plans of action should you encounter a bear. A larger group can also increase safety, ask about the size of group.

AVOIDING an ENCOUNTER

MORE about Polar Bears

Polar bears are the largest land carnivore in North America. An adult male typically weighs 300–450 kg, stretching 3 metres from nose to tail. They are strong, fast, agile on land or ice, and are expert swimmers and divers. Their sense of smell is exceptional, their eyesight comparable to a human’s. Polar bears are naturally curious, not fearless as they have been labelled. They are shy and prefer to avoid confrontations with humans and other polar bears. Their primary prey is the ringed seal but they will also prey on birds, eggs, small mammals, and even humans. They also scavenge anything from beached whales to human garbage. In the heat of summer, polar bears may appear slow and docile, but they are capable of moving swiftly and with purpose.

CHOOSING a SAFE Campsite

Avoid bear feeding areas.

A polar bear's primary food source is seal so these species are often found in the same places.

- **In fall, winter and early spring** most polar bears are on the sea ice hunting seals by the floe edge, open water leads and along pressure ridges. Bears and seals can also be found in places where the ice is thin or cracked, such as tide cracks in land-fast ice or at toes of glaciers. Seals can more easily maintain breathing holes in these areas.
- **In early spring**, females with cubs tend to hunt along pressure ridges and cracks in land-fast ice (particularly in bays) where seal birthing dens are found.
- **During the ice-free summer season**, when polar bears are forced ashore, they can be found anywhere but they generally hunt and scavenge along coastlines, beaches and rocky islands. Keep an eye on the ocean, polar bears are often well hidden when swimming.

Stay away from polar bear den sites.

Unlike other bears, there is no time when all polar bears are inactive in dens.

- **Maternity dens** are excavated by pregnant females in snow drifts on leeward (wind protected) slopes of coastal hills and valleys. In the Baffin Region, dens can be found at high elevations on snowfields and glaciers. Maternity dens are occupied from fall to early spring. The dens are inconspicuous, however, bear tracks leading to and from the site in early autumn or late spring or ventilation holes can indicate their presence.
- **Temporary dens** are excavated in snow drifts or pressure ridges by polar bears (males, females and females with cubs) that are active over the winter. The dens can be used as resting places or as temporary shelter from bad weather. They can be used from a few days to several months.
- **Summer retreat dens** are excavated during the open water season in the remaining snow banks or into the permafrost. These can also be at higher elevations on snowfields and glaciers or the valleys leading up to them. Male and female bears of all age groups use them to keep cool and avoid insect harassment.

Avoid camping on beaches, islands, along coastlines and on obvious movement corridors.

- Before making camp, look around for tracks or other signs of bear activity.
- Polar bears often travel along coastlines using points of land and rocky islets near the coast to navigate.
- In the summer, blowing sea ice may transport polar bears into coastal areas. Avoid areas where the pack ice is blowing in to shore.
- Valleys and passes are often used to cross peninsulas or islands and to move from one area to another.
- Polar bears travel and hunt along the edges of ice floes.

Camp inland on a butte or bluff with a good view of surrounding terrain. Avoid areas where bears might hide, such as blind corners, snow banks, pressure ridges and other places with visual impediments.

Set up tents in a line rather than a circle and maintain at least 5 metres between them. If a bear comes into camp, it will not feel surrounded and will have an avenue of escape without feeling threatened. Keep watch 24 hours per day. Take turns keeping watch during sleeping periods.

Do not sleep in the open without a tent. You may look like a seal and polar bears are very curious. People sleeping in the open have been attacked.

Cook at least 50 metres from your sleeping area in a place visible from your tent. Strain food particles from dishwater and store with garbage. Dump dishwater at least 50 metres from your sleeping area, rivers, streams and lakes.

Store food and garbage in bear-proof containers or sealed bags and containers secured under rocks within view of your tent. A permit is required to set up a food cache. Placing pots on top may serve as an alarm. If you have a warning system, store your food within its perimeter. DO NOT store food inside your tent.

HANDLING an ENCOUNTER

Before your trip, discuss possible plans of action for dealing with bears in a variety of circumstances and be sure everyone understands. The actions of each individual either contribute to or detract from the safety of everyone else.

Every attack or encounter is different. To find out more about bear behaviour, hire a guide or talk to knowledgeable people in the community.

Stay calm, notify everyone in the group, be aware of your surroundings and assess the situation. What is the bear doing? What is the bear's behaviour?

If a bear does not know you are there:

- **quietly back away and leave the area** either in the direction you came or make a wide detour around the bear. Do not run, move quickly or make motions that might attract the bear's attention.
- **stay downwind**, so the bear cannot smell you and detect your presence.
- **keep an eye on the bear.**

If a bear knows you are there and shows signs of being curious, such as:

- moving slowly with frequent stops,
 - standing on hind legs and sniffing the air,
 - holding its head high with ears forward or to the side,
 - moving its head from side to side, or
 - trying to catch your scent by circling downwind and approaching from behind.
- THEN:**
- **help it to identify you as a human,**
 - **wave your arms over your head and talk in low tones,**
 - **move slowly upwind** of the bear so it can get your scent.

If the bear has been surprised at close range or shows signs of being agitated or threatened, such as:

- huffing, panting, hissing, growling or jaw-snapping,
 - stamping its feet,
 - staring directly at a person, or
 - lowering its head with ears laid back.
- THEN:**
- **act non-threatening.** Do not shout or make sudden movements, which might provoke the bear. Never huff or hiss as this can cause a polar bear to charge.
 - **avoid direct eye contact.**
 - **back away slowly.** DO NOT RUN.
 - **be prepared to use deterrents.**

If the bear shows signs of stalking or hunting you, such as:

- following you or circling you,
 - approaching directly, intently and unafraid,
 - returning after being scared away, or
 - appears wounded, old or thin.
- THEN:**
- **fight back!** Use any potential weapon, group together and make loud noises.
 - **DO NOT RUN.**
 - **be prepared to use deterrents.**

If a bear charges:

- **stand your ground and be prepared to fight!** Focus on hitting the bear in sensitive areas, especially the face and nose if possible. Bluff charges are rare.

Never get between a bear and her cubs.

If a female with cubs is surprised at close range or separated from her cubs she will likely attack to defend her cubs.

- **leave the area immediately.**
- **stay in a group.**
- **fight back if she attacks.**



Always leave an escape route for the bear.

Carry deterrents and know how to use them.

Report all bear sightings and signs to park staff.

CONTACT PARKS CANADA FOR MORE INFORMATION.

DETERRENTS

Reducing the threat posed by a polar bear during an interaction may be difficult. Non-lethal deterrents cannot be depended on to ensure safety. The best way to live safely with bears is to avoid contact with them.

Any potential weapon must be considered, such as skis, poles, rocks, blocks of ice or even knives.

Stay together as a group. This can be a deterrent and actions, such as making noise, jumping, waving arms, throwing things, may help to drive a polar bear away.

COMMERCIAL deterrents

- **Noisemakers** including air horns, pistol and pen launched bear bangers may scare a bear away.
- **Pepper spray** is effective against polar bears, but has some limitations. It must be warm enough to atomize and it must be used at close range. Also be aware of wind direction to avoid having the spray blow into your face.
- **Know how and when to use these deterrents and practice beforehand.**
- **Availability of commercial deterrents is limited in the north**, most will have to be purchased elsewhere and transported as dangerous goods.
- **Portable solar electric fences** may deter a bear at your campsite if properly installed and maintained.
- Contact Parks Canada for more information.

In Canada's national parks it is unlawful to possess a firearm unless you are a licensed guide or bear monitor with a permit. Consider hiring a guide or a bear monitor for increased safety. If you operate a guiding or outfitting business and wish your guides to be considered for a firearms permit, please contact the National Park or Site or Field Unit Office.

The exception to this regulation is for beneficiaries of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, the Nunavut Land Claim Agreement, the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement, the Nunavik Inuit Land Claim Agreement and any future land claim agreements, who can carry firearms when engaged in traditional activities within national parks within their land claim area.

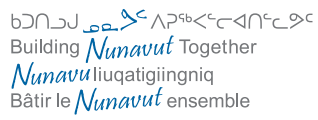
you for protection and stake them downwind from your sleeping area. Be sure to clean up any dog food leftovers. Dogs must be under control at all times within national parks to avoid wildlife harassment.

Designate a bear monitor to keep watch if a polar bear might be nearby. Consider moving your camp if there is a bear in the area.

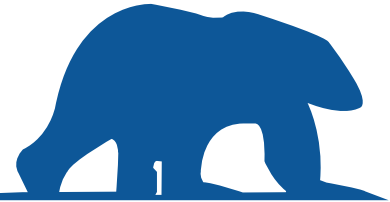
WARNING systems

Set up a portable trip-wire or motion detector alarm system around your tent to alert you if a polar bear approaches your camp. Before leaving home, contact Parks Canada for more information.

You may wish to take a dog, but only one that has proven experience with polar bears. Several dogs are better than one. Know how to handle them. Keep them staked so they cannot run to



BEAR SAFETY



Reducing Bear-People Conflicts in Nunavut

Table of Contents

Deterrents

Rubber Bullets.....	1
Bean-bag Round.....	2
Cracker Shells.....	3
Warning Shots.....	4
15mm Scare Cartridges.....	5
Pen Launcher.....	6
Pepper Spray.....	7
Noisemakers.....	8
Electric Fencing.....	9
Vehicles.....	10

Detection

Dogs.....	11
Trip Wire Fences.....	12
Motion Sensing Devices.....	13

Camp Safety

Tent Camping.....	14
Cabins.....	15
Cabins Continued.....	16

Appendix

Deterrent Ranges.....	17
-----------------------	----

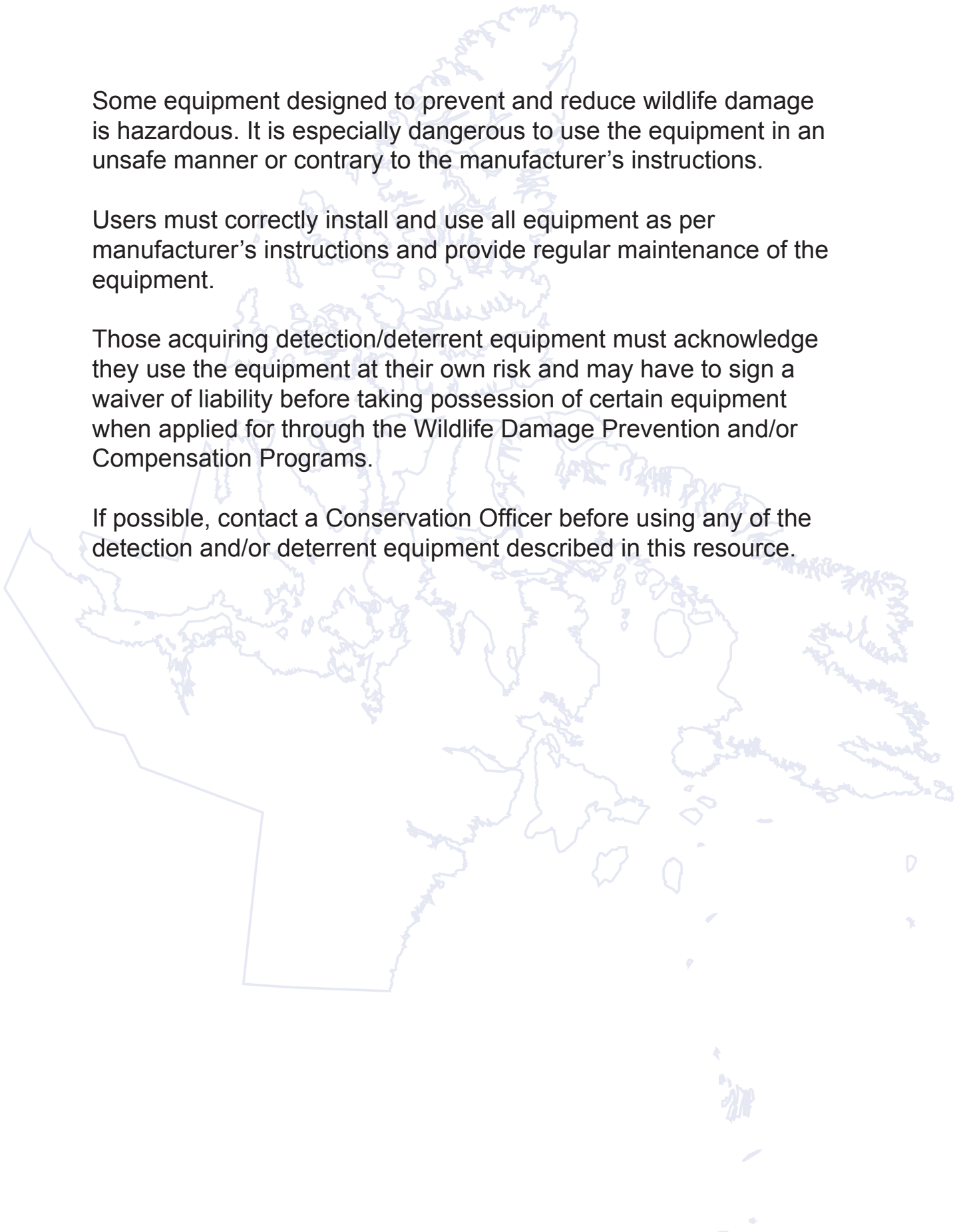
Safety

Some equipment designed to prevent and reduce wildlife damage is hazardous. It is especially dangerous to use the equipment in an unsafe manner or contrary to the manufacturer's instructions.

Users must correctly install and use all equipment as per manufacturer's instructions and provide regular maintenance of the equipment.

Those acquiring detection/deterrent equipment must acknowledge they use the equipment at their own risk and may have to sign a waiver of liability before taking possession of certain equipment when applied for through the Wildlife Damage Prevention and/or Compensation Programs.

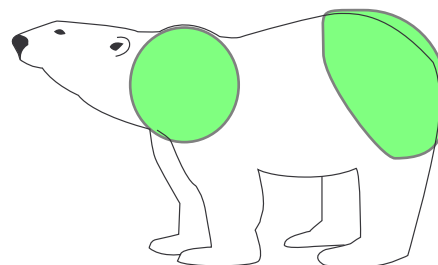
If possible, contact a Conservation Officer before using any of the detection and/or deterrent equipment described in this resource.



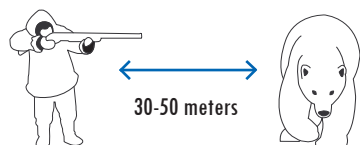
DETERRENTS

Rubber Bullets

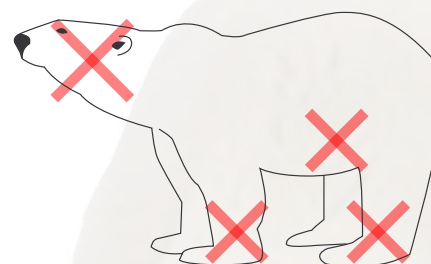
Some bears are not deterred by noise. When noise is unsuccessful, rubber bullets are often the most effective alternative to lethal management. Less-lethal projectiles, such as rubber bullets, are used to inflict pain, creating a negative association with the situation and with humans. These rounds are designed to cause momentary discomfort and surprise; when used correctly they do not penetrate the hide or seriously injure the bear. Rubber bullets are effective between **30-50 meters (100-165 ft.)**.



- Load rubber bullets directly into the chamber of a shotgun with an open-choke (cylinder bore)
- Aim for a large muscle mass, such as shoulder or rump
- Let the bear know your location before firing
- Make sure the bear has a clear path to escape



Load rubber bullets one at a time directly into the chamber of a shotgun with an open-choke (cylinder bore). Load the magazine with lead slugs (lethal ammunition) so you are prepared if the bear attacks. Do not use rubber bullets in semi-automatic shotguns, as the low powder loads in rubber bullets do not work properly with the action - rounds can jam and render the firearm useless. Use a pump-action shotgun with a chamber size of 2 ¾" or larger.



- Do not shoot for the head, belly, hindquarters, or lower limbs. This could severely injure the bear.

Call out to the bear before firing so that it associates you (humans) as the source of the pain. Make sure the bear has a clear path to escape.

Safety Precautions

- Do not shoot at people; it may cause death or serious injury
- Do not shoot at wildlife closer than 30 meters
- Have a lethal firearm present and ready
- Use only in recommended firearm (12 gauge shotgun with open choke)
- Do not use rubber bullets in semi-automatic shotguns, as the low powder loads in rubber bullets do not work properly with the action - rounds can jam and render the firearm useless

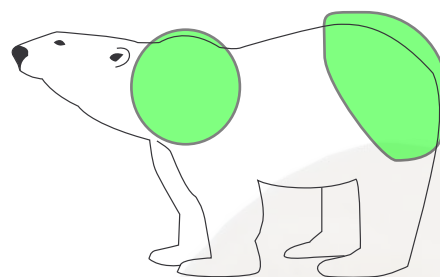
DETERRENTS

Bean-Bag Round

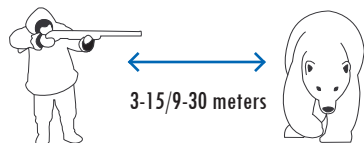
Similar to rubber bullets, bean-bag rounds are an effective alternative to lethal management. These less-lethal projectiles are used to inflict pain, creating a negative association with the situation and with humans. Bean-bag rounds are designed to cause momentary discomfort and surprise; when used correctly they do not penetrate the hide or seriously injure the bear. Bean-bag rounds can be used at close ranges: **3-15 meters (10-50 ft.)**. A “standard round” is also available, which works at a longer range: **9-30 meters (30-100 ft.)**



Call out to the bear before firing so that it associates you (humans) as the source of the pain. Make sure the bear has a clear path to escape.



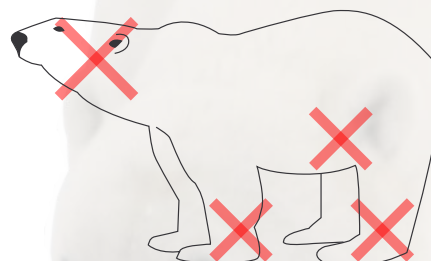
- Load rubber bullets directly into the chamber of an open-choke shotgun
- Aim for a large muscle mass, such as shoulder or rump
- Let the bear know your location before firing
- Make sure the bear has a clear path to escape



- rounds can jam and render the firearm unusable. Use either a hinge or pump-action shotgun with a chamber size of 2 3/4" or larger.

Safety Precautions

- Do not shoot at people; it may cause death or serious injury
- Do not shoot at wildlife closer than recommended
- Have a lethal firearm present and ready
- Use only in recommended firearm (12 gauge shotgun with open choke)
- Do not use rubber bullets in semi-automatic shotguns, as the low powder loads in rubber bullets do not work properly with the action - rounds can jam and render the firearm useless



- Do not shoot for the head, belly, hindquarters, or lower limbs. This could severely injure the bear

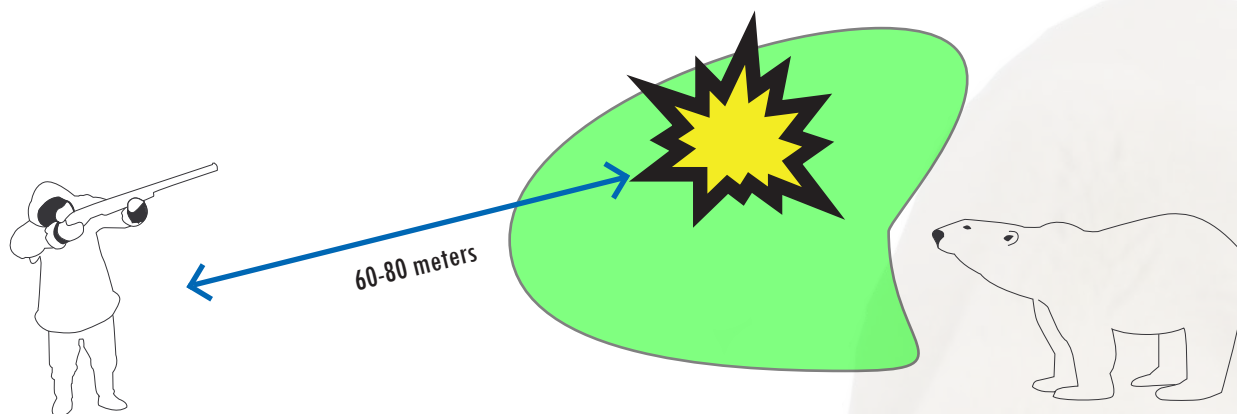
DETERRENTS

Cracker Shells

Bears dislike sudden loud noises. Cracker shells are fused projectiles that travel a certain distance before exploding. The abrupt loud noise creates a negative association with the situation and with humans. Most bears are scared off by cracker shells but others learn to ignore the noise, especially when there is nothing else to deter the bear or if there are attractants or food. 12 gauge Cracker shells are effective between **60-80 meters (165- ft.)**.



When used properly, cracker shells cause no physical harm or discomfort to a bear. Load shells one at a time into an open-choke shotgun. Do not use cracker shells in semi-automatic shotguns, as the low powder loads in the shells do not work properly with the action - rounds can jam, making the firearm useless. Use either a hinge or pump-action shotgun with a chamber size of 2 3/4" or larger. Load the magazine with lead slugs (lethal ammunition) so you are prepared if the bear attacks.



- Do not shoot directly at the bear - **You want the shell to explode between you and the bear**
- Fire into the air at a **45 degree angle above the ground**, judging distance and wind speed/direction

- Judge your distance. **If the shell explodes behind the bear the blast may scare the bear towards you**
- Let the bear know your location before firing. If it does not know the source of the noise it may run in your direction
- Make sure the bear has a clear path to escape

Safety Precautions

- Do not shoot at people; it may cause death or serious injury
- Cracker shells pose a fire risk. Ensure that there are no flammables downrange
- Do not shoot at dry vegetation, gas products, or wildlife closer than 60 meters
- Have a lethal firearm present and ready
- Use only in recommended firearm (12 gauge shotgun with open choke)
- Do not use cracker shells in semi-automatic shotguns, as the low powder loads in rubber bullets do not work properly with the action - rounds can jam and render the firearm useless



DETERRENTS

Warning Shots

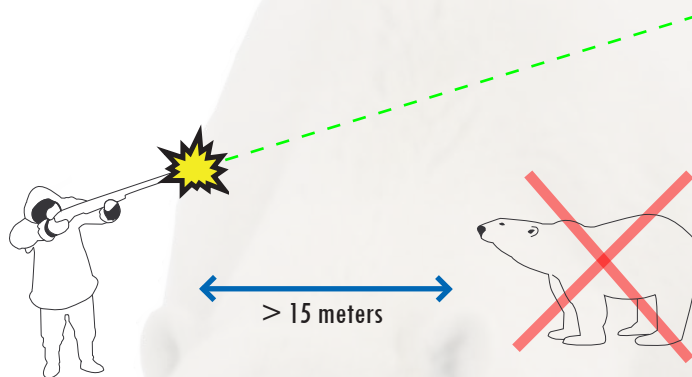
Warning shots create a loud abrupt noise at the gun's muzzle and a slight disturbance to the ground upon the bullet's impact. Shots fired from a firearm may scare a bear; however, some bears show little concern for warning shots and will continue to approach or remain in the area. Warning shots can also be a safety hazard for bears and people. Often bears are injured by ricocheting bullets intended to scare it away. Using a firearm to deter bears does allow for immediate use of lethal force.



- Let the bear know your location before firing. If it does not know the source of the noise it may run in your direction
- Do not shoot directly towards the bear. Shoot in the air and to the side of the bear
- Make sure the bear has a clear path to escape
- If the warning shots are not working switch to another technique (other deterrents, yelling and/or throwing things at the bear) - you do have a firearm if the bear turns its attention to you

Warning shots can be fired from any firearm that makes a loud noise when discharged. Keep track of the number of warning shots fired - each one fired means that there is one less shell or cartridge left in the firearm for you to use if you must shoot the bear.

Think about where you are shooting. Do not fire warning shots in the direction of people, communities, known campsites/ cabins, or other populated areas.



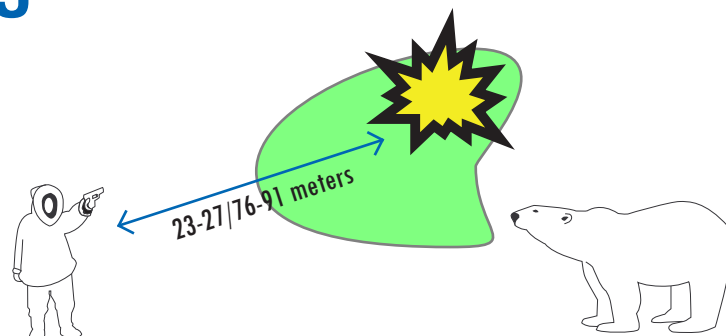
Safety Precautions

- Be conscious of where your warning shot will land - do not shoot at or near people, or objects off which a bullet may ricochet
- Do not shoot directly at wildlife
- Do not fire all rounds - you may need to shoot the bear if it turns its attention to you

DETERRENTS

15mm Scare Cartridges

Bear Scare Cartridges are 15mm projectiles that create loud noises when fired. The abrupt loud noise creates a negative association with the situation and with humans. Most bears are scared off by scare cartridges but others learn to ignore the noise, especially when there is nothing else to deter the bear or if there are attractants or food. 15mm cartridges are fired from a 'pistol launcher', which uses blanks to project the cartridge. There are three different types of bear scare cartridges:



Bangers - A flash bang cartridge that explodes, creating a sudden loud noise and flash of light. Bangers are effective between **23-27 meters (75-90 ft.)**

Screamers - Make a loud screeching sound while traveling through the air. In low light conditions they produce a strong visual effect. Screamers are effective between **76-91 meters (250-300 ft.)**

Flaming Whistles - Produce a loud whistling noise and a sparkling tracer effect as they travel through the air. Flaming Whistles are effective between **76-91 meters (250-300 ft.)**

- Fire into the air at a **45 degree angle above the ground**, judging distance and wind speed/direction
- Judge your distance. **If the shell explodes behind the bear the blast may scare the bear towards you**
- Let the bear know your location before firing. If it does not know the source of the noise it may run in your direction
- Make sure the bear has a clear path to escape
- Do not shoot directly at the bear - **You want the shell to explode between you and the bear.**

Safety Precautions

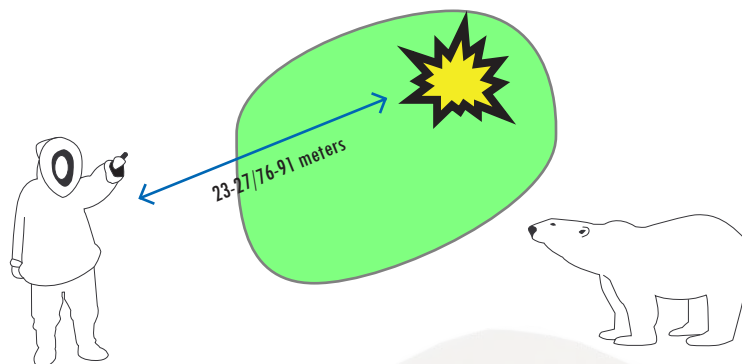
- Do not shoot at people; it may cause death or serious injury
- 15mm scare cartridges pose a fire risk. Ensure that there are no flammables downrange
- Do not shoot at dry vegetation, gas products, or wildlife closer than recommended
- Have a lethal firearm present and ready
- This ammunition must only be used to deter nuisance wildlife or wildlife that is endangering human safety. If possible, contact a conservation officer before using this deterrent



DETERRENTS

Pen Launcher

A different style of 15mm Bear Scare Cartridges can be fired from a 'pen launcher'. The cartridges are screwed into the end of the launcher one at a time; the thumb lever is then drawn back and released to fire the cartridge. A variety of signal and safety flares can also be fired from pen-type launchers. There are two different types of bear scare cartridges that can be fired from the pen launcher.



Salute Flares - Also known as Bear Bangers, these cartridges explode with an extremely loud bang after traveling approximately 125 ft. Salute Flares are effective between **23-27 meters (75-90 ft.)**

Siren Flares - Also known as Screammers, these cartridges make a loud high pitched screeching sound while traveling through the air. Siren Flares are effective between **76-91 meters (150-200 ft.)**

- Judge your distance. **If the shell explodes behind the bear the blast may scare the bear towards you.**
- Let the bear know your location before firing. If it does not know the source of the noise it may run in your direction
- Make sure the bear has a clear path to escape



Safety Precautions

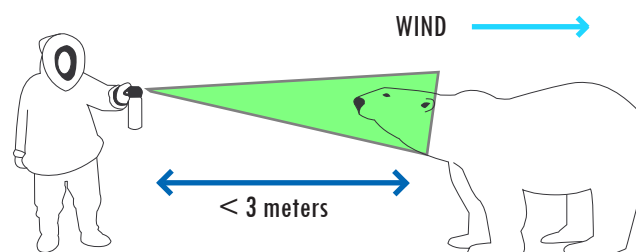
- Do not shoot at people; it may cause death or serious injury
- 15mm scare cartridges pose a fire risk. Ensure that there are no flammables downrange
- Do not shoot at dry vegetation, gas products, or wildlife closer than recommended
- Have a lethal firearm present and ready
- This ammunition must only be used to deter nuisance wildlife or wildlife that is endangering human safety. If possible, contact a conservation officer before using this deterrent



DETERRENTS

Pepper Spray

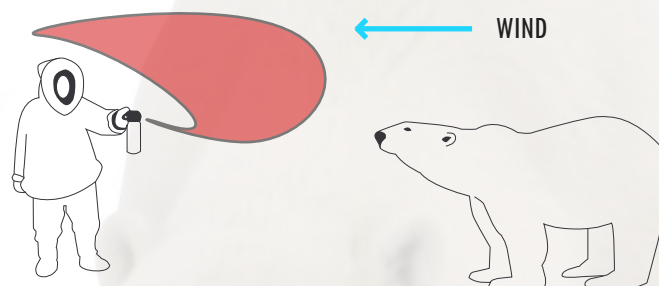
Pepper spray, also known as capsicum spray or bear spray, is a chemical deterrent that causes temporary burning, tearing and swelling in the eyes and nose, and inflammation of the throat and lungs, which restricts breathing to shallow gasps. It also causes severe irritation to the surface of the skin. These effects are only temporary and cause no permanent damage to bears, or people who accidentally come into contact with the spray. Unlike other projectile deterrents, pepper spray is only effective at short distances: **< 3 meters (165- ft.)** Therefore, it should only be used as a last resort.



- Remove the “safety wedge”
- Discharge the pepper spray with the wind at your back
- Aim for the animal’s face, specifically the eyes, nose and mouth
- Leave the area immediately after using the pepper spray

Pepper spray does not work well in damp, rainy or cold weather. Keep the canister in a holster under your jacket to keep the canister at an effective working temperature.

Pepper spray is not a repellent - it will not keep bears from investigating or damaging property.



IMPORTANT

Judge wind direction - do not discharge the pepper spray into a head-wind, as it may blow back into your face



Bear reacts to pepper spray - © Bob Saunders

Safety Precautions

- Do not use on people; it may cause serious injury
- It is illegal to use pepper spray for any purpose other than defending yourself from an animal attack
- Do not use in cabins, tents, vehicles or other enclosed areas, as it will incapacitate the user(s)
- Effects are only temporary and a predatory bear may resume its approach once it has recovered
- This product must only be used to deter nuisance wildlife or wildlife that is endangering human safety. If possible, contact a conservation officer before using this deterrent

DETERRENTS

Noisemakers

Noisemakers can be considered anything that makes loud, unfamiliar noise. Commercial products such as rattlers or air horns are available for purchase. However, simple home solutions are also effective; pots and pans, banging on the walls of a shed or cabin, etc. Use whatever is available to you.

Noisemakers are a simple, first level deterrent. However, bears quickly become accustomed to sounds when no other negative effect is present. Have other deterrents or a lethal firearm present and ready in case the noisemakers are ineffective.



Safety Precautions

- Do not use sirens or horns on/near people; it may result in hearing damage or loss
- Have a lethal firearm present and ready
- Use noise makers when bears show interest in your camp, cabins, or persons

DETERRENTS

Electric Fencing

Electric fences deliver a shock to bears that come into contact with the wires. The shock causes momentary surprise and discomfort. The effects are only temporary and cause no permanent damage to bears, or people who accidentally come into contact with the wires.

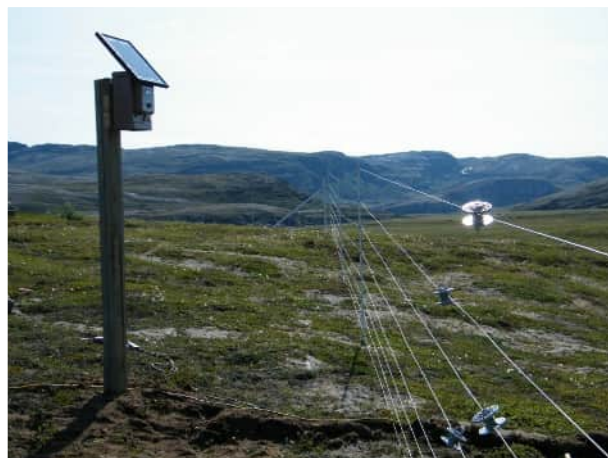
Alternating positive and negative charges between wires will deliver a shock even on dry ground or rocky conditions. Permanent fences can be erected to protect outpost camps, cabins, caches, etc. Portable fences can be used at temporary camps.

Fence charging units can be recharged either by generators or by solar power. Fences do require regular maintenance and monitoring to ensure that an appropriate level of charge is being delivered. When snow begins to accumulate they may become grounded out or buried.

Consult the manufacturer's guidelines for safety and installation instructions.

Safety Precautions

- Have other deterrents and/or a lethal firearm present and ready in case the fence is damaged and/or ineffective
- Follow the manufacturers guidelines for installation, operation and maintenance



A permanent high tensile electric fence and a solar-powered charger



Temporary electric fencing around a camp site

DETERRENTS

Vehicles

Bears are less of a risk to people who are travelling by all-terrain vehicles (ATV), snowmobiles, on-road vehicles (cars and trucks), boats or aircraft. When chasing problem wildlife away from people and/or property, consider the following when traveling with a vehicle:



- Do not depend entirely on your vehicle for protection. If it breaks down you may be forced to stay on the land longer than you anticipated, or you may have to travel on foot
- If a bear is approaching, and it is safe to do so, start the engine of your ATV, boat, or snowmobile. The noise and/or movement may encourage the bear to leave



Safety Precautions

- Never chase a bear if you are unarmed. If your vehicle breaks down you may be vulnerable
- Remain at a safe distance
- Do not chase a bear alone. Have a second person present, following in an additional vehicle if possible
- Vehicles must only be used to deter nuisance wildlife or wildlife that is endangering human safety. If possible, contact a conservation officer before chasing any animal

- Do not use your vehicle as an excuse to approach wildlife. This includes watching bears and other wildlife at garbage dumps. The more experience a bear has with any deterrent the less effective it becomes.
- Do not use your vehicle to chase an animal if the terrain makes it unsafe to do so. Do not chase a bear with your vehicle while towing a trailer or sled. You may need to stop and turn abruptly.
- If using a helicopter stay 100m behind the bear and 30m above the ground, in this position, drive the bear towards an obvious, or desired escape route

WARNING

Bears, particularly during the summer, may overheat and die from the stress and overexertion caused by a fast and/or long chase

Wildlife Act - Section 74 - Pursuit of a wild animal

- (1) No person shall chase, weary, harass or molest a wild animal
- (2) A person does not contravene subsection (1) by lawful harvesting
- (3) Notwithstanding anything else in the Act, a person may use a vehicle to chase a bear away from a dwelling, municipality, camp or settlement or its immediate vicinity if it is necessary to defend life or property and may avoid killing the bear

DETECTION

Dogs



A trained dog and an experienced handler can effectively detect and deter bears. Certain breeds of dogs, such as the Canadian Inuit Dog (sled dog), the Blackmouth Cur and the Karelian Bear Dog, are well known for their ability to avert bears and chase them from areas where they may come into contact with people. Regardless of the breed, it is important to know beforehand how your dog(s) will react to an approaching bear. An inexperienced dog, or one which fails to warn of an approaching bear, is more of a hazard than a help.

Dogs used to detect and deter bears should not be treated as pets and are best kept on a leash when travelling, or chained outside of tents and/or cabins. A loose dog may not be useful in you encounter a bear, as the dog could run away.

Dogs are naturally pack animals and may be more confident when two or more are kept together for bear detection and defense.

A small group of dogs may be able to chase and scare a bear from the area, creating an unpleasant encounter that may discourage the bear from returning. A single barking dog may be enough to prevent a bear from approaching a camp. However, some dogs may not bark at bears when tied up because they may feel vulnerable to an attack.

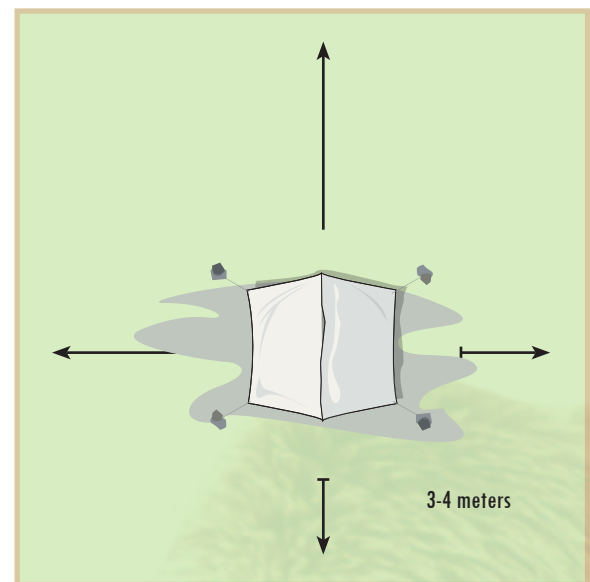
Additional care must be taken when travelling on the land with a dog. Dog food can attract bears; uneaten food should not be left out overnight and care should be taken to ensure a dog does not cache uneaten food around camp.



DETECTION

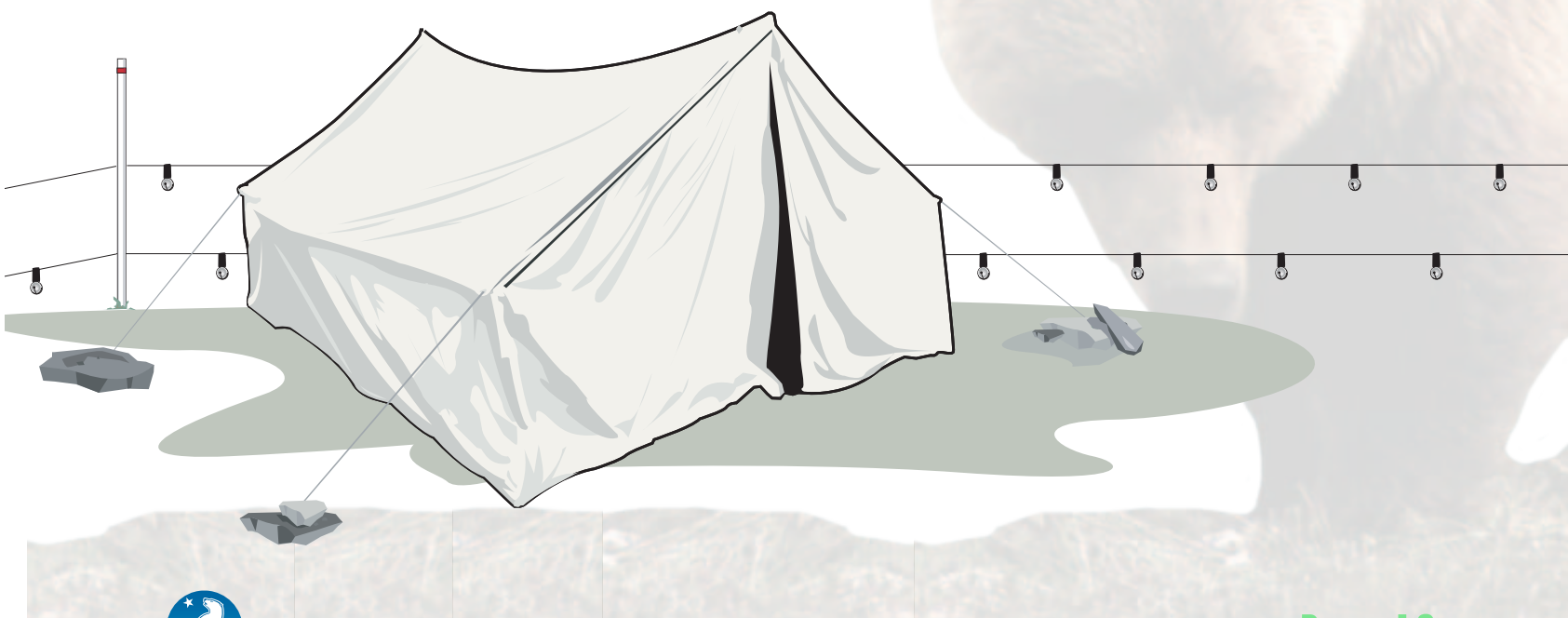
Tripwire Fences

Tripwire fences can provide advanced warning of an approaching bear. In some cases the noise produced by a tripwire fence may be enough to deter a bear. However, they are intended to be a means of detection, and you should always carry additional deterrents or firearms. Tripwire fences can be as basic as setting up a rope with noisemakers (pots and pans, bells, etc.) attached at various points. There are also commercially available models that, when triggered, set off loud sirens and lights.



Tripwire fences, whether homemade or commercially purchased, should be placed at a distance of several meters around your camp in order to allow for easy movement and enough time to react to an approaching bear.

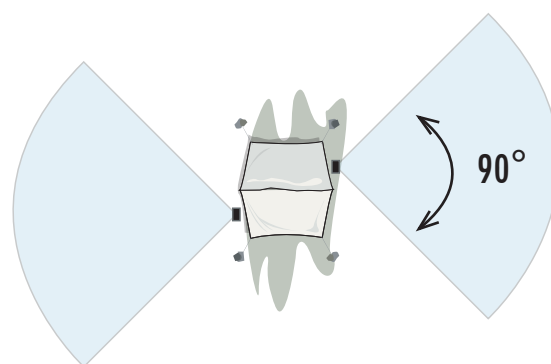
The fence should be set a height that cannot easily be stepped over, or passed under by a bear.



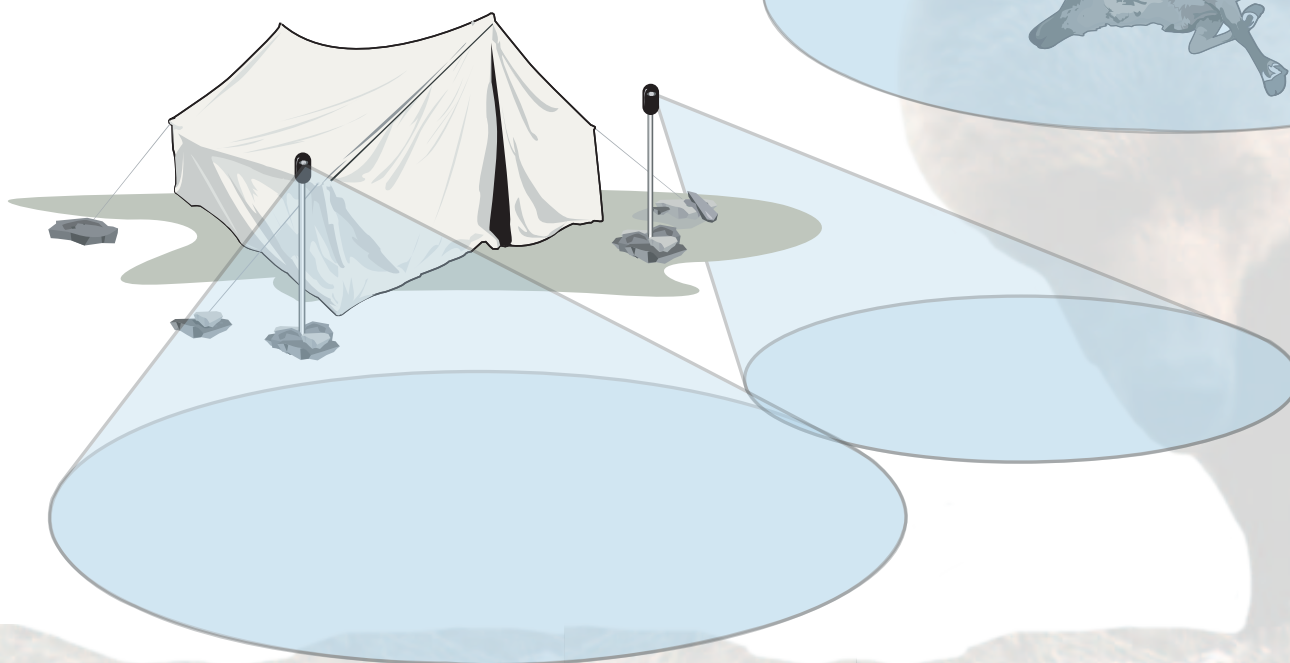
DETECTION

Motion Sensing Devices

Commercially-made devices are available that set off alarms and flashing lights when heat and movement are detected. Most motion sensors detect movement within 40 meters of the unit, but only in the direction in which the sensors face. There may be issues with short battery lifespan in periods of cold weather.



- Lights and sirens may be enough to scare away some curious animals but not all animals will be deterred;
- Detection systems are meant to alert you that animals have entered the protected area;
- You must be prepared to deter the animal with other methods;
- Motion sensing devices are not specific to bears. Caribou, dogs, humans, etc. may set off the alarm;
- Test equipment before taking it with you out on the land to ensure that it is working correctly.



CAMP SAFETY

Tent Camping

When choosing where to camp, safety should be your top priority. Regardless of whether you are in polar bear or grizzly bear habitat, you should choose campsites that meet the following criteria:

- Ensure that you have a clear view of the surrounding area;
- Avoid camping in areas with bear signs (scat, tracks, hair, daybeds, and kills);
- Avoid camping near rushing water and waterfalls - water features can make it difficult to hear approaching bears and may make it difficult for a bear to hear you and your deterrents;
- Place camps well back from any coast, river bank, flow edge, pressure ridge, or open water as these are likely travel/hunting routes for bears;
- Valleys and passes are also more frequently used and may contain more of the bear's natural food than higher ground
- In the summer, remnant snow banks can attract bears as it provides a cool place to rest and an escape from nuisance insects;
- Do not camp near animal carcasses or areas of recent whaling or havest;

- Avoid preexisting campsites if they are littered. Visitors before you may have allowed a bear access to food or garbage, which increases the likelihood of future bear problems in that area.



Tents surrounded by a temporary electric fence.



CAMP SAFETY

Cabins

When staying overnight in cabins the same care should be taken to reduce the chance of attracting a bear to the area; this means proper handling of food and garbage. Failure to maintain a clean cabin may result in a bear approaching the area looking for food.

- Cooking areas (inside or outside the cabin) need to be kept clean. Cooking stoves and other equipment must be kept free of grease;
- If possible, maintain separate sleeping and food storage/cooking areas;
- Honey buckets should be emptied daily into the latrine;
- Bear deterrents should be at hand;
- Having a flashlight or other lights may be helpful. Remember that if you leave a lit building into the darkness it is difficult to see. Exterior lights can make working in and around the cabin safer in the dark season;
- Be careful when exiting the cabin and look around for bears;
- Consider using additional detection and deterrent systems to protect yourself and your cabin.



A cabin window covered by a bear board



(Above) Barrels with a metal ring and lever/bolt system provide reasonable resistance to bears. These containers are ideal for storing or transporting large quantities of food (or wastes) and other attractants for longer stays at camps or cabins.



(Left) A metal, bear-proof box that can be used to secure country foods and waste from bears. These boxes are well-suited for use around homes and permanent camps.

CAMP SAFETY

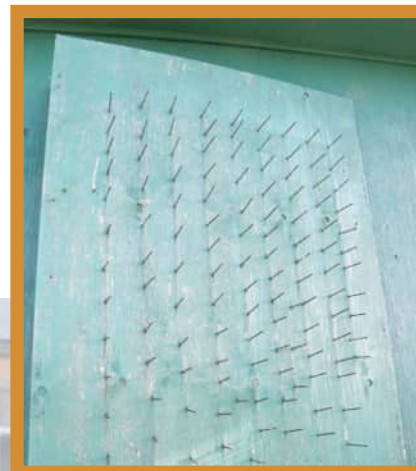
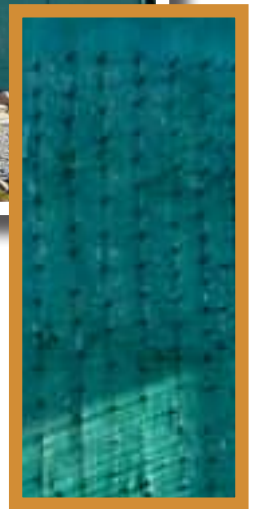
Cabins

When cabins are unoccupied for a period of time, special considerations should be taken to prevent damage from bears.

- Treat grey water and latrines with lime and bury with earth;
- Remove any attractants (food, garbage, dirty clothes, oil, anti-freeze, fuels) or store them in a bear resistant or airtight container;
- Bears have been known to chew on inflatable boats, plastic gas cans, sleeping bags, tents, and snow machine seats. These should be made inaccessible;
- Board windows and doors for extra protection to prevent bears from breaking in. Bears often gain entry by pushing on the doors or windows;
- Build “bear boards” by driving plenty of nails or screws through plywood so that 1 1/2 - 2 inch points are exposed on the outside of the board. This will discourage a bear from pushing on windows or doors;
- To maintain year-round emergency access you can still secure a “bear board” on the doors and windows, allowing them to be opened by human hands only. The boards can be removed when staying at the camp to prevent injury or damage to clothing;
- When bear boards are placed on vertical surfaces you reduce the risk of severe injuries to bears. Also, they remain in place and work when snow buildup might make boards placed on the ground ineffective.

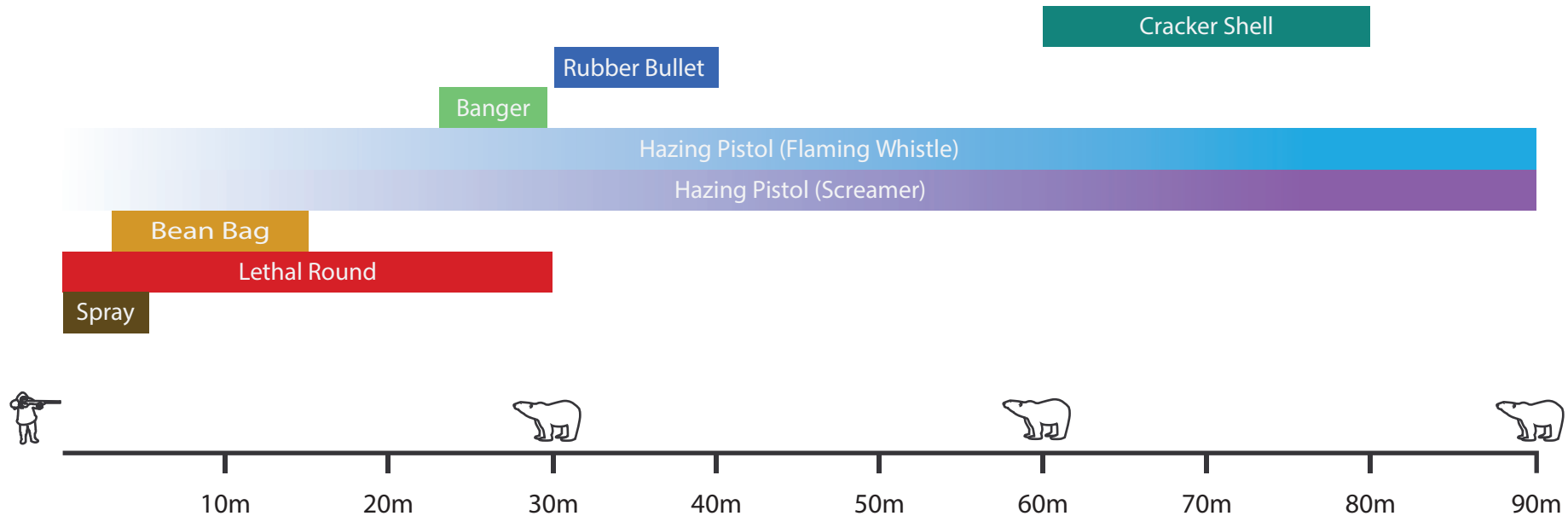


The main cabin door is protected by a bear board on hinges. The bear board door can be removed when the cabin is being used regularly



Properly-spaced nails on a bear board covering a cabin door

DETERRENT RANGES



- Bear spray is an option of last defense, as its effective range is less than 3 meters.
- A bean bag round should be used when the bear is 3-15 meters away; a “standard round” is also available, which is effective between 9 and 30 meters (consult the manufacturer’s guidelines). A bean bag round fired from closer than the prescribed range could penetrate the bear’s hide and severely wound the bear.
- The explosive screamer round makes a continuous noise right from the muzzle of the pistol to a maximum distance of 90 meters. Bears typically flee from the source of the noise, so the screamer can be used throughout its range of travel.

- The flaming whistle round makes a continuous noise right from the muzzle of the pistol to a maximum distance of 90 meters. Bears typically flee from the source of the noise, so the screamer can be used throughout its range of travel.
- The explosive noise of the banger must occur between the shooter and the bear. A banger can travel 23-27 meters before exploding, so they are not to be used on a bear closer than 30 meters.
- A rubber bullet should be used when the bear is 30-50 meters away. A rubber bullet fired from closer than 30 meters could penetrate the bear’s hide and severely wound the bear.

- The explosive noise of the cracker shell must occur between the shooter and the bear. A cracker shell can travel 60-80 meters before exploding, so they are not to be used on a bear closer than 60 meters.

MAKE SURE THE BEAR HAS A CLEAR AND OBVIOUS ESCAPE PATH BEFORE FIRING DETERRENTS