

Bear Awareness & Safety

Learn to avoid unwanted bear encounters and how to handle them effectively when they do occur. Increase confidence to enjoy the outdoors without undue fear.

COURSE DURATION: Approximately 3 ½ hours

COURSE CONTENT:

- Bear statistics - Facts and figures of approximately 80% of all bear attacks, injuries or deaths in North America. What worked and what did not.
- Bear habitat and range.
- Bear species identification.
- Avoidance of bear encounters when hiking, camping and working in bear country.
- Procedure when bear encounters occur including:
 - Black bear versus grizzly encounters.
 - Identification of each bear species in North America.
 - Defensive aggressive attacks versus offensive predator bear attacks.
 - Statistics on playing dead or fighting back and when/whether to consider each strategy.
 - Defensive weapons such as bear spray, bear bangers, guns, knives and other objects. Good statistics on what works best.
 - Outside practice using bear spray. (Inert empty containers are used for demonstration purposes.)

Note: No demonstrations with guns are included in this course, just discussions of their effectiveness.

The videos and power points used in this course are up-to-date and rated by the leading bear experts as the best information provided today. Videos are carefully selected according to whom the course is being delivered to – whether they may be workers in the bush, scientists, recreational individuals or younger students.

WHEN THE COURSE IS COMPLETE, STUDENTS WILL:

- Have had their confidence fortified so they can safely enjoy the outdoors without being overly fearful of bear attacks.
- Have learned to greatly reduce the chance of unwanted bear encounters.
- Appreciate and understand facts about bears and their habitat.
- Have fully enjoyed the course and come away with considerable knowledge on avoidance of unwanted bear encounters.

QUALIFICATIONS AT END OF COURSE:

A certificate of completion is provided to each student at the end of the course. It is valid for 3 years. Photocopies of tickets will be provided for employers' records.

INSTRUCTOR'S QUALIFICATIONS:

- 35 years' experience of successfully handling several safe bear encounters.
- 23 years' experience as Forest Officer at the Ministry of Forest and several years as a trap line holder and trapper.
- Researched statistical data from over 40 books and publications on bear safety and almost all documented bear attacks in North America.
- Achieved 100% score on three different courses, including bear/wolf and/or Noxious animals and gun use. Assisted with training firearms in one course as a result.
- More than 14 years' experience of instructing Bear Aware & Safety courses