

**S**

stop and assess

**P**

prepare yourself

**R**

remove safety

**A**

build a wall

**Y**

yield to spray



## ENSURE PROPER DISPOSAL

In a remote area, safely discharge the bear spray until the canister is completely empty. Dispose of the empty canister into the garbage. Canisters should not be recycled, as bear spray is considered a hazardous material.

**Always remember to wash your hands thoroughly after handling bear spray.**



British Columbia Conservation Foundation



The BC Conservation Foundation is a not-for-profit, registered charity that has been working in BC since 1969.

[www.bccf.com](http://www.bccf.com)



To report wildlife in conflict contact the Conservation Officer Service at

1.877.952.7277

**WildSafeBC is funded through the Province of British Columbia and in partnership with communities and organizations throughout BC.**



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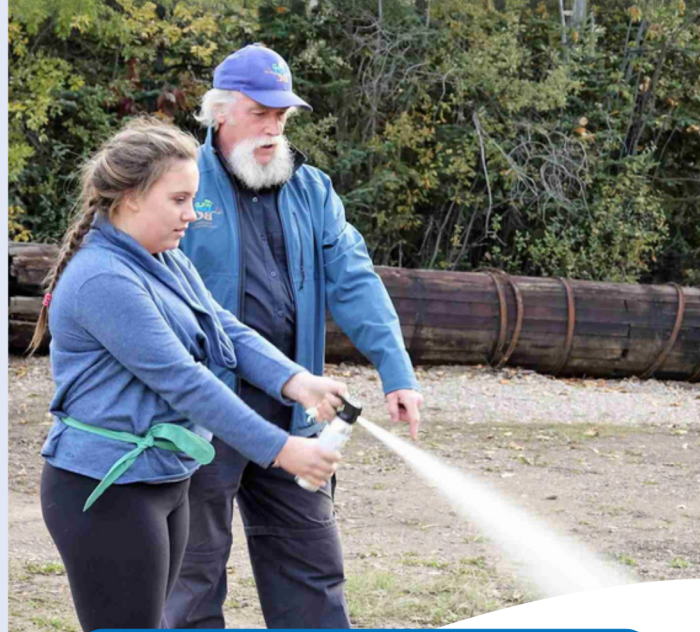


## BEAR SPRAY TIPS

Simply carrying bear spray is a good start. **However, it cannot benefit someone until they learn how to safely use it and become comfortable with the process.**

- 1. Obey the expiry date:** do not use bear spray past the expiry date and read the Manufacturer's label.
- 2. Inspect your bear spray often:** do not purchase or use a canister that is damaged, dented, or leaking. Never go into bear country with a half-used can.
- 3. Keep the canister on you:** do not stash bear spray in a backpack or strap it to your bike. Use a carrying holster to secure it to yourself for quick retrieval and prevent you from being separated from it.
- 4. Practise using inert spray:** know before you go. Practise using two hands and discharging the spray within 2 seconds. Do not fire a test shot of real bear spray - save it for the real deal.
- 5. Learn about bear behaviour:** many bear attacks stem from defensive encounters and bear spray should only be used if attack is imminent. The more you know about bear behaviour, the better you can predict their approach towards you.

**Bear spray is a deterrent, not a repellent.** Do not use bear spray proactively (like bug spray) on your tent, vehicle or yourself.



**Bear spray is more effective than firearms!** In a 2009 study, bear spray stopped over 90% of aggressive bear attacks.

The active ingredient in bear spray is 1-2% capsaicin pepper oil, which irritates the skin and mucous membranes including the nose, eyes and throat. The effects of bear spray are non-lethal but do cause intense burning and itching sensations.

Although you do not need a permit to purchase bear spray in Canada (18+), it should always be treated with respect like a firearm. It was designed to stun and deter large animals, such as grizzly bear, black bear, cougar, wolf, and moose.

You can think of bear spray like a seat belt - it's there in case you need it. Bear spray can also be extremely useful if your partner or pet is attacked. In contrast to fire arms, bear spray does not require you to be accurate or shoot to kill.

## ! BEAR SPRAY FIRST AID

If you come into contact with bear spray, **DO NOT RUB** and flush with plenty of water. Baby shampoo can also be helpful to breakdown the grease and isn't irritating to the eyes.



## HOW TO TRANSPORT BEAR SPRAY

- Canisters should be stored between 0° and 50° celsius. **Beware of hot vehicles.**
- Use a plastic travel tote with foam and store it in the trunk or truck bed away from passengers.
- Bear spray is not permitted on flights. Purchase your canisters upon arrival.



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