

U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service		1. WORK PROJECT/ACTIVITY Working in Black Bear Habitat	2. LOCATION Boise, ID	3. UNIT Snow Survey
JOB HAZARD ANALYSIS (JHA)		4. NAME OF ANALYST Jeff Anderson	5. JOB TITLE Hydrologist	6. DATE PREPARED 4/20/2007
7. TASKS / PROCEDURES	8. HAZARDS	9. ABATEMENT ACTIONS Engineering Controls * Substitution * Administrative Controls *PPE		
Working in Bear Habitat	Encountering a black bear Note: Bears don't like to be surprised. Most bear attacks are caused when a bear is startled at close range.	<p>Try to avoid contacts by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Making noise: Most bears will avoid people and leave an area when they know people are in present. Making noises allows the bear to move away before a confrontation occurs. Making noise: talking, singing, whistling, yodeling, or wear bells all help to let bears know you are coming. 2. Finding safety in numbers: Travel with someone else and avoid hiking at night. Stock and llamas seem to be advantageous to travel with. 3. Keep your Dogs Under Control- Roaming dogs can easily disturb a bear and may lead an angry bear back to you. In National Parks, dogs must be leashed and are not allowed on trails. 4. Not attracting bears with odors from: food, grills & fire pits used for cooking, stoves, fishing tackle, ice chests/coolers, trash, wash basins, cosmetics, toiletries, beverage containers, perfumes, soaps. 5. Avoiding high use areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o You can avoid encounters with bears by avoiding areas that they like. If you cannot avoid these areas, be extra careful when traveling through them. Bears like you travel on saddles, ridges, game trails and along water. They feed on carcasses whenever they can find them and like vegetation that grows in wet areas. They often rest in cool, dark, thick forest. If you find a carcass or their den, backtrack immediately and quickly. Do not investigate. Do not force a bear to defend it's meals from you o In the Spring and early Summer, bears are often found at lower elevations along rivers. Bears love to catch and feed on spawning fish. In the Summer, bears can be found at higher elevations in open park-like areas. Their Summer diet consist of wild berries thus berry pickers need to use caution. When you are in Bear country keep your children close by at all times and make loud noises if you encounter a bear. If you encounter a mother bear with cubs never put yourself between the mother and cubs. o In the Fall, bears are might be found in whitebark pine stands foraging on pine nuts. Bears also dig for roots in mid-elevation meadows especially in years with few pine nuts. <p>If you do encounter a black bear:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Never approach bears: Not even to take a photo. Some bears may seem "tame" until you threaten them. 2. Be aware of wind direction. If the wind is in your face the bear may not smell you. 3. Do not run from a Black Bear: Running away from a black bear may stimulate its instinct to chase. You cannot out run a bear. Instead, stand and face the animal. Make eye contact without staring . If you have small children with you pick them up so they do not run and panic. . 4. Give the bear room so it can avoid you: Allow the bear a way out. Pretend you are not afraid. Talk to the bear in low, soft tones and slowly back away. The secret with bears is to avoid surprises. 5. Try to demonstrate to the bear that you may be a danger to it. Make yourself appear larger, stand up raise your arms and open your jacket. Yell at the bear, bang pots and pans or whatever objects you make have with you, and create general commotion. <p>If you encounter cubs: Cubs mean that mamma is close by. Sows with cubs are very protective and dangerous. Back away slowly but deliberately, in the direction from which you came and at a slight angle so that you are moving across her vision. Bear depth perception is poor and if you move directly backwards it may look to her like you are moving towards her.</p>		

<p>Working in Bear Habitat Continued</p>	<p>If a Black Bear Approaches</p>	<p>Black bear behavior is quite variable. Research indicates that black bear attacks have been avoided or injuries reduced when the victims FIGHT BACK using any means available. Throwing rocks and striking the bear with branches or camping equipment have shown to be affective.</p> <p>Bear Repellant Spray is another option however...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Know how the spray canister works: limitations, range etc. - Avoid spraying into the wind or breeze - it will blow back into your face. - Repellent spray is considered a hazardous material for transport - use an approved container for transport in aircraft. - Handling the spray canister must be considered the same as a loaded gun - never point or spray the canister at anyone.
<p>Content taken from multiple USFS JHAs related to working in bear habitat</p>		
<p>10. LINE OFFICER SIGNATURE</p>	<p>11. TITLE</p>	

JHA Instructions

The JHA shall identify the location of the work project or activity, the name of employee(s) involved in the process, the date(s) of acknowledgment, and the name of the appropriate line officer approving the JHA. The line officer acknowledges that employees have read and understand the contents, have received the required training, and are qualified to perform the work project or activity.

Blocks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6: Self-explanatory.

Block 7: Identify all tasks and procedures associated with the work project or activity that have potential to cause injury or illness to personnel and damage to property or material. Include emergency evacuation procedures (EEP).

Block 8: Identify all known or suspect hazards associated with each respective task/procedure listed in block 7. For example:

- a. Research past accidents/incidents.
- b. Research the Health and Safety Code, FSH 6709.11 or other appropriate literature.
- c. Discuss the work project/activity with participants.
- d. Observe the work project/activity.
- e. A combination of the above.

Block 9: Identify appropriate actions to reduce or eliminate the hazards identified in block 8. Abatement measures listed below are in the order of the preferred abatement method:

- a. Engineering Controls (the most desirable method of abatement). For example, ergonomically designed tools, equipment, and furniture.
- b. Substitution. For example, switching to high flash point, non-toxic solvents.
- c. Administrative Controls. For example, limiting exposure by reducing the work schedule; establishing appropriate procedures and practices.
- d. PPE (least desirable method of abatement). For example, using hearing protection when working with or close to portable machines (chain saws, rock drills, and portable water pumps).
- e. A combination of the above.

Block 10: The JHA must be reviewed and approved by a line officer. Attach a copy of the JHA as justification for purchase orders when procuring PPE.

Blocks 11 and 12: Self-explanatory.

Emergency Evacuation Instructions

Work supervisors and crew members are responsible for developing and discussing field emergency evacuation procedures (EEP) and alternatives in the event a person(s) becomes seriously ill or injured at the worksite.

Be prepared to provide the following information:

- a. Nature of the accident or injury (avoid using victim's name).
- b. Type of assistance needed, if any (ground, air, or water evacuation).
- c. Location of accident or injury, best access route into the worksite (road name/number), identifiable ground/air landmarks.
- d. Radio frequencies.
- e. Contact person.
- f. Local hazards to ground vehicles or aviation.
- g. Weather conditions (wind speed & direction, visibility, temperature).
- h. Topography.
- i. Number of individuals to be transported.
- j. Estimated weight of individuals for air/water evacuation.

The items listed above serve only as guidelines for the development of emergency evacuation procedures.

JHA and Emergency Evacuation Procedures Acknowledgment

We, the undersigned work leader and crew members, acknowledge participation in the development of this JHA (as applicable) and accompanying emergency evacuation procedures. We have thoroughly discussed and understand the provisions of each of these documents:

SIGNATURE DATE

SIGNATURE DATE
