

# Bear Spray Safety

## Safe Work Procedures

### Introduction

Do not underestimate bear spray. The contents will drop you (and anyone else in its path) like a rock. You do not want to accidentally spray this near others or without due care.



### Pre-Use Inspection

- Know the risk of using bear spray by reviewing the Safety Data Sheet (SDS).
- Replace your bear spray if it is less than full or if it has expired.
- Pack your bear spray somewhere easily accessible.

### Transportation of Bear Spray

The transport of bear spray presents the risk of accidental discharge, which could lead to potentially disastrous consequences.

- Ensure the safety pin is always in place and does not fall out easily.
- Store bear spray in a safe place where the canister cannot easily be punctured.
- Never transport bear spray inside the passenger area of a vehicle or helicopter.



**Do not bring bear spray into the passenger area of any helicopter – if it goes off, you all go down.**

### A Great Idea

1. Make a PVC container for your bear spray to protect it from accidental discharge.
2. Strap the PVC container to the skid of the helicopter (near the front).
3. Don't forget to grab your bear spray when you land!

This is even better than the cargo compartment because in some helicopters air can leak from the cargo area to the cabin.

### Spraying a Bear

#### Canister Size and Duration

Know the maximum distance the canister will spray.

Canister Sizes	Duration of Spray	Range
225 gram	4 seconds	3 metres
260 gram	6 seconds	3 metres
400 gram	8 seconds	6-7 metres

NOTE: Bear spray is only effective at close range (<3m) and is not a repellent (such as mosquito repellent). Use only in bear encounter situations.

#### Spraying a Bear

- Position yourself so you will not be spraying into the wind.
- Remove the safety cap.
- Aim for the eyes.
- Wait for the target to get close enough.
- Push the activator button down in short bursts.
- Move away from the area of discharge.
- Maintain visual contact with the bear while you make a controlled retreat from the area. With that said, avoid eye contact with the bear, you really just need to know where it is.



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### **Bear Spray Care and Maintenance**

- Keep the nozzle clean so your bear spray will work when you need it.
- Avoid exposure to heat as it may cause the canister to explode or discharge.

### **First Aid Treatment**

The contents of bear spray are very strong irritants to eyes and the respiratory tract. Contact lens wearers and asthmatics should take special precautions when handling bear spray.

If you get exposed to bear spray, seek immediate first aid attention.

<b>Exposure</b>	<b>First Aid Treatment</b>
Inhalation	Get fresh air and seek medical attention if necessary.
Eye Contact	Remove and discard contact lenses. Flush eyes with lots of water.
Skin Contact	Wash affected area with water.

