## Spectrum of Bear Engagement – Field

Entering Bear Habitat

SITUATION

**RESPONSE** 

Example: Working in the wilderness

- Be prepared carry deterrent
- Know where you are going, which bears live there
- Ask authorities if bears have been seen in the area
- Look for signs of bears (tracks, scat, etc.)
- Know when/where you are likely to see a bear
- Control attractants (waste, food)
- Do not entice bears closer to you

Carry Bear Spray (2 canisters, 0.85% capsicum)

Bear Sighting: Bear is Unaware of Your Presence



Example: You come upon a bear and her cubs in a meadow as you hike.

- Discreetly leave the way you came
- Double back
- Keep your eyes on the bear (back away)
- Give a wide berth
- Choose route with no other bears
- Make your presence known once you have backed 300 meters away (talk loudly, sing, etc.)
- Keep moving

**Bear Spray at Hand** 

**PREVENTION & AVOIDANCE** 

INTERACTION/ENCOUNTER

## Spectrum of Bear Engagement – Field

## Interaction: Bear is Aware of Your Presence



might stand up and sniff

the air to see who you are

Example: The bear in the meadow turns around and notices you.

- STOP, stay calm, assess the situation
- Determine your distance from the bear
- DO NOT run or turn around
- Use soft, low voice
- Avoid rapid movements
- Appear non-threatening
- Keep eyes on bear without direct eye contact
- Assess surroundings
- Leave escape route for the bear
- Have deterrent ready
- Determine what the bear is doing (food nearby? Young nearby?)

**Incident: Defensive Attack** 



Example: The bear feels threatened by your presence and initiates a defensive attack to protect her cubs, which are nearby,

- You need to recognize stress signs
- Attack will occur quickly and end when the bear sees threat as gone
- Do not shout or escalate the situation further
- If the attack escalates, fight back

If the bear bluff charges: STAND YOUR GROUND

**Deploy Bear Spray** 

## **Predatory Attack**



Example: You are taking water samples when you turn and see a bear stalking you.

- DO NOT be submissive
- Face the bear
- Act aggressively
- DO NOT run
- · Scan for cover i.e. tree and move there
- Remove pack and use as distraction
- Prepare and use deterrent
- Make yourself large
- Raise arms and stomp feet
- Stand on something
- Use rapid arm/leg movements
- Fight back DO NOT play dead
- Attack eyes, nose & face

**Deploy Bear Spray** 

**Deterrent Ready** 

INTERACTION/ENCOUNTER

**ATTACK**