



Your take on Safety

Be Bear Aware!

By Kori Vernier of CANFOR

On June 6, 2019, an experienced hiker and Canfor summer student was mauled by a bear near Tumbler Ridge, luckily escaping serious injury. In the individual's words, "... as I turned to reach for my bear spray I noticed the bear cub...I looked back to see where the mother was and in that span of 2 seconds she had already covered 15m towards me. I dropped to the ground and protected my belly along a log. The second I hit the ground she was on top of me. She pounced on me pushing me into the ground several times and then sniffed around my head before she walked away back to her cub."

Bear Encounter Potential Hazards:

- Encountering a bear with cubs, food or territory it wants to defend
- Noisy Site Conditions – It is harder for a bear to smell or hear you if it's raining and/or you're working in thick brush, into the wind or along a stream

- Encountering attractants – food, garbage or carrion
- Working alone – less intimidating to dangerous animals than group

Learnings and Suggestions:

- Watch for signs of bears – fresh scratches high up on tree, fresh kill, diggings and bear dung
- Carry bear spray on your body at all times and ensure it has not expired and has been stored properly (above -10°C and below 50°C)
- Work in pairs in areas with high bear activity
- Make lots of noise to avoid surprising a bear. Talking or singing loudly can be more effective than bear bells and whistles
- Make more noise if the situation could result in a bear not being able to smell or hear you (If raining, brushy, you are working into the wind or near a flowing stream)



- If you identify a bear kill site or very recent bear activity, leave the block and don't return for a few days
- Know how to identify a grizzly from a black bear and understand behavior that signals different types of attack and how to respond www.bearsmart.com/work/overview
- If you encounter a bear, keep your eye on the bear and turn your back as little as possible as you move away
- Communicate bear sightings or aggressive behaviour to others

For additional resources on bear safety, please visit: <http://www.bcforestsafesafe.org/node/1915>.

BC Forest Safety Council welcomes new Communications Director

We are pleased to announce Michele Fry as Director, Communications for the BC Forest Safety Council. Michele is coming to us from the Cowichan Valley Regional District and has over 25 years of extensive experience in marketing, media relations, project management, event planning and communications. Michele will be responsible for communications relating to all BC Forest Safety Council (BCFSC) activities including editor of the Forest Safety News as well as the development and maintenance of communications policy, strategy, plans, tactics and messaging to best address the needs of BCFSC members, industry partners, SAFE Certified companies, government officials and media. We are confident with her education, experience and friendly, positive nature that Michele will be strategic in increasing outreach to forest industry workers.



If you would like to reach Michele, please contact her toll-free at **1-877-741-1060** or email her at mfry@bcforestsafesafe.org.

ABOUT Forest Safety News

Forest Safety News is published six times a year: February, April, June, August, October and December. All submissions – letters to the editor, safety tips, photos, safety stories, concerns etc. – are welcome. The opinions expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor, staff or board of the BC Forest Safety Council. All decisions to publish materials rest with the editor. 13,200 copies of each edition are distributed via mail or email. Additional copies are distributed at industry events.

Subscriptions

If you would like to continue to receive a hard copy or would prefer to receive an electronic copy of this newsletter, please email editor@bcforestsafesafe.org and ask to be added to the print copy or email distribution lists. Email subscriptions are encouraged.

Have a story, letter to the editor, safety tip, ideas or photos? Please send all submissions to:

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