

MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
“Could it happen here?”

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

A field worker was working alone on a road layout project and discovered a black bear rustling in a nearby bush. He notified co-workers with a radio and decided to walk to a different location about 250 meters away. The bear quietly followed, and the field worker was alerted by grunting sounds: the same bear was now about 5-10 meters away.

The field worker pulled out his bear spray, but the safety clip could not be removed due to the zip tie being too tightly cinched. The bear paced and grunted for several minutes. The worker attempted to remove the zip tie with a pocketknife but was unsuccessful and cut his knuckle resulting in a minor laceration.



SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Workers should practice their “quick draw” regularly - bear spray should be accessible and ready to discharge within **2 seconds**.
2. Bear spray cans should be inspected frequently to ensure functionality: nozzle clear of debris (needles, lint, sap, etc.), can is not dented, safety clip in place and able to be easily removed, trigger mechanism is properly secured to the can.
3. Ensure zip ties are loose enough to easily remove safety clip.

MOST IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

Bear spray cans should be inspected frequently to ensure functionality, consider adding a visual check during the daily toolbox meeting or pre-work checklist.

