

MANUFACTURING SAFETY ALERT

Ask Yourself
“Could it happen here?”

DESCRIPTION OF EVENT

Wildlife Encounter

While conducting fieldwork, an employee encountered a black bear with cubs. The bear displayed defensive behaviour, and the employee, who had their bear spray ready, safely backed away and avoided the area.

The site was revisited with a coworker the following day. Multiple bear sightings and encounters have been reported throughout the season.



SUGGESTED ACTIONS

If You Suspect Bear Activity:

- Watch for signs such as fresh tracks, scat, claw marks, digging or overturned logs.
- Avoid areas with fresh or concentrated signs. Notify your team and clearly mark the location.
- Work in pairs or groups—avoid working alone in high-risk areas.
- Make noise while moving to avoid surprising a bear.
- Stay away from unusual piles of grass or leaves, which may be “kill caches” and can be aggressively defended.
- Carry communication tools and check-in frequently.

If You Encounter a Bear:

- Stay calm and back away slowly—never run or turn your back.
- Speak calmly to let the bear know you’re human.
- Keep bear spray ready and use it only if the bear behaves aggressively.
- Avoid direct eye contact, which is seen as a threat.
- Give the bear plenty of space, especially if it has cubs or is feeding.
- Leave the area when safe and report the encounter to your supervisor.

MOST IMPORTANT TAKE AWAY

Always stay alert and prepared — recognizing signs of bear activity and knowing how to respond can help you avoid a dangerous encounter.

MAG

Manufacturing Advisory Group



BC Forest Safety

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