



Bear Encounters

CAGC INFORMATION ALERT

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As the summer winds down, geophysical employers and workers need to be aware that bear encounters are still likely to occur over the next few months. Forest fires and natural berry crop failures may have displaced bears from their traditional foraging areas. This displacement forces bears to search for food in habitat that they would not normally be found in. They may need to congregate in areas more restricted than normal, competing for less than the average amount of food. These situations can put added stress on bears as they try to prepare themselves for the upcoming winter. This in turn may make bears less tolerant of human interaction.

To help minimize the impact on the bear population and reduce the possibility of an attack employers need to ensure that their field workers have been trained in Bear Awareness (Alberta Safety Council) as a minimum standard. The possibility of bear encounters should also be a part of daily safety meetings to maintain a high level of employee awareness.