

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Dinosaur National Monument
Dinosaur, Colorado 81610

Management Directive 10.01

USE OF BEAR SPRAY

Bear Spray is specifically formulated to deter aggressive or attacking bears. Bear spray is specifically labeled for use against bears, and by law, must be registered with the Environmental Protection Agency and individual states. Bear spray, when properly used, has been found to be effective in deterring or ending most aggressive attacks. However, as with any deterrent method, there is no guarantee that it will be effective in all situations. It is not intended to be used in hazing operations. Hikers and campers should not develop a false sense of security by carrying the spray, and should follow appropriate bear avoidance safety procedures. Bear spray, *when used properly*, causes temporary incapacitating discomfort which may provide a non-toxic, non-lethal deterrence of aggression by bears. Park staff will not discourage the carrying of bear spray by the public, and if questioned by the public about what brand to purchase, park staff will refer to the following guidelines concerning bear spray, but not make specific brand recommendations.

Selection:

Dinosaur National Monument has adopted the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee guidelines for the selection and purchase of bear pepper spray. The guidelines are:

- Product should be clearly labeled “for deterring attacks by bears”
- Spray concentration of 1.0 to 2.0 % capsaicin and related capsaicinoids.
- Canister shows a net weight of at least 225 grams or 7.9 ounces.
- Should be derived from Oleoresin of Capsicum (OC)
- Spray released in a shotgun-cloud pattern, not a stream.
- Spray should shoot at least 25 feet
- Spray should last at least 6 seconds
- Registered and approved by the EPA

Use:

- All employees and volunteers camping in the DINO backcountry will have at least one bear spray immediately available in camp. Those hiking are strongly encouraged to carry bear spray since you never know when you may encounter a bear.
- All bear spray users must be familiar with its use and proper carrying technique, as well as first aid response if you or someone else is exposed. See the DINO job hazard analysis (JHA) and the following website for a video on bear spray use:
<http://www.centerforwildlifeinformation.org/BeBearAware/BearSpray/bearspray.html#video>
- In order to be effective, bear pepper spray **must** be readily accessible, not in the pocket of a pack, but worn on the belt, shoulder, or chest straps.
- The spray should **only** be used to deter aggressive encounters with a bear, and **never** applied to people or equipment as a repellent.
- Remove the safety clip.

- Adjusting for wind drift if necessary, spray a short burst when the animal is 40-50 feet away in order to create a cloud the bear has to pass through.
- If the animal continues, aim the spray at the face of the bear.
- Do not use or practice with bear spray inside a building. Practice should be conducted with inert bear spray, but even inert spray may have residual OC and should be treated as such.

Storage & Replacement:

- Check the expiration date and replace as necessary
- Avoid storing cans above 120° F (hot car interiors) or below 32° F if possible
- When transporting cans in a motor vehicle, vessel, or raft, insure they are secured in a closed container if in the passenger compartment to avoid accidental discharge. Special containers are available for safe transport.



Superintendent, Mark A. Foust

3/22/16

Date