Did you know...

- In 1999, a typical year, 5 million people in Québec took part in nature-related activities and spent 395 million days, or 79 days per person, in the outdoors. In Québec, only four deaths caused by black bears have been reported over the last 25 years.
- You have a much greater chance of being bitten by a dog, hit by a car, or struck by lightning than being attacked by a bear.

Need information?

- www.mrnf.gouv.qc.ca
- General Information: 1 866 248-6936
  For Québec City area: (418) 627-8600
- Regional and local wildlife protection offices
- In the event of an emergency, call S.O.S. Braconnage (poaching) at 1 800 463-2191

2006-6015d Design : Valières Communication

Ressources naturelles et Faune
Québec

Staying safe around black bears

It's a matter of ACTING RESPONSIBLY

Québec

Who am I?

I share my TERRITORY

I am one of about 800,000 black bears that inhabit North America's forests.
I am found most commonly in Québec, a territory that I share with 60,000 other black bears. We are the only bear species living in this province, although polar bears occasionally venture into the Far North.

I have a highly developed sense of SMELL and a voracious APPETITE

I have one goal in life—to find food to build up a reserve of fat for the winter. When food becomes scarce or when human food sources are within easy reach, I will venture into campgrounds, cornfields, or orchards, and can be attracted by bird feeders and even trash cans and dumps.

I need RESPECT

Your presence frightens me. When I hear or smell you, I usually head deeper into the forest. I don't like being taken by surprise and—even less—being approached! I need my space, I need safety for my cubs, and I especially need food. On rare occasions and for no apparent reason, one of my kind can become aggressive and even dangerous to you.

Take precautions

NEVER FEED BEARS

STORE ALL FOOD AND TRASH OUT OF THE REACH OF BEARS

MINIMIZE ODORS ASSOCIATED WITH FOOD AND TRASH

You can STAY safe around black bears

Bears must not come to believe that food is easy to obtain from human sources. If this happens, they will lose their fear of humans and soon become dangerous.

By complying with the above precautions, you're enhancing your own safety and that of your fellow outdoor enthusiasts.

React the right way

Black bears all have very different personalities. Every encounter with this animal is unique. Always keep in mind that bears are wild animals and can behave in unpredictable ways. Never approach a bear–especially young cubs! Remember that black bears will sometimes stand up on their hind legs. Generally, they do this to better identify an odor or source of noise.

Pictures:
Rolland Lemieux
Pierre Bernier
Fred Klus

If you encounter a black bear...

1. Stay calm and assess the situation.
2. Don't shout or make sudden movements. Talk to it in a soft voice.
3. Always leave it an avenue of escape. Never trap it in a corner. Leave it enough space to turn around and run away.
4. Don't run away unless you are within close reach of a safe place. By running, you may encourage the bear to follow you and see you as its prey. Remember, bears are excellent runners and swimmers.
5. Avoid looking it directly in the eyes as it can perceive this as threatening.
6. Back up slowly, keeping it in your sight all the while.
7. If it advances, toss objects in front of you to distract it.
8. Climbing a tree can be a solution as most adult bears will not spontaneously climb, except to find food in the fall.
9. It is not recommended to play dead with a black bear. Rather, stay attentive and be ready to face it in the event it attacks.
10. If it attacks, defend yourself with whatever is close at hand (rocks, sticks, branches, an axe, etc.). Raise your voice, shout, and gesticulate. The goal is to impress it into retreating.

Serving the needs of wildlife and citizens

Black bears are an important resource in Québec's forests. The Ministère des Ressources naturelles, de la Faune et des Parcs is responsible for their protection and status and for ensuring the safety of citizens.

Effective MEASURES

In addition to increasing quotas and extending hunting and trapping seasons in areas with problem bears, the Department also takes other measures to enhance your safety. These include scare tactics to encourage bears to return to their habitats on their own, and capture and relocation.