

Introduction

Do not underestimate bear spray. The contents will drop you (and anyone else in its path) like a rock. You do not want to accidentally spray this near others or without due care.



Critical Task Inventory

- Pre-Use Inspection
- Transportation of Bear Spray
- Spraying a Bear
- Bear Spray Care and Maintenance
- First Aid Treatment

Pre-Use Inspection

Hazard Assessment	F	S	P	R
Equipment Failure (S)	3	3	2	8
Expiry (S)	2	2	2	6
Inability to Access Spray (S)	1	3	2	6

Precautionary Measures

- Know the risk of using bear spray by reviewing the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS).
- Replace your bear spray if it is less than full or if it has expired.
- Pack your bear spray somewhere easily accessible.

Transportation of Bear Spay

The transport of bear spray presents the risk of accidental discharge, which could lead to potentially disastrous consequences.

Hazard Assessment	F	S	P	R
Accidental Discharge (S)	3	2	2	7
Vehicle/Helicopter Crash (S)	3	3	2	8
Punctured Bear Spray Canister (S)	3	2	2	7
Inhalation of Bear Spray (H)	3	2	2	7
Eye Irritation (H)	3	2	2	7
Skin Irritation (H)	3	2	2	7

Precautionary Measures

- Ensure the safety pin is always in place and does not fall out easily.
- Store bear spray in a safe place where the canister cannot easily be punctured.
- Never transport bear spray inside the passenger area of a vehicle or helicopter.



Do not bring bear spray into the passenger area of any helicopter – if it goes off, you all go down.

Frequency of Exposure (F)	Severity of Loss (S)	Probability of Loss (P)	F + S + P = Risk Rating (R)
1 = Up to Weekly 2 = Up to Daily 3 = 1+ Times / Day	1=Class C – Minor, non-disabling, non-disruptive 2=Class B – Serious injury or disruptive loss 3=Class A – Major injury, permanent disability or loss	1=Limited chance adverse event will occur 2=Adverse event likely to occur 3=Adverse event likely to occur soon	7 to 9 = High Risk 5 to 6 = Medium Risk 3 to 4 = Low Risk
Type Of Hazard: H= Health (acute or chronic) S= Safety (people and equipment) Q= Quality P = Production E= Environment			

Spraying a Bear

Hazard Assessment	F	S	P	R
Inhalation of Bear Spray (H)	1	2	2	5
Eye Irritation (H)	1	2	2	5
Skin Irritation (H)	1	2	2	5
Ineffective Spraying (S)	1	3	2	6

Canister Size and Duration

Know the maximum distance the canister will spray.

Canister Sizes	Duration of Spray	Range
225 gram	4 seconds	3 metres
260 gram	6 seconds	3 metres
400 gram	8 seconds	6-7 metres

NOTE: Bear spray is only effective at close range (<3m) and is not a repellent (such as mosquito repellent). Use only in bear encounter situations.

Spraying a Bear

- Position yourself so you will not be spraying into the wind.
- Remove the safety cap.
- Aim for the eyes.
- Wait for the target to get close enough.
- Push the activator button down in short bursts.
- Move away from the area of discharge.
- Maintain visual contact with the bear while you make a controlled retreat from the area.



Bear Spray Care and Maintenance

Hazard Assessment	F	S	P	R
Accidental Discharge (S)	3	2	2	7
Inhalation of Bear Spray (H)	3	2	2	7
Eye Irritation (H)	3	2	2	7
Skin Irritation (H)	3	2	2	7

Controls

- Keep the nozzle clean so your bear spray will work when you need it.
- Avoid exposure to heat as it may cause the canister to explode or discharge.

First Aid Treatment

The contents of bear spray are very strong irritants to eyes and the respiratory tract. Contact lens wearers and asthmatics should take special precautions when handling bear spray.

If you get exposed to bear spray, seek immediate first aid attention.

Exposure	First Aid Treatment
Inhalation	Get fresh air and seek medical attention if necessary.
Eye Contact	Remove and discard contact lenses. Flush eyes with lots of water.
Skin Contact	Wash affected area with water.



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