

Bear-Human Conflict Management Plan for Camps



Alberta
Government

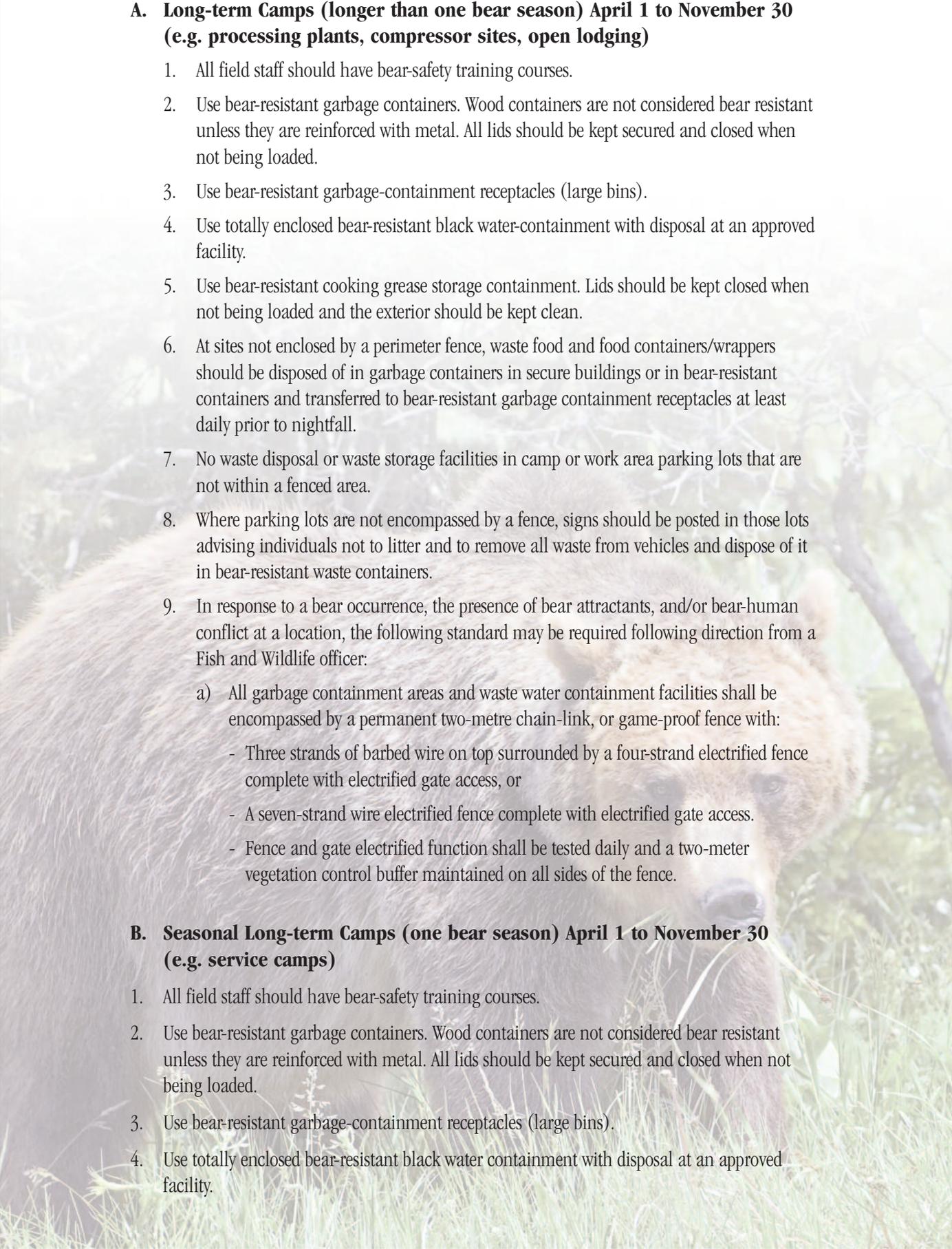
These practices are recommended for establishing or operating a camp from April 1 to November 30.

Purpose

1. To reduce bear-human conflicts and enhance safe working environments by reducing or eliminating attractants for bears and creating barriers to prevent bear access to camps.
2. To help companies comply with Alberta's Wildlife Act and ensure that camps operating in bear country handle garbage, food, cooking areas and other attractants appropriately.
3. To ensure the conservation of black and grizzly bears.

The disposition holder (company) is responsible for appointing a main contact person for all bear concerns on the disposition. It is recommended that the Safety Officer or the person appointed to oversee camp operations be the main contact. This person is responsible for responding to all inquiries about bear concerns before contacting the Fish and Wildlife Division, to ensure that concerns are verified, any unsafe worksite practices are identified (including employees feeding bears) and immediate preventive actions are implemented. If a Fish and Wildlife officer responds to a verified complaint or concern by the company contact person, the officer may direct the implementation of additional management practices (e.g. fencing). Any direction will be in writing either as a recommended operating standard or as an order pursuant to the *Wildlife Act*.

All bear encounters shall be promptly reported to the local Fish and Wildlife District Office by calling 310-0000. In an emergency situation, workers should call 1-800-642-3800.



A. Long-term Camps (longer than one bear season) April 1 to November 30 (e.g. processing plants, compressor sites, open lodging)

1. All field staff should have bear-safety training courses.
2. Use bear-resistant garbage containers. Wood containers are not considered bear resistant unless they are reinforced with metal. All lids should be kept secured and closed when not being loaded.
3. Use bear-resistant garbage-containment receptacles (large bins).
4. Use totally enclosed bear-resistant black water-containment with disposal at an approved facility.
5. Use bear-resistant cooking grease storage containment. Lids should be kept closed when not being loaded and the exterior should be kept clean.
6. At sites not enclosed by a perimeter fence, waste food and food containers/wrappers should be disposed of in garbage containers in secure buildings or in bear-resistant containers and transferred to bear-resistant garbage containment receptacles at least daily prior to nightfall.
7. No waste disposal or waste storage facilities in camp or work area parking lots that are not within a fenced area.
8. Where parking lots are not encompassed by a fence, signs should be posted in those lots advising individuals not to litter and to remove all waste from vehicles and dispose of it in bear-resistant waste containers.
9. In response to a bear occurrence, the presence of bear attractants, and/or bear-human conflict at a location, the following standard may be required following direction from a Fish and Wildlife officer:
 - a) All garbage containment areas and waste water containment facilities shall be encompassed by a permanent two-metre chain-link, or game-proof fence with:
 - Three strands of barbed wire on top surrounded by a four-strand electrified fence complete with electrified gate access, or
 - A seven-strand wire electrified fence complete with electrified gate access.
 - Fence and gate electrified function shall be tested daily and a two-meter vegetation control buffer maintained on all sides of the fence.

B. Seasonal Long-term Camps (one bear season) April 1 to November 30 (e.g. service camps)

1. All field staff should have bear-safety training courses.
2. Use bear-resistant garbage containers. Wood containers are not considered bear resistant unless they are reinforced with metal. All lids should be kept secured and closed when not being loaded.
3. Use bear-resistant garbage-containment receptacles (large bins).
4. Use totally enclosed bear-resistant black water containment with disposal at an approved facility.

5. Use bear-resistant cooking grease storage containment. Lids should be kept closed when not being loaded and the exterior should be kept clean.
6. At sites not enclosed by a perimeter fence, waste food and food containers/wrappers should be disposed of in garbage containers in secure buildings or bear-resistant containers and transferred to bear-resistant garbage containment at least daily prior to nightfall.
7. No waste disposal or waste storage facilities in camp or work area parking lots that are not within a fenced area.
8. Where parking lots are not encompassed by a fence, signs shall be posted in those lots advising individuals not to litter and to remove all waste from vehicles and dispose of it in bear-resistant waste containers.
9. In response to bear occurrence, the presence of bear attractants, and/or bear-human conflict at a location, the following Standard may be required following direction from a Fish and Wildlife officer:
 - All garbage containment areas and waste water containment facilities shall be encompassed by a seven-strand wire electrified fence complete with electrified gate access. Fence and gate electrified function should be tested daily and a two metre vegetation control buffer maintained on all sides of the fence.

C. Short-term Temporary Camps (less than one bear season) April 1 to November 30 (e.g. drilling, tree planting or outfitting camps)

1. All field staff should have bear-safety training courses.
2. Use bear-resistant garbage containment with secure lids that shall be kept closed when not being loaded.
3. Garbage containment receptacles (large bins) should be housed off-site.
4. Use totally enclosed bear-resistant black water containment.
5. Use bear-resistant secure cooking grease storage containment. Lids should be kept closed when not being loaded and the exterior should be kept clean.
6. Non-food attractants such as greases and oils that are kept at worksites should be kept in bear-resistant storage such as hard-walled buildings, fuel sheds or strong boxes.
7. At sites not enclosed by the perimeter fence, waste food and food container and wrappers should be disposed of in garbage containers in secure buildings or in bear-resistant containers at outdoor work sites and transferred to bear-resistant garbage containment daily prior to nightfall.
8. In addition to the above, the following management practices shall be added where accommodations are in soft-walled structures:
 - Locate camps in open areas with good visibility and at least 200 metres away from bear food sources (such as berries).
 - Keep sleeping areas away from cooking and eating areas.
 - Clean cooking and eating areas after eating and place food or dispose of waste in appropriate containment.
 - Store all food indoors in bear-resistant containers or a hard-walled structure or trailer.

- Cook and eat in a central area or structure.
 - Inspect the camp daily for bear attractants and minimize or eliminate.
9. In response to bear occurrence, the presence of bear attractants, and/or bear-human conflict at a location, the following Standard may be required following direction from a Fish and Wildlife officer:
- a) Four-strand electrified fence complete with electrified gate access encompassing all garbage containment areas, wastewater containment, cooking facilities and accommodation facilities. Fence and gate electrified function shall be tested daily and a two-metre vegetation control buffer maintained on all sides of the fence.

D. Remote (helicopter access) Camp Management Practices

1. All field staff should have bear-safety training courses.
2. All odour and food attractants should be minimized.
3. Communication devices, such as radios, cell phones or satellite phones, should be available to staff.
4. Four-strand electrified fence (step-in or rebar posts) surrounding the camp; wire spacing at 15 centimetres, 30 centimetres, 50 centimetres and 70 centimetres from ground level.
5. Two-metre buffer area on each side of the electric fence.
6. The entire camp including cooking, garbage, sleeping and wastewater sites should be contained within the electrified fence.
7. Daily removal of garbage (prior to nightfall).
8. Daily disinfectant (lime) of garbage receptacles.
9. Open black-water system and odour control (liming).
10. Central cooking and eating areas.
11. No food or attractants in sleeping areas.
12. No meat pits.

