

FLY CREEK ORIGINAL

AWARD-WINNING, ORIGINAL

NEW! Fly Creek HV UL2 2lb 5oz

NEW! Fly Creek HV UL2 2lb 6oz

BIG AGENTS outpost springs, co.

Photo: Devon Baler

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BEAR COUNTRY SAFETY

key skills

1. READY, AIM...

We're going to assume you have bear spray here (because you should). As soon as you see a bear, remove the safety clip and be prepared to fire. Spray only if the bear becomes aggressive and is closer than 60 feet away. Aim slightly downward using a side-to-side motion to create a cloud barrier between you and bear.

4. PLAY DEAD

If the bear attacks, fall to the ground, lie on your stomach, and cover the back of your head and neck with your hands. Wait on the ground until you are sure the bear is gone (even if it takes 30 minutes or more). Caveat: If the bear starts to feed, fight for your life, going for eyes, nose, and ears.

5. TAKE A DETOUR

Give bears a wide berth and avoid any behavior that might be interpreted as aggressive.

—Carolyn Webber

2. VOCALIZE

Sing or speak in a calm and monotone voice. You're not trying to scare it away; you just want to show you are human and not a prey animal.

3. BACK AWAY

The trick here is to walk slowly, not run, even though every fiber of you wants to

wounds, I had been raked by her claws and one gash in my neck was dangerously close to a major artery. As for my head injuries, the bear had cracked my orbital bone (that was the crunching noise I'd heard). My arm had puncture wounds from the grizzly's bite, and my scalp and arm wounds took 35 stitches and nine staples to repair. I was given rabies shots. Today, I have fully recovered. Everything has healed with hardly a scar. A year after the incident we went back to the same meadow where the attack took place because I felt I had unfinished business there. To return was another kind of healing. Since then we've camped in the same area and visited the site of the attack each year on our annual wilderness camping trip and have not seen another grizzly. We enjoy wildlife and I look forward to seeing another bear some day. ■ Just not that close.

Rescuers told her that every step we could get down the trail would make evacuation that much easier. We stripped our packs of nonessential items and abandoned camp. The going wasn't hard at first, but, happened started setting in. The pain intensified, especially in my forearm, where the bear had clamped down her jaws. Diane tied our two bandanas together to make a sling for my arm. About 3 miles from the trailhead, I looked up and saw the incoming rescue team. We stopped and they checked my condition. I was doing well enough that the rescuers didn't need to carry me, but I did accept a ride on a mule one of them had brought in. From the trailhead, an ambulance carried me to the nearest hospital 25 miles away. The staff there tallied my