

Western Dispatch



APRIL 2011

MENNO J. ADMIRAAL, PRESIDENT

7668 69th Street
Edmonton, AB T6B 2J7
Ph: 780-468-1568
Fax: 780-468-1948

TIMBERWOLF LODGE:
Rainbow Lake
Ph: 780-956-2382

www.westerncampservices.com

MESSAGE FROM VERN

Hi to All,

It's been a great winter season and as it draws to a close, on behalf of all of us here in the office and out in the field, we want to say "THANK YOU" for the amazing job you have all done this year in embracing the "WESTERN" culture!

We are an energetic company which thrives off of "accomplishment"! We achieve our goals because we are accountable to each other for our contributions. We work in an environment that embraces change, values people's input and encourages open communication; we learn from our experiences and those around us. We flourish through a shared vision where "nothing is impossible" and focus and effort are the norm; thus adding value for all clients, employees and our community. We have a passion to succeed together and celebrate our accomplishments which is fundamental in our future growth.

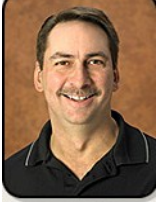
All of us at Western want to wish you a terrific summer and for those returning home we look forward to seeing you all again next season because our success is built on you; "IT'S ALL ABOUT GREAT PEOPLE"!



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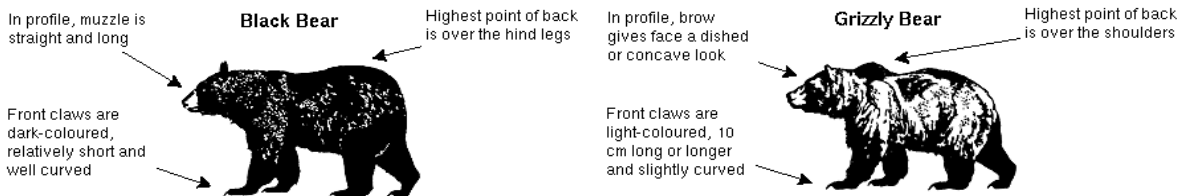


SPOTLIGHT ON SAFETY

Staying Safe in Bear Country

Bears take advantage of whatever food is available in their home range. They are attracted by sights, sounds, memories, and particularly smells. Bears can smell garbage from a mile away and if they are rewarded with an easy meal they learn very quickly to repeat behaviors. Wild bears normally have a fear of people. If they are allowed to forage for food near us, they can quickly become habituated to our presence and become bolder in their actions. Soon enough, whether it is a black bear or a grizzly, someone will feel threatened. Once a bear learns to forage near people, it is usually too late to discourage the bear.

Bear Identification



Avoiding Bear Problems!

A person's best defense against bears is to avoid them. Preventing the attraction of bears through proper food storage, garbage disposal and camp maintenance is the most economical and effective way to reduce bear problems. However, bears are sometimes attracted to clean and well-maintained camps.

- Keep the camp clean
- Bears are creatures of opportunity; if you provide them with a food source, they will take it.
- Make sure that no food (including garbage) is made available to bears at any time.
- Note the behavior of other wildlife in the area. Flocks of ravens can alert you to a possible animal carcass, and perhaps a bear. The area should be avoided. Birds or squirrels alarm calls might be telling you that a bear is near.
- Make lots of noise.
- Limit your workday so you are not out in the early morning or evening when bears are most likely to be foraging.


If You Encounter a Bear

- **Never run**; you cannot outrun a bear and running may excite the bear and cause an attack.
- Do not harass or chase the bear.
- Get back in doors or if a vehicle is nearby, get in as quickly as possible.
- Stay calm and size up the situation; try to determine if the bear is a grizzly or a black bear.
- If bear cubs are in the area, move away from them.
- In an encounter with a non-charging bear or a bear with cubs, you should appear passive; **do not raise your voice**
- Slowly back away from the bear; if the bear continues to move toward you, drop your backpack or other belongings - this may distract the bear.



Sources:

<http://www.environmentyukon.gov.yk.ca/camping/bearsafety.php>
<http://safety.eas.ualberta.ca/node/13#Avoiding>



The material presented herein is for information purposes only. In any instance where provincial and/or federal legislation conflicts, such legislation shall prevail.





Chef's Helpful Hints

- ◆ Fine bread crumbs make a good thickener for cream sauces for casseroles.
- ◆ To shave chocolate, carefully draw a vegetable peeler over chilled chocolate.
- ◆ Use baking soda to remove coffee or tea stains from plastic cups and saucers.

February's Observation Card Winners

There were over 180 observation cards for the month of February which made it difficult to pick the "best" ones. The two winners are:

Lorne G—Camp 195—Lorne noticed some rungs on the speed rack were broken and not being able to hold the weight of hot items placed in the rack. So the rack was tagged out of service until it could be repaired.

Angela C—Camp 195—Angela noticed some staff not communicating in the kitchen with reminding others of "behind you" or "hot item" etc. The importance of good communication in the kitchen was brought up to the affected individuals and with all staff the following day during the daily tailgate meeting.

Honourable mentions:

Suzanne C—Camp 190—observed a kitchen employee placing items in the oven only wearing their cut resistant gloves, no oven mitts. She discussed this with the person and reminded them of the hot oven and it could cause burns.

Tim P—Camp 195—noticed the suspended vent was loose and could have fallen on someone. The hazard was corrected in short order.

~ "THANK YOU"

Birthday Wishes For the Months Of April!

Harry C	Amanda B
Alexandra C	Emil D
Christian D	Christian F
Kevin J	James M
Andrew M	Hughie M
Justin M	Jason R
Danielle R	Sheldon T

Western's Great People

Western Camp Services would like to say "Kudos" to you for all of your hard work!

Guy T

Fraser A	Darrell B
Mike S	Jay M
Sheldon T	Tom C
Faye L	Edmond L