

## **An Assessment of the Potential for Human-Black Bear Conflicts at Campgrounds**

*By Lori Homstol, Bear Biologist, Whistler*

Consider the following bear attacks on humans while camping in North America over the past four decades:

- John Richardson, 31, was killed by a black bear while camping at Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado in 1971. Two men were injured by a black bear that attacked them in their tents in the same campground in 2003.
- Alan Precup was killed by a grizzly bear in his campsite in Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve, Alaska.
- Nick Greeve was hospitalized after a black bear grabbed his head at his campsite in Utah.
- Harry Walker was killed by a grizzly bear after the bear found food left out at his campsite near Yellowstone National Park
- Twelve year-old James Waddell was killed by a black bear after he was dragged from his tent in a campground in northern Alberta.
- Twelve year-old David Anderson was killed by a black bear in Quebec, also dragged from his tent
- Raymond Jakubauskas and Carola Frehe died when a black bear broke their necks as they were setting up their tent in Algonquin Park, Ontario.
- Jane Amerman and Kim Eberly, both 19, were killed in their tent by a grizzly bear in the St. Mary Valley in Glacier National Park, Montana.
- A 9 year-old girl was attacked in her sleeping bag by a black bear that broke through the camper shell.
- Lawrence Gordan was killed by a grizzly bear at his campsite in the Belly River Valley in Glacier National Park, Montana.
- A 15 year-old boy was injured by a black bear in his tent at a campground in SE Alaska.
- Roger May was killed by a grizzly bear in his tent at the Rainbow Point campground near Yellowstone National Park.
- Sylvie Haert jumped off a cliff to escape a black bear that chased her down and attacked her, and then consumed her unsecured garbage in her campsite in Algonquin Park, Ontario.
- Susan Olin, Owen Hereford, Andrew Brodie, and three other tourists were injured by a grizzly bear and yearling that entered their tents in the Lake Louise campground. Susan Olin successfully sued Parks Canada (the campground operator) for thousands of dollars.
- Brigitta Fredenhagen was killed by a grizzly bear at a campsite in Yellowstone National Park.
- Timothy Treadwell and Amie Hugenard were killed in their tent by a grizzly bear in Katmai National Park, Alaska.

- Samuel Evan Ives, 11, was killed when a black bear entered a tent he was sleeping in with his family in Utah. His family filed a lawsuit against the state of Utah, which was dismissed.
- Anna Knochel was mauled by a black bear in a campground near Tucson, AZ. Her family successfully sued for \$2.2 million.
- Maurice Malenfant died in his campsite in Quebec when he was attacked by a black bear.
- Kyle Harry, 18, was killed by a black bear at his campsite near Yellowknife, NWT.
- Kevin Kammer was killed by a grizzly bear family group while he slept in his tent in the Gallatin National Forest near Yellowstone National Park. Two other people were injured.

This list is not exhaustive, and there are many more incidences where campers were injured but not killed by bears that entered their campsites or tents. Some of these incidences have resulted in lawsuits; for example, Parks Canada paid thousands of dollars to Susan Olin, one of the six people who had been mauled in their tents in Lake Louise, Alberta. The lawsuit was successful because it was based on previous incidents of bear activity documented at the campground.