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Those are fine for scaring each other around the campfire but the purpose of Backcountry Bear Basics is to bring the reader's fears into line with reality and avoid problems for people and bears. My advice to anyone who will be hiking or camping in bear country without a guide: Read this book and carry it with you -- and follow its advice about securing your food!

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* Practical strategies for avoiding dangerous bear encounters * Debunks commonly held myths about people and bears * Provides tested strategies to help you avoid conflict with black bears and grizzliesBear expert Dave Smith gives you the basics - like how to choose a good campsite and properly store your food so that you don't have to worry whether that pepper spray you brought will work on the bear that wanders into camp. He debunks commonly held myths about people and bears. Forinstance, menstruating women don't have to stay out of bear country, he says. And no, don't roll up in a ball when faced with a charging bear. So much of conventional wisdom about bears is often just plain bad advice; Smith tells you what you should do instead and why. He also reviews specific outdoor activities - from fishing to mountain biking to hiking with young children to trail running - assessing the likelihood of bear encounters and suggesting tactics for coping in different settings and situations. This second edition incorporates new research (Do bear bells work? Does tent color or shape make a difference in attracting bears?) and adds more charts and sidebars to make material accessible at a glance. Smith provides key information on bear behavior and biology to help you understand, rather than fear, this most misunderstood animal. This book is in the Mountaineers Outdoor Basics series.

What causes bear attacks? When should you play dead and when should you fight an attacking bear? What do we know about black and grizzly bears and how can this knowledge be used to avoid bear attacks? And, more generally, what is the bear's future? Bear Attacks is a thorough and unflinching landmark study of the attacks made on men and women by the great grizzly and the occasionally deadly black bear. This is a book for everyone who hikes, camps, or visits bear country--and for anyone who wants to know more about these sometimes fearsome but always fascinating wild creatures.

Seven common bear encounters and how to survive them. Best ways to identify grizzlies and black bears. Learn essential info on bear behavior at different times of year and in different habitats.

CLICK HERE to download the chapter on "Animal Encounters" from Wilderness Basics * The standard text for the San Diego Sierra Club chapter's Wilderness Basics Course * Extensive updating throughout, including many new photos More than 100,000 copies of Wilderness Basics have been sold over the years, and this new edition will continue as a training staple for those wanting to build their outdoor skills. It is the text used in the San Diego Sierra Club chapter's signature Wilderness Basics Course (WBC) and is written by chapter members. Updates to this new edition include: * Outdoor Ethics — latest Leave No Trace practices * Conditioning — completely rewritten, with targeted advice for certain health conditions * Outfitting — updates on planning your pack weight, water treatment methods, expanded tent and sleeping system info * Foods and Cooking — new information on how to not dirty a pot, in-the-bag cooking, and Dutch oven cooking * Navigation — completely updated, including information on adjusted declination compasses * Backcountry First Aid — the latest wilderness first aid info, first aid kit materials, and information on the Hantavirus and West Nile Virus * Winter Adventures — added information on predicting changes in backcountry weather There's more to us in this exhaustively updated instructional for outdoor beginners and advanced backpackers, alike. You'll also appreciate the refreshed appendix of recommended websites for gear and travel info.

CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD A KNOT SAMPLER FROM THE CHAPTER ON "KNOTS FOR HIKING & CAMPING" (Provide us with a little information and we'll send your download directly to your inbox) * Guidelines for selecting the best rope and the best knot for the activity at hand * Knot-tying directions clearly illustrated with photos * New entry in the Mountaineers Outdoor Basics series It's fair to say that climber Clyde Soles is obsessed with ropes and knots and their absolute performance--since he regularly entrusts his life to ropes on sheer rock faces. His unique book explains how to select and use ropes, cordage, and webbing for the outdoors. Invaluable information is provided on rope handling techniques (how to avoid dreaded tangles) and the best methods for rope care and maintenance. Step-by-step directions for tying over 40 knots are clearly illustrated with photographs. Other useful features include a glossary and a knot comparison chart by activity. Chapters include Knots Basics (from Tripod Lashing to the Figure 8 Loop), Knots for Hikers and Climbers (from the Prusik knot to the Autoblock), Knots for Canoeists and Kayakers (from the Buntline hitch to the Bowline on a bight), and more. This is the definitive text on ropes and knots for anyone who plays in the outdoors!

Handy pocket-sized guide to avoiding confrontations with wildlife--from black bears to bison, from cougars to wolves--and what to do in the worst-case scenario.

Fear of bears seems almost to be part of what it is to be human. Our species emerged out of the depths of time into a world already populated by these great carnivores. Before we mastered iron and later developed firearms, we had few defences against bears--only watchful caution and elaborate ceremonies and sacrifices to ward off fear. Where human populations grow, bears have traditionally dwindled or disappeared. But when we return to the wild, to places where bears still survive, all our primeval fears awaken again. The risk of an automobile accident on the way to bear country far outstrips the risk of a close-range encounter with a bear, but it's the bear that worries us as we hurtle down the pavement at a hundred kilometres an hour. In this timely and sensitive book, Kevin Van Tighem calls on decades of experience, knowledge and understanding in order to enlighten readers about our relationship with and attitude toward bears. Along the way we are confronted with the realities confronting these great animals as a result of our ever-expanding human population and their ever-shrinking natural habitat. Through historical research, field observation, practical advice, personal anecdotes and an array of stunning photos, Van Tighem has written a comprehensive book that is meant to demystify bears in order to promote a deeper understanding of these powerful yet vulnerable creatures.

A practical and stylish illustrated guide, 'Essential Knots' shows how to tie each knot with expert guidance on which knot to tie when and why. Each knot is categorised by its use in a particular sport or hobby, with a brief explanation as to why it is the best knot for the job.

A comprehensive big-game hunting guide for hunters ranging from first-time novices to seasoned experts, with more than 400 full-color photographs, including work by renowned outdoor photographer John Hafner Steven Rinella was raised in a hunting family and has been pursuing wild game his entire life. In this first-ever complete guide to hunting—from hunting an animal to butchering and cooking it—the host of the popular hunting showMeatEater shares his own expertise with us, and imparts strategies and tactics from many of the most experienced hunters in the United States as well. This invaluable book includes • recommendations on what equipment you will need—and what you can do without—from clothing to cutlery to camping gear to weapons • basic and advanced hunting strategies, including spot-and-stalk hunting, ambush hunting, still hunting, drive hunting, and backpack hunting • how to effectively use decoys and calling for big game • how to find hunting locations, on both public and private land, and how to locate areas that other hunters aren't using • how and when to scout hunting locations for maximum effectiveness • basic information on procuring hunting tags, including limited-entry "draw" tags • a species-by-species description of fourteen big-game animals, from their mating rituals and preferred habitats to the best hunting techniques—both firearm and archery—for each species • how to plan and pack for backcountry hunts • instructions on how to break down any big-game animal and transport it from your hunting site • how to butcher your own big-game animals and select the proper cuts for sausages, roasts, and steaks, and how to utilize underappreciated cuts such as ribs and shanks • cooking techniques and recipes, for both outdoor and indoor preparation of wild game

For anyone who spends time in the backcountry, understanding not only what sorts of dangers you can run into out there but also exactly what those risks can do to you is part of being a smart, well informed outdoor traveler. In Lost and Stranded, author Timothy Sprinkle breaks down the perils that can befall hikers, hunters, and other outdoor enthusiasts. There are animal encounters, weather events (lightning strikes), parasites (giardia), biting insects (bees/wasps), winter hazards (avalanches), natural disasters (forest fires), hypothermia, dehydration, disorientation, and much, much more to worry about. Although these risks are generally well known, what's less understood by many adventurers is what exactly happens to you when, say, you become malnourished in the backcountry. What does it feel like? How does the condition progress? How long do you generally have before the body shuts down? What helps or hurts when you're fighting for survival? Lost and Stranded will answer these questions and many more by taking an inside look at more than two dozen outdoor hazards. Each one will include a narrative section that dramatizes the experience of a certain situation based on real-world events. From there, information from expert sources—medical doctors, first responders, wildlife experts, and others—will fill in the details around exactly how each scenario plays out on the ground, followed by suggestions on how to avoid or survive each risk factor, making this book is a vital resource for outdoor travelers.

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