



SST-024: Use of equipment for defense against wild predators

Preamble

Workplace safety is a major concern in all industries, including protection from wild predators. The use of defensive equipment such as sound, light, pyrotechnic devices, etc., is often necessary to minimize the risks associated with the presence of these animals in work areas.

However, it is important to remember that the use of this equipment must be carried out in compliance with occupational health and safety rules. Indeed, these devices can present risks for the health and safety of workers if they are not used properly.

The purpose of this procedure is to provide clear and specific guidelines for the safe and effective use of wild predator defense equipment in work activities. Employees must follow this procedure to ensure their own safety and the safety of their co-workers.

We encourage all employees to be vigilant and report any situation that may present a safety hazard to themselves or others.

Responsibilities

Management Team

Management is responsible for providing a safe and healthy work environment for its employees. It must establish clear procedures for the use of defensive equipment and ensure that employees are trained to use it safely. Management must also provide appropriate equipment that is in good working order to minimize risks to workers. Finally, management must regularly monitor and evaluate the practices in place to ensure that the hazard prevention and correction measures are effective.



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Employees and subcontractors

Employees and contractors are responsible for following established procedures for the use of wild predator defense equipment and for using it safely and properly. They must participate in training and follow management's instructions regarding occupational health and safety. Employees and contractors must also report any situation that could pose a safety hazard to themselves or others. Finally, they must take care of the equipment and report to management if defects or problems are found.

Risk control

Technical controls

In order to minimize the risks, the following technical controls are performed:

- Regular inspection, especially before shipment and upon return, to ensure that the equipment is in good working order. These inspections are usually visual;
- Preventive Maintenance: When equipment requires maintenance, it will be performed according to the manufacturer's instructions;
- Calibration: When equipment requires calibration or testing, it will be done properly;
- Use of personal protective equipment;
- Transport of equipment in approved or designated containers;

Administrative controls

In an effort to minimize risk, the following administrative controls have been implemented:

- ✓ Establishment of work procedures;
- ✓ Identification and assessment of the risks associated with each piece of equipment;
- ✓ Authorization for use only granted to users who have received the appropriate training and possess the skills/knowledge. Use must also be in the authorized context;
- ✓ Mandatory and/or complementary training;
- ✓ Incidents are logged and corrective action is taken as needed;



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Protective equipment

- Road/sea flare (flammable)
 - Protective glasses
 - Protective gloves with flame retardant properties or made of fabrics with flame retardant characteristics
- Anti-bear cartridge (sound)
 - Protective glasses
 - Less than 15 m (50 ft): Hearing protection shells + plugs
 - More than 15 m (50 ft): Plugs
- Anti-bear cartridge (flammable and sound)
 - Less than 15 m (50 ft): Hearing protection shells + plugs + goggles
 - More than 15 m (50 ft): Plugs
- Animal/bear repellent (liquid)
 - Protective glasses
 - Medical gloves

General requirements

Maintenance

None of the devices used at SIRIUSMEDx require preventive maintenance.

Use of road or sea flares

It is recommended that the use of road flares or marine flares be done with the back to the wind or out of the wind. This equipment is highly flammable and can easily cause burns and serious injury. Ideally, ignition should be done downward from the body, away from the face. The movement should be outward.

Flares should be transported in a container that minimizes the risk of flammability or ignition and kept away from open flames or sources of ignition or heat.

Waste must be disposed of in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.



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Anti-bear cartridge (sound)

When using bear cartridges that produce only sound via a shotgun blast, users must wear appropriate personal protective equipment. When used, the explosive capsule will be projected up to 38 meters (125 feet). It is therefore essential to ensure that there are no obstacles (including vehicles and people) between the user and the trajectory, while ensuring that there is sufficient space behind the trajectory. In the presence of wind, the distance can also be influenced (never face the wind).

These cartridges are highly flammable and must be stored in an airtight place and away from any flame/ignition source. The same applies to transportation, which must be carried out in a suitable container.

This detonation, when used for demonstration purposes, is considered as an explosion that can be related to the use of a firearm and in the majority of municipal by-laws in Quebec, it is forbidden to use such equipment in urban areas. You must contact the police department or your municipality to obtain the use of such equipment if this is the case.

Anti-bear cartridge (flammable and sound)

When using bear cartridges that produce sound and a colored signal via an explosion (similar to a fireworks display), users must wear appropriate personal protective equipment. When used, the explosive capsule will be projected up to 45 meters (148 feet). It is therefore essential to ensure that there are no obstacles (including vehicles and people) between the user and the trajectory, while ensuring that there is sufficient space behind the trajectory. In the presence of wind, the distance can also be influenced (never face the wind). It is important to note that this type of projectile (distress signal) must be directed towards the sky, never horizontally.

These cartridges are highly flammable and must be stored in an airtight place and away from any flame/ignition source. The same applies to transportation, which must be carried out in a suitable container.

This detonation, when used for demonstration purposes, is considered as an explosion that can be related to a pyrotechnic piece and in the majority of municipal by-laws in Quebec, it is forbidden to use such equipment without a specific permit. You must contact your municipality to obtain a permit if this is the case.

Also, it is important to note that the firebrand from the projectile will come down from the sky and could fall on a person, a building or a vehicle...or in the forest. In dry weather, it is strongly discouraged to use this type of equipment that could cause a fire. The user must also respect the fire ban.



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Animal/bear repellent (liquid)

When using animal/bear repellent, users must wear the appropriate personal protective equipment. Before use, it is important to read the instructions carefully and check the expiration date. The use of animal/bear repellent can be hazardous to the user and bystanders. This equipment contains capsaicin (from the red pepper plant) which causes moderate to severe skin irritation, particularly when in contact with the eyes, as well as watering of the eyes and difficulty breathing.

The repellent jet can be projected up to 5.5 meters, so it is important to make sure that there are no obstacles or people nearby. Being a liquid jet, it can splash and be influenced by winds. When using the inert repellent in a training setting, take into consideration that the liquid contains alcohol and is therefore flammable and may also irritate the eyes and skin.

Emergency context

In an emergency, the user is not required to wear personal protective equipment.