

TIPS FOR SETTING UP CAMP

CORNER POSTS SHOULD BE FIRMLY SECURED IN THE GROUND

For open ground or tundra, an ice axe works well to make a hole for the pole, using a back and forth twisting action to 'drill' a hole. If you are using our sectional corner posts, please do not bash them into place. Make a hole first and 'plant' them. *If a hole really cannot be made, a SUBSTANTIAL mound of rocks around the post may be the only (but not recommended) option.* In addition, poles should be tethered with guy ropes for added stability. These lines should be set in a direction leading away from the camp.



TRIPWIRES SHOULD BE AS INVISIBLE AS POSSIBLE

The principle of a tripwire is that it shouldn't be seen, so that intruders trigger them by accident. It has been reported that bears have been spotted trying to crawl underneath or step over high visibility tripwires. The test of a good perimeter defence is when camp members sometimes trigger an alarm by accident - forgetting that a tripwire has been set!

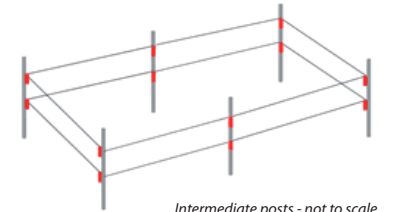


CORNER POST GUY LINES SHOULD BE AS VISIBLE AS POSSIBLE

By contrast, guy lines should be very easily seen and therefore hopefully avoided by bears. Although bears are inquisitive they tend to be wary of the unfamiliar. I would prefer a bear to give a wide berth to my posts, but to be 'caught out' by the tripwires. Ideally posts should have a hole drilled in the top section to pass the tether line through and thereby removing any risk that it may slip down the post and foul the alarm in any way.

TRIPWIRES SHOULD NOT BE TOO LONG

A major error is to use tripwires which are too long. The longer the length, the more chance of failure due to sagging or stretching of the line. The sample of line supplied with the kit is braided fishing line, known for its strength and non-stretch qualities. The maximum length of line will vary according to terrain. Very few camping areas are conveniently flat and level and this must be taken into consideration when setting up camps and tripwires. There will be some sections where the line is closer to the ground than others and these could provide stepping-over points for bears. This factor is a good reason for using a 'fence' arrangement, using 2 rows of tripwire, one above the other which provides a greater barrier. For larger camps, it is advisable to have intermediate posts and alarms, rather than overly long runs of line. Personally, I do not like to go beyond 8-10m of line per section.



Intermediate posts - not to scale

CAMPING ON ICE

If camping on ice our posts are ideal when used in conjunction with an ice screw. If a slot is cut in a post section, an ice screw can be inserted into the ice and the pole section fitted over the screw. When using ice screws of about 12" (300mm) in length, post guy-lines shouldn't be required as this method produces very rigid results. *(In the photographs, a figure-of-eight rappelling device has been used as a sleeve to lock the post in position).* For other types of post, a hole will have to be excavated in the ice first.



PLEASE REMEMBER...

*Tripwire fences are only as good as the skill with which they have been set up. Practice setting up and testing as much as possible **before** leaving for the wilderness.*

Tripwire fences are not a guarantee of safety - like vehicle seat belts and airbags cannot guarantee escaping injury in the event of an accident - but they do add a welcome extra layer of safety. After my attack, I would never consider camping without a perimeter alarm, especially when I am solo camping.

*Tripwire fences should not be considered as bear deterrents. They are designed to warn of the **presence** of an intruder. They are not designed to replace traditional bear watch duties (if personnel numbers allow) or the use of dogs (if available).*



BEARS ARE UNPREDICTABLE AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED DANGEROUS AT ALL TIMES

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS:-

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MADE IN ENGLAND

