

16 AUGUST 2024 / SF NEWS / JOE KUKURA

24-Year-Old Jogger Attacked by Black Bear in Sierra Nevada, But Lives to Tell

There was a very rare black bear attack on a human being on Monday in Tuolumne County, but the 24-year-old jogger who suffered the attack has since reportedly been released from the hospital.

While it's extremely rare for a California black bear to attack a person, we've now seen a few examples of this within the last nine months. The first was back in November 2023, when a 71-year-old woman was fatally mauled by a black bear in Sierra County's Downieville, and the bear had apparently been stalking her for months. Last month, a black bear in Yosemite National Park charged at a man and ripped his clothing.

Now we have another of these attacks, as a black bear attacked a 24-year-old jogger this past Monday at around 5 pm in the Tuolumne County community of Long Barn, according to SFGate. While that

report notes the man is in stable condition, other media reports indicate he's already been released from the hospital.

As Sacramento's KOVR explains, the unidentified 24-year-old man was on a run when he encountered a bear cub. The mother bear emerged from the trees and began to chase the jogger. She attacked him and pushed him into a ditch, giving him several scrapes and gouges. (Ironically, one of the gouges was on his thigh, "right where the man has a tattoo of a bear" according to KOVR.) He smacked the bear with a stick and managed to get away, but only briefly.

"I see this young man running down the road and a bear literally chasing and biting at him, and his shirt flapping in the wind," neighbor Heather Silfies told KOVR. "It was just shredded and he didn't have one of his shoes on all the way, so he's literally running with the shoe not on."

The man then jumped onto the top of Silfies's SUV. "The young man is standing on the roof of our Escalade," she continued. "The bear is standing at the Escalade and she's trying to climb up. So she has her foot on the running board and she's literally jumping up at him, wanting to get on the roof, just wanting to attack him."

The bear was successfully chased off, and per People magazine, the unnamed man was treated at Adventist Health in Sonora. But Silfies told KOVR that the man has since come back to their home to thank her family, so it sounds like he's been released.

"That's not normal bear behavior to attack a person," Department of Fish and Wildlife captain Patrick Foy told the local paper Union Democrat. "It's very much not normal behavior for a bear. This bear has showed unusual aggression towards a human. The bear is still

out in the community. We haven't caught it. We don't know if we will catch this one. There's a reduced chance because this is not a bear that's habituated to people and people sources of food."

And Foy added, "If we get a bear in the trap and we get a DNA profile of the bear in the trap, if that bear matches the DNA samples we collected from the attack, that bear will be euthanized."

Related: [NorCal Woman Killed By Black Bear Had Been Complaining About Animal Stalking Her Home For Months \[SFist\]](#)

*Image: American black bear (*Ursus americanus*) cub. Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee)Getty Images)*

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Golden Gator

a year ago

Heather Silfies literally needs to stop using the word *literally*.

9

0



Corvus Corax

→ Golden Gator

a year ago

A good message to us all.

4

0



FLAYMO

→ Golden Gator

a year ago

She's concerned people might think it was all an interpretive dance, or a metaphor for Trump mauling America

4

0



mike larkin

a year ago

Of course we have to kill the bear! She was in the jogger's environment!!

4

0



This comment was deleted.



This comment was deleted.



cl

→ Guest

a year ago

Oh you just need to meet more people.

5

0



Flapjack Gordon

a year ago

These bears are probably pissed that they're not seeing any residuals from

the diner named after them.

6 0 



Corvus Corax  Flapjack Gordon

a year ago edited

They can hardly bear it.

2 0 



Lester

a year ago

If the bear is euthanized, I hope she can be given a proper burial next to a bike in Central Park.

3 0 

Z

zero-sum game

a year ago

At least the cubs are old enough to make it if they do drop mama bear, but they'd miss her.

0 0 



FLAYMO  zero-sum game

a year ago

I suppose they might grin and bear it

1 0 

Z

zero-sum game

 FLAYMO

a year ago

I suppose it's bearable.

1 0 



FLAYMO  zero-sum game

a year ago

bearly

0 0 

E

educated guess

a year ago

Remember reading the Southern California Black Bear population, and it was introduced from transplanted bears that were fed by humans in Yosemite, just for price of a ticket.

0 0 

**Corvus Corax**

a year ago

It was the tattoo that got her sore.

2 0

**FLAYMO**

a year ago

We have to rethink this whole right to bear arms. If the bears were disarmed, it be much harder for them to claw people

5 0

**SF HairyDude**

→ FLAYMO

a year ago

I must protest. Since my mother put a sticker on her car in the 80's that said "protect the right to arm bears" with a bear holding a rifle. I am on the side of bears.

7 0

**Golden Gator**

→ SF HairyDude

a year ago

Especially with RFKJr roaming around freely.

4 0

**FLAYMO**

→ SF HairyDude

a year ago

but if you're on their side it's easier for them to reach you -- unless they've been disarmed

2 0

**lupus**

→ SF HairyDude

a year ago

Love it! I'm looking for that sticker!

0 0

**kroykah!**

a year ago

We're seeing an increase in all manner of animal attacks on humans, orca, mountain lions and now bears. Maybe the animals have figured out that humanity is their enemy and is starting to bring the fight to us.

Seriously, nature is not a play date.

I was once hiking in Yosemite on the way up from Echo Valley on the high trail towards the JMT and Half Dome. As I was scaling the switchbacks, I came to notice that there was a cub in a tree rooted downslope at what was now eye level for me, 2/3 of the way up the tree, which meant that I hiked by the base of a tree with a cub in it and did not catch the ire of the mother bear.

4 0 



This comment was deleted.



vertes  Guest

a year ago

The European tourist who recently did that in flip flops deserves a Darwin Award. I hope they billed him for the rescue. An ambulance had to take him to a higher altitude so a helo could get him to a hospital.

2 0 



kroykah!  Guest

a year ago

I was hiking deliberately, predictably and not dawdling.

0 0 



husk10

a year ago

Did someone call?



0 0 



anon408

a year ago edited

'the bear is still out in the community'..........anyone who has even spent a minute or more in the wild understands that a mother bear [or any kind of wild animal] will Tredwell the shit out of anything they deem to be a threat. Outdoors 101

2 0 



lupus

a year ago

'The bear is still out in the community.'

The bear community or the human community? That's a vital difference right there.

1 0 



Jym Dyer



→ lupus

a year ago

@lupus - Not on October 19th it isn't.

hearrison.org

—



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Plea Deal Comes In Case of Murdered Oakland Maintenance Man; Trial to Come For Second Suspect

A Sacramento man has pleaded no contest to the January 2023 murder of Julio Chavez-Montoya, a 63-year-old building maintenance man who lived in a downtown Oakland office tower.



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SF NEWS

Special SFPD Unit Seizes Multiple Cars Linked to June Sideshow In San Francisco

This spring and summer have been part of a very active season for sideshows on both sides of the Bay. And while some communities are passing new laws to crack down on these stunt-driving events, SF police have just seized several vehicles they say took part in one particularly wild sideshow in June.



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Joe Kukura is an SFist staff asst. editor / reporter who has been published in almost every San Francisco publication, including Hoodline, SF Weekly, Thrillist, and Broke Ass Stuart.

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