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## USA: Captive Bear Statistics – Human Fatalities 1990-August 2010

REXANO, [www.REXANO.org](http://www.REXANO.org), only used fatality numbers since all deaths are (supposed to be) reported, and there is only one degree of death. The average life expectancy of 77 years was used to calculate the lifetime odds averages for the whole U.S. population. The vast majority of those killed by exotic animals are the trainers, handlers and owners. The odds of a member of the general public getting killed by exotics are therefore even lower than the averages and odds in the table below.

**Table 1: General Public’s Yearly Average and Lifetime Odds of Being Killed by a Captive Bear in the USA Based on 1990 – August 2010 data**

<b>Number of captive bear related human fatalities in the USA: 1990 – August 2010*</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Average Human Deaths per Year</b>	<b>0.25</b>
<b>One - Year Odds**</b>	<b>1 in 1,240,168,000</b>
<b>Lifetime Odds**</b>	<b>1 in 16,106,078</b>

*\*Based on news and exotic animal industry reports*

*\*\*Based on the current US population estimate of 310,042,000*

**Table 2: Captive Bear Related Human Fatalities in the USA by State, Year and the Type of the Bear: 1990 - August 2010**

<b>YEAR/ STATE</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>1993</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>CA</b>			<b>1 Grizzly</b>			<b>1</b>
<b>IL</b>				<b>1 Black Bear</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>MI OH</b>	<b>1 Black Bear</b>				<b>1 Black Bear</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>PA</b>		<b>1 Black Bear</b>				<b>1</b>
<b>USA TOTAL</b>						<b>5</b>



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**Table 3: US Captive Bear Related Human Fatalities  
1990 – August 2010**

<b>YEAR/ STATE</b>	<b>RELATIONSHIP TO BEAR</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>2010 - OH</b>	Male employee was killed by black bear during feeding in the commercial facility whose USDA license has been revoked recently.	Occupational hazard; no risk to uninvolved public
<b>2009 - PA</b>	A woman has been killed during cage cleaning by her pet bear. The facility was state licensed with a recently expired permit.	Occupational/hobby hazard; no risk to uninvolved public
<b>2008 - CA</b>	Male trainer in the USDA licensed facility was killed by the male grizzly bear during the training session.	Occupational hazard; no risk to uninvolved public
<b>2006 - IL</b>	Male farm/zoo worker killed by black bear out of his cage in formerly USDA licensed, now closed to the public facility.	Occupational hazard; no risk to uninvolved public, the bear never left the zoo property
<b>1993 - MI</b>	A man was killed by his brother-in-law black bear after he entered the animal's pen to feed it.	The owner had all necessary state permits to keep the bear. Occupational/hobby hazard; no risk to uninvolved public.

**CONCLUSION:** The death by US captive bear is extremely rare.

None of these deaths were the result of the captive bears being unsupervised off the private owners' or zoo's property. Instead, all victims were voluntarily on the property where the animal was kept, be it owner(s), handlers, employees, friends or visitors wanting to see the animals.

Since 1990, there is no record of a member of the general public in the USA dying as a result of a captive bear at large, meaning, unsupervised and OFF the property where the animals were kept. Bear out of the cage, but still on owner's/zoo property, is not considered AT LARGE for our statistical analysis.

Captive keeping of bears might be a slight voluntarily accepted hobby/occupational hazard, but it is NOT a public safety issue.