

There Are Bears in the Neighborhood

PLEASE READ AND SHARE WITH YOUR FAMILY, THEN POST CONSPICUOUSLY.

Close Encounters

If a bear approached you or came into your yard, would you know what to do? These tips can save two lives:

- Don't panic! Don't shoot! Don't approach!
- Pick up small children so they don't run or scream. Restrain dogs.
- If the bear stands up, he is not preparing to attack; he is trying to get a better look or sniff of you. If the bear lunges, snaps his jaws, or slaps the ground or underbrush with his paw, he feels threatened. Back away.
- Do not run! Back away slowly with arms overhead to give the appearance of being bigger.
- Avoid eye contact. Speak in a calm and soothing voice.
- Leave the area, or go inside the house and observe the bear from the window.
- If the bear is treed, he is probably afraid. Leave him alone. Give him time to feel secure enough to come down and get away, which may not occur until the cover of night.



Living Smart in Bear Country

Careless human behavior can create "nuisance bears," who often end up shot. The key to peaceful coexistence between bears and humans is for humans to become more "bear aware."

- Store garbage cans in a secure building. Rinse empty food container and wrappers, and place them in plastic bags to seal odors in. Bleach trash containers regularly. Avoid placing odorous materials in the garbage until pick-up day.
- Bring bird feeders (including hummingbird feeder) indoors at night, or hang them out of the reach of bears (at least 10 feet in the air). Use spill pans to prevent seeds from reaching the ground.
- Store pet food or bowls inside. When feeding pets outdoors, remove uneaten portions and clean food bowls promptly.
- Clean barbecue grill and burn barrels regularly. Do not bury, pour out or discard grease and food particles in the yard.
- Bears naturally seek the larvae of ants, bees, yellow jackets and wasps and various seeds and nuts. Remove insect nests from walls and rodent proof any outbuildings.
- Bears like to sniff, claw, sample, or rub against aromatic woods such as cedar or pine and petroleum products, including tarpaper, paint, turpentine, kerosene, rubber and charcoal fluid. Store these items in a secure place.
- Use caution while biking, walking or jogging during the early morning and late evening hours, when bears are active and may be feeding along roads. Use bells, or clap your hands or shout to warn bears that you are coming, especially on windy days or when traveling downwind, along streams, around blind curves, or near dense vegetation where bears may not hear, smell or see you.
- Make sure that no bear who wanders into your yard is rewarded with food – intentionally or unintentionally. If he finds foods, even once, he will return.

Courtesy of the American Bear Association (www.americanbear.org)

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