

LIVING IN BEAR COUNTRY

When living or summering in bear country you are at risk of attracting a bear or cougar to your home

Safety Tips from the Be Bear Aware Campaign



- Remove dense brush that could provide cover for a bear, cougar, or snake.
- Set up lighting so that it illuminates portions of your yard along with the path to the house.
- If a bear or other wild animal repeatedly enters your yard, determine what attractants are drawing it there and remove them.
- Place children's play center close to your house with viewable space around it.
- Bring pets in at night. Do not leave pet food out.
- Block access to potential hibernation sites such as crawl spaces under decks and buildings.
- Put out your garbage can the day of pickup, not the night before. Store garbage in a sturdy building or place in a bear-resistant trash receptacle. Keep garbage cans clean and deodorize them periodically.
- Keep barbecue grills clean and grease free. Consider storing it in a garage or shed when not in use.
- Hang bird feeders out of a bear's reach and away from your house. Take bird feeders down during periods of high bear activity.
- Harvest fruit off trees as soon as it is ripe, and promptly collect fruit that falls.
- Do not put meat, fish, and other pungent scraps in the compost. Consider composting bins as opposed to open composting.
- Electric fences are an effective way to keep bears and other animals out of orchards, gardens, compost piles, and beehives.
- Do not feed or set salt licks out for deer or other wildlife – this will attract bears and cougars to your home.
- If a bear breaks into your home, do not attempt to confront the bear. Give the bear an escape route if you can. Go to a safe place and call 911.



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[How to Avoid Encounters](#)

[Proper Food Storage](#)

[Bear Identification](#)

[What to do in an Encounter](#)

[How to Deploy Bear Spray](#)

BE BEAR AWARE CAMPAIGN

Community Safety Techniques

1. Work as a group to eliminate attractants that will bring wildlife into your community. Especially food attractants.
2. Clear vacant lots of heavy brush where animals and snakes may take up residency.
3. Hiking trails, especially those that lead children to school, should be wide, as straight as possible, and monitored for wildlife activity.
4. Establish a community alert system if a bear or cougar is seen where neighbors notify neighbors of the presence of potentially dangerous wildlife.
5. Organize a bear avoidance working team that helps residents resolve issues with bear attractants and other wildlife problems.
6. First responders – fire, police, search and rescue – need to be organized and trained in the use of bear spray and protocols for removing a bear from a residence or business.



Bear Spray



The Be Bear Aware Campaign promotes the carrying and proper use of a quality bear spray when residing, hiking, biking, fishing, camping, and hunting in bear country. We recommend you purchase bear spray that has a spray duration of at least 7+ seconds and has a spray distance of at least 30+ feet. Meeting or exceeding this standard gives you extra protection for more than one charge, multiple bears, wind, rain, cold, or accidentally spraying over top of the bear.

Know How to Properly Use Bear Spray. Practice unholstering it and removing the safety clip until it becomes spontaneous.

Take the Safety Clip Off by placing your thumb in front of the curled lip and pull back to reveal trigger.

Hold the Can Firmly to ensure it does not tilt up and spray over top of the bear.

If You are Being Charged by a Bear, spray slightly downward toward the front of the bear and continue spraying until the bear diverts its charge.