

YOU LIVE IN BEAR COUNTRY



Black bears are an important part of Florida's natural heritage, and keeping them wild and away from human use areas is a responsibility we all must share. FWC is dedicated to reducing conflicts between people and bears in your community.

Black bears are naturally shy, timid animals that try to avoid people. However, as Florida's human population and development expands it becomes increasingly difficult for bears to avoid humans.

Bears can be lured into neighborhoods when people leave easily accessible food outside, like unsecured garbage cans or pet food. For ways to secure your garbage and other items that might attract bears, go to MyFWC.com/bear.

If you see a bear in your community...

Remain calm and stay away from the bear. The mere presence of a black bear does not necessarily represent a problem. The bear is most likely just passing through, and will not linger or return if it does not find food. A bear may climb a tree in your neighborhood to look for food or if it gets scared. Clear the area of people and pets and allow the bear to come down on its own when it feels safe (usually after dark). The bear found its way into the area, and it can find its way out.

If you encounter a bear at close range...

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|  DO NOT play dead or run from the bear |  Speak in a calm, assertive, assuring voice |
|  Remain standing upright |  Avoid direct eye contact |
|  Back away slowly with arms raised |  Make sure the bear has an escape route |

NEVER FEED A BEAR (see next page for more information)

If you experience bear problems, please contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at (561)625-5122. For more information go to MyFWC.com/bear.

Please note: Following this advice does not eliminate the risk of injury.