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Advisory Announcement
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Dillingham Residents Reminded of Bear Hazards

(Dillingham) The summer months reflect increased subsistence fishing activities for residents of Southwest Alaska, resulting in increased fish waste after processing.

In response, the City of Dillingham landfill has extended hours of operation to accommodate this seasonal influx of fish waste preventing it from being stored at homes, in sheds, garages, or outside. However, fish waste is a strong attraction for brown bears, and the Department has been notified of recent nuisance bear behavior at the landfill. The public is advised to remain aware of their surroundings when at the landfill or gun range as brown bears frequent these areas for feeding on waste. These bears are habituated and reliant upon consuming household, and fish or game waste disposed of at the landfill and could exhibit defensive or aggressive behavior over this food source.

While there are some measures in place to reduce human – wildlife conflict, including electric fencing, there are still many brown bears in and around the immediate area near the Dillingham landfill.

If the public has an encounter with a brown bear that is aggressive or threatening in nature while at the landfill, they are advised to contact the Dillingham Department of Fish and Game office at 907-842-2334. If encounters occur after hours or at the weekend, please contact Dillingham City Police at 907-842-5354. In the event of an emergency, dial 911.

Safety is our first priority, please continue to be mindful of your surroundings and aware of the potential for a bear encounter when at the landfill.