

# Bear Aware?

Know Before You Go!

While bear attacks are extremely rare, there is always a chance of encountering a bear when traveling or recreating in bear country. By taking a few simple precautions, you can greatly reduce your risks of a negative bear encounter. Take the time to learn basic bear safety before you head outside. Help keep yourself, other trails users, and bears, safe!

**Make noise so you don't surprise a bear!** Bears sometimes attack defensively when surprised.

**Buddy up!** You are safer in a group in bear country.

**Use your senses** to stay aware. **No headphones!**

**Move cautiously**, especially along creeks, on blind corners and in heavily vegetated areas. **High speed = high chance of surprising a bear!**

**Leash your pet or leave it at home.** Uncontrolled dogs can startle or provoke bears.

**Carry bear spray**, have it readily accessible, and know how to use it.

**Don't feed bears.** Handle food, fish, and other attractants responsibly.

**Never run from a bear!** Running from a bear can trigger a chase instinct in the bear. Bears can run about 35 miles per hour – much faster than you!

Learn more about bears and bear safety at [www.alaskabears.alaska.gov](http://www.alaskabears.alaska.gov)

## Living with Bears: What do Anchorage residents think?



ADF&G Photo, Drew Hamilton

While other communities co-exist with bears, no other city the size of Anchorage has both brown and black bears roaming inside city limits. While bear populations are difficult to determine, ADF&G biologists estimate the entire municipality, including Chugach State Park, has 250-350 black bears and 65-75 brown bears. An in-depth public opinion survey contracted by ADF&G and conducted by Responsive Management in 2009-2010 found a majority of Anchorage residents were tolerant of having black bears in the Anchorage area and nearly half were tolerant of having brown bears in the area.

The survey report can be found at [www.responsivemanagement.com/news\\_from/2010-03.htm](http://www.responsivemanagement.com/news_from/2010-03.htm). To help minimize human-bear conflicts, ADF&G founded the Anchorage Bear Committee, an interagency group, in 2001.



## What do I do if I see a bear in town?

ADF&G is interested in knowing where bears are active in town. Here is who to call, when:

- **Emergencies:** Always dial 911 immediately if human life is threatened by a bear. For other emergencies, call ADF&G (267-2257) during work hours (M-F 8 a.m.-5 p.m). After hours, call the Alaska State Trooper Dispatch (907-352-5401) or the Anchorage Police Department (786-8500).
- **Bear sighting in town:** ADF&G (267-2257) likes to know where bears are active and especially would like to know about brown bears in neighborhoods or on city trails and in parks.
- **Bear in trash:** Call ADF&G (267-2257) if a bear is getting into garbage or MOA code enforcement (343-4141) for a municipal trash violation. A person can be fined

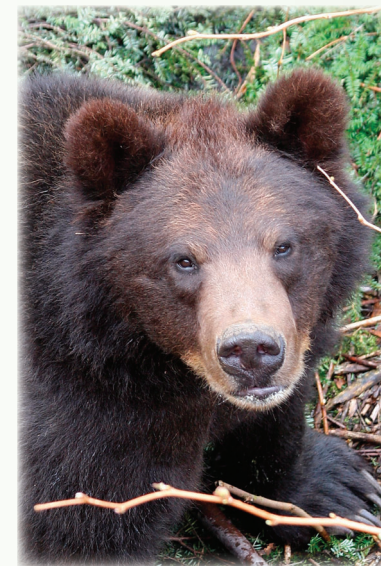


ADF&G Photo, Larry Lewis

if a bear gets into unsecured trash! Please talk to your neighbors about responsible trash storage.

## Living with Bears in Anchorage

Minimizing risks and co-existing with bears



ADF&G Photo, Phil Mooney

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Division of Wildlife Conservation  
and the Anchorage Bear Committee



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## Areas of Frequent Human-Bear Interactions in the Municipality of Anchorage



While much of Anchorage is considered bear country, some areas have a higher frequency of bear-human encounters. If you live or recreate in one of the red-shaded areas, it is especially important to be aware of bears and to minimize bear attractants so you don't invite bears near your home or into your neighborhood. Remember, bears are attracted to anything smelly and edible.

- 1 Eklutna
- 2 Chugiak
- 3 Eagle River
- 4 Eagle River Nature Center
- 5 South Fork Eagle River
- 6 Six Mile Creek
- 7 Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson/Bartlett H.S.
- 8 Moose Run Golf Course
- 9 Stuckagain Heights
- 10 Bicentennial Park/Campbell Tract/Rovers Run
- 11 Hillside
- 12 Oceanview/West Dimond
- 13 Kincaid Park
- 14 Turnagain Arm Trail
- 15 Rainbow Valley
- 16 Indian
- 17 Bird
- 18 Girdwood



ADF&G Photo, Rick Sinnott



John Gomes photo, Alaska Zoo

Bear-resistant garbage containers, like the one shown above being tested by Alaska Zoo bears, really do keep bears out! They are available for rent to Alaska Waste customers. Call Alaska Waste (563-3717) for rates and information.

## Safe Neighborhoods, Wild Bears:



### What YOU do really matters!

If we minimize bear attractants, bears won't frequent our homes looking for easy handouts like garbage.

**Garbage:** Secure garbage so bears can't get into it. Use a bear-resistant container or keep trash inside, in a reinforced shed, or in a garage. Don't put out trash until the morning of trash day. Remember, if a bear gets into unsecured trash, you can be fined \$310.

**Bird Seed:** Don't feed birds during active bear season (April 15 to October 31). Clean up spilled bird seed in the spring.

**BBQs and Smokers:** Clean BBQ grills thoroughly and remove the grease trap after grilling. If possible, store grills inside a garage or shed when not in use. Smoking fish can attract bears. Do not leave smokers unattended.

**Pets and Other Animals:** Install electric fences to keep bears out of animal pens, corrals, chicken coops, rabbit hutches and beehives. Store pet and livestock food where bears can't get into it.

**Fish:** If you clean your fish at home, keep all fish waste in a freezer until the morning of garbage pick-up. You can also take your fish waste immediately to the transfer station or landfill. Store fish nets, tackle and line indoors, in a garage, or otherwise secure from bears.

**Compost:** Compost can attract bears. Do not place fish or meat scraps in outdoor compost. Chop vegetables finely and if necessary, protect compost pile with an electric fence.