



# You are in Bear Country



Here's what you need to know.

## Bear Safety for Residents

### How can I keep bears out of my backyard?

- Keep garbage, recyclable bottles, cans and other attractants in bear-resistant, airtight containers.
- Maintain your compost to minimize odours, which can attract bears.
- Remove bird feeders from your yard between April and October. Be sure to clean up any spilled bird feed off the ground.
- Clean your barbecues. Scrub your barbecue clean after each use and store it in a bear-resistant building, such as the garage or shed.
- If you have fruit trees and berry bushes, pick ripened fruit as soon as possible.
- Never leave food out for wildlife.
- Call Fish and Wildlife for more advice by calling 310-0000.

### What should I teach my children about bear safety?

- Do not approach a bear or throw things at it. Never feed a bear.
- Never run away from a bear. Back away slowly and find a safe place, such as a building or vehicle.
- Speak to the bear in a soft, low voice. Let the bear know that you are human and not a prey animal.
- Stay with your group and back away from the bear together.
- As soon as you've reached a safe place, tell an adult that you've seen a bear.
- Stay away from areas that may attract bears, such as garbage bins, berry patches and along creeks and rivers.

For more information, visit the Sustainable Resource Development website at: [www.bearsmart.alberta.ca](http://www.bearsmart.alberta.ca)

### What should I do if I see a bear in my backyard?

- Do not panic. Do not run. Quickly and calmly collect your children and pets and go indoors.
- Notify your nearest Fish and Wildlife officer. Call 310-0000 or 1-800-624-3800 if it's after regular business hours.
- Once the bear has left the area, remove anything from your property that might attract a bear. Ask your neighbours to do the same. If food sources in the area remain available, the bear will likely return.

### BearSmart crossword puzzle

#### Across

**2** In years of berry failures, black bears may seek out human \_\_\_\_\_, and so using bear-resistant containers is important.

**4** If you encounter a bear, look around to make sure none of these are around, as a bear will always protect them.

**7** This bear has a hump between the shoulders.

**8** To reduce bear encounters, we must manage our garbage, because bears have an excellence sense of \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Down

**1** When hiking in bear country, keep your dog on its \_\_\_\_\_.

**3** Carrying and knowing how to use bear deterrents, such as noise makers and this item, can help prevent bear conflicts.

**5** A black bear's fall diet is mainly composed of this fruit.

**6** Bears are most active at dawn, dusk and at \_\_\_\_\_.

