

# If You See a Bear in Your Community



Remain calm

Stay away from the bear

The mere presence of a black bear does not necessarily represent a problem. The bear is most likely passing through and, if it doesn't find food, will simply move on.

Don't feed the bear

Bears usually avoid people but garbage or pet food left outside can easily draw bears to your home. Once bears get hooked on human food sources, they keep coming back. It is this access to household foods that can lead to dangerous situations for people, their property and the bears. These bears may have to be destroyed if the problem persists. You can avoid most problems with bears by removing smelly outdoor food sources that attract them. If possible, keep garbage and pet food indoors. Also, clean and store grills in secure areas.

If you have a close encounter

- Remain standing upright
- Avoid direct eye contact
- Back away slowly
- Speak in a calm, assertive, assuring voice
- Make sure the bear has an escape route
- Do not run from the bear

Bear safety tips

- Do not feed the bear
- Never approach the bear
- Leave the area if you are blocking a food source or travel corridor
- Keep your eyes on the bear
- If the bear is not aware of you, leave the area

If you experience bear problems, contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
For more information go to [MyFWC.com/bear](http://MyFWC.com/bear).

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is dedicated to reducing conflicts between people and bears in our communities.

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



Florida Fish and Wildlife  
Conservation Commission  
[MyFWC.com](http://MyFWC.com)