

# 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 non-natural 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.

## **IF YOU HAVE A CLOSE ENCOUNTER**

- 🐾 Remain standing upright
- 🐾 Avoid direct eye contact
- 🐾 Back up slowly and
- 🐾 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, please contact your nearest Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission office or go to [www.myfwc.com/bear](http://www.myfwc.com/bear)

Be Bear Aware is an interagency education campaign designed to prevent and reduce conflicts between people and bears in our communities.

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