

BEAR SEASON IS HERE – KEEP YOUR COMMUNITY SAFE



EVERY SPRING, NEW JERSEY'S BLACK BEAR POPULATION BECOMES MORE ACTIVE. BEARS ARE OPPORTUNISTIC FEEDERS – IF FOOD IS EASY TO FIND NEAR YOUR HOME, THEY WILL KEEP COMING BACK. A FED BEAR IS A DANGEROUS BEAR. HERE'S HOW TO PROTECT YOUR HOME AND FAMILY.

SECURE YOUR GARBAGE

- Use bear-resistant trash cans or keep bins stored in a garage or shed until collection morning
- Double-bag food waste to reduce odors
- Never leave garbage out overnight
- Clean trash cans regularly with bleach to eliminate smells

AROUND YOUR HOME

- Remove bird feeders from late March through November – they are one of the top attractants
- Clean your grill after every use and store it in a closed space
- Do not leave pet food or water bowls outside
- Pick up fallen fruit from trees in your yard
- Keep compost in a sealed, bear-resistant container

IF YOU SEE A BEAR

- Stay calm – do not run
- Make yourself look large and make loud noises to scare it off
- Back away slowly and go indoors
- Never approach, feed, or corner a bear
- Keep children and pets inside

For more information, visit:
dep.nj.gov/njfw/bears/



REPORT A BEAR INCIDENT

If a bear poses an immediate threat to human safety, call 9-1-1 For non-emergency bear sightings or complaints, contact the NJDEP Division of Fish & Wildlife at 1-877-WARN DEP (1-877-927-6337)



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