

Knowledge is the best way to avoid problems...

Become bear aware!

As many Gardnerville residents have found out, bears are opportunistic and will eat anything that is available, including garbage.

Why? Drought conditions have limited the quantity and quality of natural food sources, leading bears to seek food elsewhere—like our backyards. The black bear's amazing sense of smell allows them to find food that humans consider out of reach.

Here is what you can do to keep you, and Nevada's bears, out of harm's way:

Never approach a bear, or any other wild animal.

Use removable bird feeders for temporary placement.

Keep pet food indoors.

Keep a close watch on children while they are outdoors, and teach them what to do if they encounter a bear.

Use bear-proof garbage containers available through commercial dealers. Dumpsters with lockable metal lids work well, as do fencing enclosures made of chain link or 2x4 framing.

Spray or pour ammonia in and around garbage cans, and avoid placing aromatic food waste, such as bacon grease or spoiled foods, in garbage cans.

Wait until the morning of pick-up before placing garbage out.

Clean barbeque grills after use.

Use electric fencing combined with a tall metal or wooden fence to protect orchards, fish ponds, beehives, compost piles, and livestock.

Don't feed wildlife. The feeding of any wildlife, including birds, may inadvertently attract bears.

Constant harassment with scare devices, loud noises, or dogs will sometimes work.

When people are irresponsible with their food and garbage, bears can wind up in trouble. Bears naturally fear humans, but if they have access to human food sources they become addicted, lose their natural fear of humans, can even become aggressive, and they could get killed.



Feel threatened by a bear? Dial 911 in an emergency. Otherwise call the Nevada Department of Wildlife dispatch at (775) 688-1331.

Want more information? Visit www.ndow.org.



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ARE YOU BEAR AWARE?



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