

# WHAT TO DO IF YOU ENCOUNTER A BEAR

IT IS NORMAL TO BE FRIGHTENED WHEN YOU SEE A BEAR. HOWEVER, IT IS RARE THAT BEAR ENCOUNTERS BECOME AGGRESSIVE OR DANGEROUS. BELOW IS A QUICK LIST OF INFORMED BEHAVIOURS TO AVOID CONFLICT WITH BEARS.



## AT A DISTANCE

back away and take an alternative route

## UP CLOSE

Stay calm, talk to the bear calmly and slowly back away  
(do not run)

Show that you are not a threat, ensure the bear has an exit route

## AT YOUR HOME



If a bear is hanging around your home, from a safe place (a deck or window) use a firm tone tell the bear to leave (be persistent).

If the bear is attracted to a food source at your property, in a firm loud voice encourage the bear to move on. Remove the food source before the bear can get to it only if it is safe to do so (such as closing a door or window). Never put yourself in close proximity to the bear.



## SURPRISE ENCOUNTERS

If you surprise a bear it may feel threatened and act defensively. If a black bear bluff charges you and stops, give it plenty of space and slowly back away facing the bear. Talk calmly and get your bear spray ready. If attacked, play dead by laying on the ground on your stomach with your hands over your neck. Let the bear know you are not a threat. Stay down until you are sure the bear has left.

## AGGRESSIVE BEARS

If a bear stalks you, advances directly towards you or circles you, react aggressively by making loud noises and making yourself look big. If necessary, throw rocks at the bear or use bear spray. If the bear attacks, fight back.

## DID YOU KNOW?

If the bear stands on its hind legs it is curious and trying to get a better look and sniff out a safe exit.

If you live in bear country, the odds of being attacked are extremely rare. The vast majority of human-bear interactions do not result in human injury.

