Be Bear Aware

Black bears are increasing in numbers and being seen more frequently in Connecticut. They are rarely aggressive towards humans but can create a variety of problems. In particular, bears that are fed – either intentionally or accidentally – can become habituated and lose their fear of humans. Connecticut residents must take steps to avoid problems with bears. Birdfeeders, garbage, pet food, and compost attract bears close to houses and people, and should be made unavailable to bears.

Black Bear
Do's and Don'ts

Bears Near Your Home

DO remove bird feeders and bird food from late March through November.

DO eliminate food attractants by placing garbage cans inside a garage or shed. Add ammonia to trash to make it unpalatable.

DO clean and store grills in a garage or shed after use.

DON'T intentionally feed bears. Bears that become accustomed to finding food near your home may become "problem" bears.

DON'T approach or try to get closer to a bear to get a photo or video.

DON'T leave pet food outside overnight.

DON'T add meat or sweets to a compost pile.

Bears When Hiking or Camping

DO make your presence known by making noise and waving your arms if you see a bear while hiking.

DO keep dogs on a leash and under control. A roaming dog might be perceived as a threat to a bear or its cubs.

DO back away slowly if you surprise a bear nearby.

DON'T cook food near your tent or store food inside your tent. Instead, keep food in a secure vehicle or use rope to suspend it between two trees.

DON'T run or climb a tree. If possible, wait in a vehicle or building until the bear leaves the area.

Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection

Bureau of Natural Resources Wildlife Division

Report

bear sightings to the DEEP at 860-424-3011 or online at www.ct.gov/deep/blackbear