

What About Relocation?

Over the years, wildlife agencies around the country have tried to solve bear/human conflicts by capturing and moving “problem bears” to other locations. Almost always, without exception, the relocated bears suffers one of three fates: 1) it returns to the place where it was captured (and resumes its problem behaviors); 2) it remains in its new location, continuing the problem behaviors; or 3) it dies in its new location as a result of conflicts with other bears. People who live in, or visit, bear habitat have a responsibility to the wildlife whose habitat they are sharing. More communities are adopting a zero-tolerance policy toward people who feed bears and other wildlife. In some places, people are being cited for failing to properly store food and garbage.



The best way to avoid conflict with bears is to prevent it

Remember, locking your trash bin is the first line of safety and deterrence!

Reporting a Problem

Contact: Morongo Reservation Patrol

951-634-4827 or 951-634-4810

When reporting a bear incident, please note, as best as possible, any bear identifying characteristics (size, weight, other identifiable markings, etc.) so as to identify and track bear.



**Resource Conservation Program
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**MORONGO ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION DEPARTMENT**

Resource Conservation Program

Be Bear Aware: Bear Facts 101



Telephone: 951-755-5128

Bear Facts

California has a large population of black bears (*Ursus americanus*), estimated at 16,000 to 24,000 animals. Black bears range in color from black to cinnamon, often with a white blaze on the chest. Males are much larger than females. On average, a black bear is about 3.5 feet tall (standing on all four feet) and weighs about 200 lbs., but some males can weigh over 500 lbs. Black



bears are strong swimmers and tree climbers. Although they have a clumsy walk, they are surprisingly fast sprinters, reaching speeds of up to 30 miles per hour. In the wild, black bears occupy forests and wooded mountains. They are omnivorous, meaning they eat both meat and vegetation. They eat whatever is available, depending on the season. A typical diet consists of berries, plants, nuts, roots, fruit, honey, honeycombs, bees, insects, and larvae. Bears also catch and eat fish and small mammals, and will eat carrion (dead animals).

Keep Wildlife Wild

Allowing wild animals access to human food and garbage can be deadly. Wild animals naturally fear people, keep a distance, and will not bother you, so long as they remain truly wild. But if they have access to human food and garbage, they want more. Their natural ways are ruined. Their normal wildness and fear of humans is lost. That's when conflict occurs. These animals are powerful. If they are addicted to human food sources, they may cause severe damage and threaten humans.

Stash Your Food and Trash

Allowing wild animals access to human food and garbage is reckless and deadly.

Bears and other animals are attracted to anything edible and smelly.

- Store garbage in bear-proof containers, or store garbage in your garage until pick-up
- Keep food indoors or in air-tight and odor-free containers.
- Put away picnic leftovers; clean BBQ grills
- Keep pet food inside and bird feeders away
- Pick up fallen tree fruit as soon as possible, or protect fruit tree with electric fencing
- Remove cosmetic fragrances and other attractants, including bird feeders and compost piles.



Bear Foot Print: Taken on road into Millard Canyon. Bear was eastbound.

If You Encounter a Bear

Never approach a bear. Give it plenty of room to pass by. Most black bears try to avoid confrontation when given a chance.

Do not run from a bear. Running away from a black bear may stimulate its instinct to chase. You cannot outrun a bear. Instead, stand and face the animal. Make eye contact without staring. If you have small children with you, pick them up so that they do not run or panic. Give the bear room so that it can avoid you.

If a Black Bear Approaches

Try to demonstrate to the bear that you may be a danger to it. Make yourself appear larger, stand up, raise your arms and open your jacket. Yell at the bear. Create a general commotion.

If a Black Bear Attacks

Black bear behavior is quite variable. Research indicates that bear attacks have been avoided or injuries reduced when the victims fought back using any means available.

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