

# AVOIDING BLACK BEAR ENCOUNTERS



## AVOIDING BEARS WHEN CAMPING, HIKING OR WALKING

Bear attacks are very uncommon and bears rarely become aggressive when encountered. However, it's best to avoid bears by following these simple steps, and to know what to do if an encounter happens.

### While hiking or walking

- Be aware of your surroundings
- Hike in groups and stay together
- Keep kids within sight
- Keep dogs on a leash or leave them home
- Make noise in thick cover
- Carry bear pepper spray



### While camping

- Do not store food in your tent
- Cook 100 yards from your tent
- Clean cooking area thoroughly
- Don't sleep in clothes you cooked in
- Store food, trash, lotions, toothpaste, and deodorant in:
  - vehicle with windows closed
  - a bear-proof container
  - or suspended in a tree 100 yards from sleeping area



If you have an issue with a bear and need assistance, contact the Warden Service dispatch center closest to you.

Augusta	1.800.452.4664
Dover-Foxcroft	1.800.432.7327
Gray	1.800.228.0857
Houlton	1.800.924.2261
Bangor	1.800.432.7381



## IF YOU ENCOUNTER A BEAR



### In the woods

- Do not approach the bear
- Quietly back away and leave the area



### In a building, dumpster or around the corner

- Give the bear a clear escape route (do not corner it)
- Leave any doors open as you back away from the bear
- Do not lock the bear in a room



### In your backyard

- From a safe distance, make loud noises, shout, or bang pots and pans together (to scare the bear)
- When the bear leaves, remove potential attractants such as garbage, bird seed, or pet food
- Ask neighbors to remove attractants



## IF A BEAR BECOMES AGGRESSIVE AND...



### Approaches you

- Make yourself look bigger by raising your arms
- Repeat "Hey bear" while backing away



### Follows you

- Stay together
- Do not run, but continue to back away

### Continues to follow you

- Stand your ground, stay together
- Intimidate by making yourself look bigger and making noise (wave arms, shout, clap, bang stick)
- Prepare to fight or use bear pepper spray



### Charges you

- Stand your ground
- Remain calm
- If you have bear pepper spray, dispense in circular motion



### Makes contact with you

- Fight back with anything at hand (knife, sticks, rocks, binoculars, backpack or by kicking)