



Bear Response Program



The **Northern Rockies Regional Municipality** has initiated a partnership with the **British Columbia Conservation Officer Service** to increase the capacity of the service in Fort Nelson for a period of 6 months beginning August 1st, 2009.

The Conservation Officers will continue to react to Bear Complaints according to standard protocols, but will also focus on awareness and ways to avoid attracting bears in the first place.

In an effort to reduce the potential of bear encounters, the NRRM recently adopted an “*Garbage Disposal and Wildlife Attractants Bylaw No. 05, 2009*”. It can be found online at www.NorthernRockies.ca. Copies are also available at the Municipal Offices of the NRRM at 5319 50th Avenue South.

Residents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with this bylaw. Bylaw enforcement officers will also be more vigilant during this time of year, focusing on education and awareness and issuing tickets if necessary. If you see a bylaw infraction, please call the NRRM at 250-774-2541 or submit an action request online at www.NorthernRockies.ca.

---Resident’s Bear Response Checklist---

Step 1: Bear-proof your home...*Reduce Attractants*

Garbage

- Keep Garbage in the house, garage, or shed until pick-up day
- Keep garbage bin lids closed, screen bins with fencing.

Fruit Trees

- Pick ripe fruit and fallen fruit daily.
- Remove unused fruit trees.

Barbeque

- Burn off the grill after each use
- Store covered in a secure area

Bird Food

- Use birdfeeders only in winter
- Keep ground free of seeds

Pet Food

- Bring pet dishes inside; clean up any spillage
- Store pet food indoors

Step 2: If you see a bear...*Remain Calm*

- Remain calm; don’t panic. Often the bear is simply looking for food and will move on if it finds nothing to eat
- Keep your distance, go inside, bring children and pets indoors.
- Never approach the bear and do not run from the bear. Do not act submissively by crouching down or whispering.
- Warn others of the bear’s presence, but don’t do it by yelling

- If the bear climbs a tree, keep people and pets away. Eventually when things quiet down, the bear will come down and leave. This usually happens after dark when the bear feels safe. Once the bear is safely out of the area, check your yard to ensure there are no attractants available.

Step 3: If the bear is threatening, persistent or aggressive...*CALL!*

- Call the Conservation Officer Service at **1-877-952-RAPP (7277)** or the RCMP at (250) 774-2777

www.bearaware.bc.ca