



Safety Bulletin

Bear Encounters

The City of Kingsport is located in a region that is a natural habitat for black bears. It is perfectly normal for bears to pass through residential neighborhoods. They may even linger in an area for a day or two. **Black bears are curious.** They spend a great deal of time exploring for food, and this can bring them close to humans. **Black bears are intelligent.** They learn from experience. If an activity results in food, they will repeat that activity. If an encounter with a human doesn't result in a food, they will not have any reason to have contact with humans. **Feeding Bears Creates "Bad" Bears.** When bears learn to obtain food from humans, they can become bold and aggressive.



BEAR SAFETY TIPS

- Don't feed bears (even by accident).
- Bears will eat out of gardens and bird feeders.
- Do not leave pet food out.
- Securely store garbage.
- Use caution when grilling. Keep it clean when not in use.
- Don't approach bears and don't chase bears.
- If a bear approaches you, slowly back away and go inside.
- If you see a bear cub, assume the mother is nearby.
- Do not allow pets to chase or antagonize bears.

If you see a bear, you may call the Kingsport Police Department. The responding officer will most likely just monitor the bear's location and direction of travel. The bear will not be removed unless they feel it is becoming a nuisance or a dangerous threat to public safety. For more information on bear safety, you may also call Bays Mountain Park or the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

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| • Kingsport Police Department Dispatch | 246-9111 or 911 |
| • K.P.D. Community Relations | 229-9433 |
| • Bays Mountain Park | 229-9447 |
| • Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency | 800-332-0900 |

