



April 30, 2024

A Message from the Conservation Officer Service

The Conservation Officer Service has seen an increase in the number of human-wildlife conflicts with bears in many communities. The COS recognizes bear activity can cause concern to area residents.

Garbage continues to be a significant cause of human-wildlife conflict. The sad reality is, when people do not take precautions to properly secure attractants – such as garbage, pet food and bird seed – it can lead to bears being put down in order to keep people safe.

Everyone has a role to play to help keep wildlife wild. Securing your garbage is the best way to keep people, and bears, safe.

Conservation Officers recommend residents take steps to help prevent bear conflicts, including:

- Securing garbage and compost indoors until collection day;
- Securing outdoor freezers, as well as pet food, to prevent bears and other wildlife from accessing them;
- Ensuring barbecues are clean to prevent odours from attracting bears, and
- Ensuring fruit is removed from trees and the ground.

The COS is continuing to monitor bear activity in the area and will respond as necessary to ensure public safety. We ask residents to familiarize themselves with precautions in case of wildlife encounters, such as leashing pets and never approaching bears. For more tips and resources on preventing wildlife conflicts, please visit WildSafeBC.com

Reports of bear conflicts and aggressive bear behaviour can be made to the Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) hotline at 1-877-952-7277.