



## MONTANE RESIDENTS: BEARPROOFING SAVES BEARS

October 2021

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) has received reports of bear activity in the area. Most of the reports CPW receives annually involve bears getting into bird feeders and trash, as well as entering open garages. These calls can be a weekly occurrence, with the peak of calls typically coming on and around trash pickup day.

During fall, bears enter hyperphagia where they increase their feeding activity and become more active as they try to consume massive amounts of calories to fatten up before winter. The communities west of C470, are located in excellent bear habitat. CPW expects bears to occupy the habitat in and around your community. Bears will likely visit your property. However, if human food sources were minimized, bears would likely move through the area and retain their natural instincts for finding wild food with little human conflict or interaction.

Unfortunately, bears can easily become habituated to human-provided food, bird feeders, and trash, and they can become bolder in their interactions with people as a result. Habituated bears that grow accustomed to humans can pose a risk to public safety which creates conflicts for you and can often lead to the destruction of bears that have been allowed access to human-related food sources.

CPW is asking residents to take an active role in keeping themselves, their neighbors, their property, and bears safe. This can be achieved by bear proofing your homes, living responsibly in bear country, and encouraging your neighbors to do the same. The protection of people and bears in your community rests largely upon you. CPW encourages citizens to:

- Remove all birdfeeders (hummingbird, suet and seed) from April through November. If you want to attract birds, try using native gardens, flower pots, bird baths and nest boxes. Information on native gardens can be found at:  
<https://extension.colostate.edu/docs/pubs/native/FrontRange.pdf>
- Put trash out only on the morning of pickup. Do NOT leave trash out overnight. Learn more about bearproofing your home and download the fact sheet “Bearproofing your trash” from:  
<https://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/LivingwithWildlifeBears2.aspx>
- Haze bears away from your property using noisemakers, such as yelling or banging pots and pans from a safe distance, or activating your car alarm.
- Keep garage doors closed when not in use.
- Close and lock all ground level windows and doors to prevent easy access to the home interior.
- Clean yards daily of fallen fruit.

Thank you for helping to protect bears. Please visit the above CPW website or call Colorado Parks and Wildlife at 303-291-7227 for more information.

What should you do if wildlife gets too close to you and you get scared?

# Be S.M.A.R.T.!

Colorado is home to many incredible wildlife species. As people and wildlife continue to share space, there is a chance that you, or a family member, will have a close encounter with one of Colorado's predators. Please take the time to speak with your children, and other loved ones, about being S.M.A.R.T.:

**S**



**STOP!** Do not run! If you run, the animal may chase.

**M**



**MAKE yourself look big!** Put your hands over your head or pull your jacket up over your head. Look as big as you can so the animal knows that you are too tough to mess with.

**A**



**ANNOUNCE firmly "Leave me Alone!"** This lets the animal know you are a person and it lets people around you know that you may be in trouble.

**R**



**RETREAT by backing away slowly.** Do not turn your back to the animal.

**T**



**TELL an adult about your encounter.**

If you are attacked- fight back! People have successfully fought off predators with rocks, sticks and even their bare hands. Kick, punch, poke, bite- do whatever it takes to win!



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[cpw.state.co.us](http://cpw.state.co.us)