



Dear West Kelowna Resident,

RE: BEARS IN AREA ALERT

Multiple confirmed black bear* sightings, including a sow with young cubs, have been reported in the Rose Valley neighbourhood. These bears are seeking easy food sources in unsecured garbage containers and other unnatural food sources, which, if not prevented, can create human-bear conflicts.

We wanted to alert you to this situation to encourage you and your neighbours to secure all attractants that may lead to conflict with these bears. If the bears do not find food, they will move on and your neighbourhood and the bears themselves will be safer as a result.

Under Section 2.2.3 of the City of West Kelowna's Solid Waste Management Bylaw 0065, you must only put out garbage, yard waste and recyclables between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on the day of collection.

Please follow WildSafeBC's **TOP 10 Ways to Help Wildlife** and make our community safer:

1. **Secure garbage.** Store it indoors or in a bear-resistant enclosure.
2. **Never the night before.** Only put out your garbage/yard waste/recyclables on collection day.
3. **Manage fruit trees.** Pick fruit as it ripens and do not let windfall accumulate.
4. **Bring in bird feeders.** This is important from April through November when bears are active and birds have enough natural food sources. If out in winter, ensure to keep ground underneath free of seeds.
5. **Feed pets indoors.** Pet food is an attractant for wildlife and unwanted pests.
6. **Maintain your compost.** Prevent it from smelling by ensuring a good nutrient mix by including grasses and leaves. Add fruit slowly and mix in well. Never add meat or animal products.
7. **Electrify your property.** Properly install and maintain an electric fence around fruit trees, beehives and small livestock.
8. **Never feed wildlife.** Feeding wildlife can cause food conditioning, and lead to human-wildlife conflicts.
9. **Clean barbecues.** Ensure grills are free of food remnants and odors.
10. **Report wildlife conflicts and bear sightings.** Call the Conservation Officer Service 24/7 at 1.877.952.7277. Reports are uploaded daily to WildSafeBC's Wildlife Alert Reporting Program (WARP) and are available free at www.wildsafebc.com/warp.

When enjoying our wilderness interface parks and trails:

1. **Never go alone.** Hike or mountain bike in small, socially distanced groups.
2. **Keep dogs on leash.**
3. **Make noise.** This will alert bears to your presence to avoid surprise encounters.
4. **Carry bear spray.** For info on how to use it visit <https://wildsafebc.com/bear-spray/>

For more information on reducing human-wildlife conflicts visit www.wildsafebc.com, follow WildSafeBC Okanagan Westside on Facebook, or contact local WildSafeBC Community Coordinator, Meg Bjordal at okwestside@wildsafebc.com.

**Some bears spotted have a reddish-brown coat color known as 'cinnamon phase'; but they are in fact black bears (Ursus americanus) and are an essential part of the thriving British Columbia ecosystem.*

