

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFETY

Black Bear Safety in Carson City, NV

Carson City is currently experiencing increased black bear activity. The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) has confirmed reports of black bears entering unsecured trash containers and other food sources in Carson City. Black Bears have entered their seasonal “hyperphagia” stage, a period when bears eat up to 25,000 calories a day to prepare for winter hibernation. Tahoe Basin bears may also travel into the city in late summer and fall to forage for food.

Once a bear is rewarded with food, it is likely to return to the same location to feed. Unsecured garbage, pet food, birdseed, coolers, and fallen fruit can make bears dependent on human food, increasing the risk of dangerous encounters. Bears may even train their cubs to forage for food in trash. Consuming human food may shorten a bear’s hibernation cycle and ultimately their life span. NDOW warns that bears may become too comfortable around people, leading to conflicts that could require bear removal. Securing attractants is the only long-term solution.

Local Ordinance

Carson City’s bear-resistant trash ordinance makes it unlawful to allow bears access to garbage or to intentionally feed bears. NDOW urges residents to secure all food sources and comply with the city’s bear-resistant trash ordinance to prevent conflicts. Repeated violations can require residents to install certified bear-resistant containers, and continued violations may result in fines. **Waste Management and Douglas Disposal** offer bear-resistant garbage cans that can be left out. Residents can request one by calling (775) 329-8822 or (775) 343-7596 for Carson City, or (775) 782-5713 for Douglas Disposal.

Key Actions to Reduce Bear Conflicts and Keep Our Bears Wild

- Use bear-resistant trash containers whenever possible.
- Keep trash can lids closed and latched.
- Store garbage in a secure garage or enclosure until pickup.
- Put trash out the morning of collection, not the night before.
- Rinse and clean cans to reduce odors.
- Remove other attractants: pet food, birdseed, fallen fruit, and unsecured coolers.
- Remove food, coolers, trash and other scented items from vehicles, and keep vehicle doors and windows closed and locked.
- Never feed bears! This is illegal in Carson City.

Bottom line: In Carson City, black bear safety depends on eliminating human food attractants and following the city’s trash ordinance. This protects both people and bears and is a year-round responsibility. Living in bear country is unique and requires residents to take extra precautions. It is also a year-round responsibility!

BLACK BEARS ON CAMPUS

What to Do if You See a Bear on Campus



- **Stay calm and safe:** Do not approach or feed the bear.
- **Never get between** a Mama bear and her cubs.
- **Back away slowly** without turning your back.
- **Make yourself visible** and, if necessary, use loud noises or a loud object to deter the bear.

Report WNC Bear Sightings To:
Campus Police (775) 230-1952
Facilities 24-HR (775) 580-4983

RESOURCES:

[Living With Bears - Nevada Wildlife](http://www.ndow.org/blog/living-with-bears/)
(www.ndow.org/blog/living-with-bears/)

Call 775-688-2327 to report bear incidents to NDOW

CONTACT:

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