



Guide to Black Bear Hazing

BEFORE attempting to “haze” (or scare) a bear, consider whether the bear is a good candidate for hazing. To be a good candidate for hazing, a bear needs to have a safe, clear path away from people and roads. A bear feeding on natural foods in suitable habitat does not need to be hazed.

Hazing a black bear can reinforce its natural fear of people and help keep it from lingering in neighborhoods and other areas where it is not welcome. Effectively hazing a black bear also reinforces the person as dominant in an encounter, so the bear learns to avoid people.

Remember – “scaring is caring!”

DO NOT ATTEMPT TO HAZE A BEAR IF IT IS:

- Near a road or could run toward people or traffic
- Up a tree or running away
- A cub (may result in injury to the cub), or
- A female bear with cubs (may result in defensive behavior from the mother bear)

DO NOT attempt to scare a bear and CONTACT CDFW if the bear is:

- Highly agitated, emaciated or wounded, or
- Strongly associating people with food (actively approaching people)

BEFORE YOU START TO SCARE A BEAR, MAKE SURE YOU:

DO NOT proceed if the situation is unsafe for people or bears (crowd of bystanders or busy roads nearby).

DO put yourself in a safe location, such as in/near your doorway or window, car, or other sturdy structure.

DO clearly identify that the bear has a safe and visible escape route.

DO NOT try to take a food item away from a bear – only attempt to retrieve it after the bear has left

IF YOU USE A NON-CONTACT METHOD TO SCARE A BEAR:

DO make loud noises (examples: yell, clap, bang pots & pans, deploy air horn or car horn, inflate/shake an empty trash bag, open/close an umbrella).

DO show your dominance by:

- Holding your ground at a safe distance.
- Looking the bear in the eyes.
- Raising your arms above your head to look larger.

NEVER leave your safe location to pursue or chase the bear.

IF YOU USE A CONTACT METHOD TO SCARE A BEAR:

DO throw objects towards the bear, not at the bear (examples: rocks, tennis balls, spraying with a hose)

DO NOT aim toward the bear’s face, as this can result in permanent injury.

REMEMBER small projectiles are effective at 5 to 15 yards.

STOP as soon as the bear runs for cover, away from the area, or climbs a tree.

NEVER leave your safe location to pursue or chase the bear.

AFTER YOU HAVE SCARED THE BEAR:

Remove attractants – conduct a “yard audit” around your home by looking for what attractants (trash cans, pet food, bird seed, fruit trees, chicken coops, beehives, etc.) may have caused the bear to visit your property. Remove these attractants entirely or prevent access to them to make your property more bear-resistant. Consider installing passive hazing deterrents in more bear-active areas of your property, such as: motion-detecting strobe lights or alarms, Unwelcome Mats, electric fencing, or ammonia-soaked rags/sponges. Visit [Keep Me Wild](#) and [Bear Wise](#) for more information.