

HOLDEN POLICE DEPARTMENT ALERT: BLACK BEARS

As in past spring and fall seasons, the Holden Police Department has recently received a few reports of black bear sightings in local neighborhoods as well as outlying rural areas.

Sightings have been reported near the northern sections of Wachusett Street including Mason Road and Wood Street, and also in the area of Quinapoxet Street, Slipper Hill Lane, Tannery Drive, Cimarron Lane, Fort Sumter Drive, Forest Drive, and the Highland Street end of Nola Drive.

Black bears are generally non-aggressive, but it can be disconcerting to have one near your home. Please follow some common sense guidelines to prevent them from wandering close to houses, such as keeping pets indoors and/or under your control, not feeding pets outside, temporarily bringing in bird feeders, and keeping trash containers indoors. They are also attracted to fresh garbage on compost piles, so you may need to suspend composting for the time being.

Bears who come out into our neighborhoods generally wander back into the woods on their own if left alone. Do not attempt to chase, frighten, or tease them. If you feel a bear is creating a public safety hazard, please call the Holden Police Department at (508)829-4444.

For some excellent information and suggestions about living with our bear population, check the Mass Wildlife website for the following article as well as other pages they have published about bears in Massachusetts:

http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/wildlife/living/living_with_bears.htm