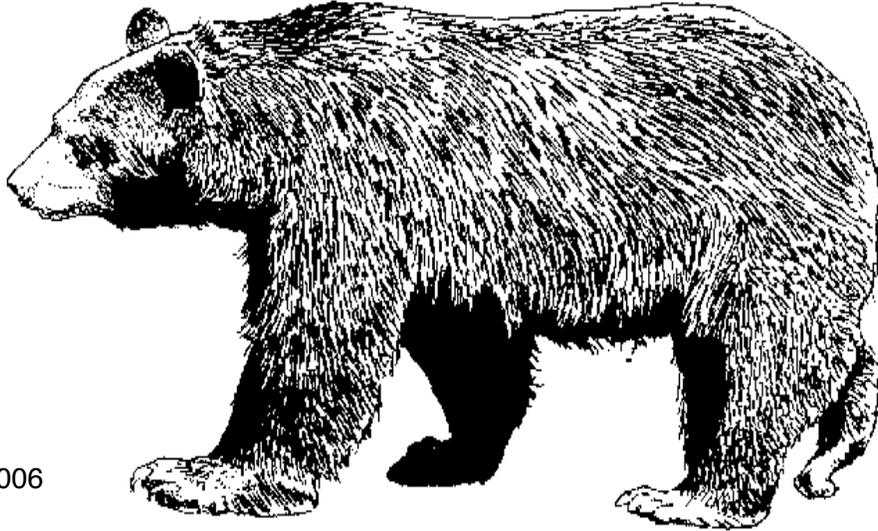


# Altadena Foothills

# BEAR ALERT !!!



September 2006

Wildlife (including deer, cougars, and *bears*) frequently travel down local canyons and streambeds from higher elevations into the Altadena foothills seeking water and to forage in nearby chaparral and oak woodland.

## Black bears visit our neighborhood!

Black bears in this area have raided bee hives, stolen food out of garbage cans, and cooled off in our ponds. While black bears are generally non-confrontational and unlikely to attack without provocation, they are also large, powerful, and unpredictable. Be aware of your surroundings and assume a bear might be nearby, especially at night. If a bear is observed, do not approach it or attempt to block its escape routes. It is essential that bears remain wild and afraid of humans. If a bear appears, make a noisy commotion, blast an air horn or car horn, direct bright headlights at the bear, turn a high power water stream on the bear, etc. Some neighbors have "shot" bears with paint ball guns (conveniently marking the animal with non-toxic paint that has a laxative effect when licked off by the bear). The intent is not to injure a bear, but to frighten it away from people and property or at least make remaining in the vicinity unpleasant for the bear.

## 🍴 A fed bear is a dead bear! 🍴

The California Dept. of Fish & Game no longer relocates problem bears. If a bear poses a public threat or becomes a chronic, destructive nuisance, it will be killed. Your actions affect a bear's survival. Please...

- Secure garbage cans indoors (inside your house, garage, or a *sturdy* shed)
- Do not put trash out until the morning it will be picked up
- Separate food garbage from other trash and double or triple bag it to reduce tantalizing odors
- Freeze bones and smelly food waste until pick up day, then dispose of it in a sealed bag
- Do not leave food on a window sill or a kitchen counter below an open window, especially at night
- Keep BBQ grills clean and free of meat residues and do not leave food unattended on patio tables
- Keep all pet food away from areas the bear might be able to access
- Safeguard small domestic animals, such as chickens, rabbits, guinea pigs, and box turtles
- Pick up fallen and ripe fruits and vegetables that might attract the bear
- Close patio doors and windows on accessible ground floors and decks at night (screens are not secure!)
- Until the bear leaves our area, stop disposing of fresh table scraps on compost piles or in compost bins
- Do not encourage dogs to attack a bear, they'll be injured or killed and might enrage an otherwise peaceful bear
- Never deliberately feed a bear!

∞ Help keep all of us, including black bears, safe!