



# Police Department New Providence, New Jersey



**Anthony D. Buccelli, Jr.**  
*Chief of Police*  
*FBI NA Session 194*

**Justine Kennedy**  
*Lieutenant of Patrol*

**Wayne Maurer**  
*Captain*

**Theresa Gazaway**  
*Administrative Lieutenant*

## Press Release

There have been numerous black bear sightings throughout the Borough this past week, mainly on the East side of town. Sighting locations include Livingston Ave, Overhill Road, Delwick Lane and Central Avenue. Residents are advised to follow the steps outlined below if they spot a bear.

If you believe an encounter places a life in immediate danger, please call 911. If not, you should call the non-emergency police line at **(908) 665-1111** to report a bear.

Black bears by nature tend to be wary of people. However, if you encounter a black bear in your neighborhood or outdoors, follow these common-sense safety tips.

- Never feed or approach a bear!
- Remain calm if you encounter a bear. Do not run from it.
- Make the bear aware of your presence by speaking in an assertive voice, singing, clapping your hands, or making other noises.
- Make sure the bear has an escape route.
- If a bear enters your home, provide it with an escape route by propping all doors open.
- Avoid direct eye contact, which may be perceived by a bear as a challenge. Never run from a bear. Instead, slowly back away.
- To scare the bear away, make loud noises by yelling, banging pots and pans or using an airhorn. Make yourself look as big as possible by waving your arms. If you are with someone else, stand close together with your arms raised above your head.
- The bear may utter a series of huffs, make popping jaw sounds by snapping its jaws and swat the ground. These are warning signs that you are too close. Slowly back away, avoid direct eye contact and do not run.
- If a bear stands on its hind legs or moves closer, it may be trying to get a better view or detect scents in the air. It is usually not a threatening behavior.
- Black bears will sometimes "bluff charge" when cornered, threatened or attempting to steal food. Stand your ground, avoid direct eye contact, then slowly back away and do not run.
- If the bear does not leave, move to a secure area.
- Report black bear damage or nuisance behavior to the DEP's 24-hour, toll-free hotline at 1-877-WARN DEP (1-877-927-6337).



360 Elkwood Avenue • New Providence • New Jersey • 07974  
908-665-1111 • 908-665-9873 (fax)

- Families who live in areas frequented by black bears should have a "Bear Plan" in place for children, with an escape route and planned use of whistles and air horns.
- Black bear attacks are extremely rare. If a black bear does attack, fight back!

Click here to listen to a DEP podcast which focuses on bear safety in New Jersey, and it can be found at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/podcast/>.