



# Bearproofing Your Home

## Help Keep Bears Wild

### **Please Help Keep Bears and Other Wild Animals Safe!**

Reduce conflicts with bears by using these tips from *The California Department of Fish and Wildlife* to help protect your home and property. Most animals naturally fear humans and will not bother you. Access to food encourages unwelcomed behavior and can result in property damage, threat to human safety, and potential death of the animal.

### **PROPERLY STORE FOOD & TRASH**

- ◆ Install or request bear-resistant garbage cans
- ◆ Freeze wet and smelly food (meat, bones, fish) until pick-up
- ◆ Store garbage cans in garage and wait to put trash out until the morning of collection day
- ◆ Keep garbage cans clean

### **REMOVE ATTRACTANTS**

- ◆ Harvest ripe fruit from trees and remove fallen fruit from the ground.
- ◆ Only use outside bird feeders from November through March
- ◆ Hang birdfeeders so they are inaccessible and attached to sturdy posts or trees.
- ◆ Clean barbecue grills after each use.
- ◆ Keep pets, pet food, and water indoors.
- ◆ Do not leave groceries, trash, animal feed or other attractants in your vehicle.
- ◆ Keep doors, windows, and garages closed and locked; scents can lure bears.
- ◆ Do not leave scented items outside: candles, bug repellent, sun tan lotion, etc.

### **IF YOU ENCOUNTER A BEAR**

- ◆ **DO NOT** run from or approach a bear.
- ◆ **DO** scare the bear away! Once a safe distance away, make lots of loud noise such as banging pots and try to appear as large as possible.
- ◆ Remove yourself from danger and call 911 once safe.

### **KEEP ME WILD - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

*The California Department of Fish and Wildlife* "Keep Me Wild" web page provides additional information about bears, wildlife, recommendations, brochures, etc. <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/keepmewild/bear.html>