

Bear Alert Procedures for Mountain Meadows

A. Daily Procedures:

1. Hallway Exterior Doors unlocked between 8:00-9:15am; 10:20-10:50am; 12:00-1:00pm; 2:45-3:30pm to allow for students or parents to enter the building if bear is sighted.
2. Exterior garbage cans emptied.
3. Principal/supervisor visually checks playfield prior to students being dismissed at recess/lunch
4. Staff on supervision wear safety vests and carry whistles.

Emergency Actions

B. Bear Sighting off of school grounds:

1. Phone call from neighbour or parent received. Time and location of bear sighting are noted.
2. Principal or secretary to post bear sighting info on school sharepoint site, and bear signs to be posted in 5 key areas of school for parents to see when approaching school.
3. Announcement made to notify school if sighting is near a dismissal time.
4. Students kept indoors if time of bear sighting is near a break time (recess, lunch).
5. Students and parents advised of bear sighting in neighbourhood if sighted near 2:50pm. Students must be under direct supervision of their parent or daycare provider when released. Students walking home alone will be temporarily kept at school and provided with further instructions from Principal.

C. Sighting of bear on school grounds during instruction time:

1. Staff report bear sighting to office.
2. Announcement made to notify school that a bear is on school grounds.
3. Students kept in at recess and lunch (Indoor Day)
4. Daycares in building notified.
5. Port Moody Police and/or Conservation Officers are contacted immediately for further instructions.

D. Sighting of bear on school grounds if students or staff are outdoors (Morning; Recess; Lunch or Afterschool)

1. If sighted by supervising staff, a whistle is blown.
2. Announcement made asking everyone to proceed indoors.
3. Students enter the school calmly via the nearest unlocked exterior door. Students then proceed to their classrooms once they are in the school.
4. Daycares are notified.
5. Port Moody Police and/or Conservation Officers are contacted immediately for further instructions.

E. If You See a Bear:

- Remain calm; don't panic. Often the bear is simply looking for food and will move on if it finds nothing to eat.
- Keep away from the bear and go inside – bring all students inside.
- Never approach the bear and do not run from the bear. Do not act submissively by crouching down or whispering.
- Warn others of the bear's presence, but don't do it by yelling
- If the bear climbs a tree, keep people and pets away. Eventually when things quiet down, the bear will come down and leave. This usually happens after dark when the bear feels safe. Once the bear is safely out of the area, check the area to ensure there are no attractants available.

Staff, students and parents are instructed to not approach the bear or cubs.
Announce Bear Sighting over PA system

Pro-Active Measures

Bear Awareness for:

Teachers, Noon Hour Supervisors or SEAS:

Wear safety vests, and carry whistle when outdoors with students.

Principals:

Notify staff member when proceeding outdoors to conduct a bear sweep. Check in with staff member upon return. Bring cell phone, whistle or other audible alarm.

Caretaker:

Caretakers should remove garbage during daylight. Whistles are issued to caretakers. Caretakers should secure garbage bins. If possible, move vehicle close to exit door at night if sightings have occurred.

Casual Employees, Trades/Shops Personnel, Maintenance or Grounds Crew:

Notify visiting employees if a bear has been sighted in the area.

Moving Safely:

Look out window before going out exterior door. Be careful when going around a corner. This will minimize the chances of startling a bear if it is outside your door.

Recent School Actions:

- Communication with Bear Aware, police and Conservation Officers
- Communication with Mountain Meadows community regarding outdoor garbage
- Newsletters, PA announcements
- Bear Aware info made available to teachers and parents (on sharepoint site)
- Staff Meeting Discussion

Who Are You Going To Call?

Conservation: 1-877-952-7277	Port Moody Police: 604-461-3456 or 911	Junior Citizens Daycare: 604 779-5437	Coronation Kids Daycare: 604 461-6554
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