

Bear Alert Procedures for Nestor

A. Daily Procedures:

1. Hallway Exterior Doors unlocked between 8:00-4:00p.m. 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 and 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. Announcement made to notify school if sighting is near a dismissal time.
3. Students kept indoors if time of bear sighting is near a break time (recess, lunch)
4. Students and parents advised of bear sighting in neighbourhood if sighted near 2:45pm. Students must be under direct supervision of their parent or daycare provider when released. Students walking home alone will be 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. Strong Start notified.
5. Coquitlam RCMP and Conservation Officers are contacted immediately for assistance or 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 via the nearest unlocked exterior door. Move calmly towards entrances. Students then proceed to their classrooms once they are in the school.
4. Strong Start is notified.
5. Coquitlam RCMP and Conservation Officers are contacted immediately for assistance or 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.
For any bear announcements, use the office P.A. system (Inside and Outside Speakers)**

Pro-Active Measures

Bear Awareness for:

Teachers, Noon Hour Supervisors or SEAS:

Wear safety vests, bring whistle; cell phone or walkie talkie or other audible alarm 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, walkie talkies, whistle or other audible alarm.

Caretaker:

Caretakers should remove garbage during daylight. Whistles are issued to caretakers. Wear safety vest. Caretakers should secure garbage bins. If possible, move vehicle close to exit door.

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, RCMP and Conservation Officers
- Communication with Nestor community regarding outdoor garbage
- Newsletters, PA announcements and Assemblies
- Bear Aware pamphlets made available to teachers and parents
- Staff Meeting Discussion/ Emergency Prep

Who Are You Going To Call?

Conservation: 1-877-952-7277	Coquitlam RCMP: 604-945-1550 or 911		
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