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# *BearSmart* Hunting Checklist

## **During the hunt**

- Carry pepper spray. Know how to use it and keep it handy.
- Avoid hunting alone. Make an emergency plan with your hunting partners.
- If you are hunting alone, let others know where you are going and when you expect to return.
- Be extra cautious in areas where bears might feed, such as berry patches, grain fields, garbage pits, beehives and carcass sites.
- Remember that animal distress calls, mating calls, decoys and cover scents can also bring bears around.
- Be aware that wind, rain or flowing water can mask the sound of your approach, increasing the risk of a surprise encounter with a bear.
- Watch for fresh scat, clawed trees and bear tracks. If you see them, be extremely cautious for the bear that left them.
- Be extra alert at dawn, night and dusk when bears are most active.
- Watch for scavengers, such as magpies and ravens. They may be feeding at a kill site or carcass that can also attract a bear.

**After the hunt**

- When tracking your wounded animal, keep in mind that a bear may be doing the same thing.
- If a bear finds your kill site, do not try to chase it away. Leave the area immediately and contact your nearest Fish & Wildlife office (call 310 0000 for the telephone number) or call the Report a Poacher line (1 800 642 3800).
- Be very cautious when handling a harvested animal. Remove carcasses quickly.
- When returning to the kill site, use binoculars to view the site before going near, approach from upwind and make a lot of noise.
- If you return to your kill site and find the carcass partly consumed, buried or moved, leave the area immediately. In your absence, a bear may have claimed your kill.

If a bear is a public safety concern, call the 24-hour Report A Poacher line (1-800-642-3800).



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