

# Stay Safe in Bear Country



Saskatchewan has a healthy black bear population and it is not unusual to see bears on the move at this time of year, especially young ones. Most bears are cautious around humans and it is rare that they charge or chase a human under normal circumstances.

## **If you encounter a bear:**

- Stay calm – do not run. You can't outrun a bear.
- Make a wide detour, calmly back away, speak in low tones, do not look directly at the bear.
- Never feed or approach a bear or cubs.
- Do not get closer for the sake of a photograph.
- Move towards a tree or rock. Climbing a tree is not an escape, but the bear may feel less threatened. Black bears can easily climb trees.
- As a last resort, drop articles if very close, it may distract the bear.
- In most cases, black bears will threaten but not attack. If attacked, defend yourself – DO NOT PLAY DEAD.

**Did You Know** that garbage, pet food, bird feeders and food in general draw bears into communities and campgrounds? Bears that become accustomed to these attractants may have to be destroyed.

If you see a bear in your community, or if you have an aggressive encounter with a bear, contact your Ministry of Environment office, or call the TIP line, 24-hours a day, at 1-800-667-7561, or from your SaskTel cell phone at #5555.