



News Release

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Keep Animals Out of your Trash

They're once again on the prowl, often under the cover of darkness, rummaging through some neighbourhoods on the hunt for food.

"We're talking about animals", says Regional District Communications Coordinator Bruce Smith. "With spring upon us and some wildlife rising from their winter hibernation and on the hunt for food, we'd like to remind Central Okanagan residents living in and around interface or agricultural areas that are susceptible to the presence of animals, that they should take responsibility to reduce potential conflicts."

Smith says, "Just as they would with the old manual curbside garbage collection system, residents should not put out the new wheeled garbage, recycling and yard waste carts until the morning of their regular collection. That's part of the Solid Waste Management bylaws of the Regional District and our member municipalities. As bears and other animals have a keen sense of smell, the goal is to prevent garbage and other animal attractant problems from occurring in the first place."

The BC Environment Ministry pamphlet 'Don't Attract Bears to Garbage' also suggests that residents should keep garbage in a secured shed or garage until their pickup day and they shouldn't stockpile or bury garbage. As well, fish and meat remains should not be left outside. It suggests freezing or keeping them in a cool place until they can be placed into the garbage on your collection day.

Smith adds, "Residents may choose to come up with their own security device, perhaps using a bungee strap to secure the lid of their container. In any case, security devices must be released on collection day allowing the lid to freely open so that the container contents can be emptied into the automated truck."

Residents are also reminded that compost storage can also attract animals. Cooking oil, grease, dairy products and fruit should never be left outside or put into compost. Smith adds, "The Ministry pamphlet suggests using lime to cut the odour coming from a compost container."

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Bear Pamphlet link: http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/wld/pub/beargarbage/garbage_bear_broch.html