

CAMPERS!



Massachusetts is bear country

Black bears are wild animals — keep them away from your campsite!

Never feed bears. Ever. Feeding creates habituated bear behavior that threatens public safety and can ultimately lead to the bear's death.

Maintain a clean campsite. Put all food and cooking gear away at night or when you leave your campsite.

Put food scraps and fat drippings in secure containers, not in a campfire.

Do not cook or eat in your tent. Keep food and cooking gear separate from your sleeping area.

Store your food and cooking gear securely, either in a closed vehicle or airtight bear-resistant container. Coolers are not bear-resistant.

Or, hang your food at least 10 feet off the ground and 5 feet out on a limb that will not support a bear's weight.

If a bear does not immediately leave after seeing you, food smells may be encouraging it to stay. Place food items inside a vehicle or building. Stay in a vehicle or building until the bear wanders away.

HIKERS!



Massachusetts is bear country

Normal trail noise will alert bears to your presence and prompt them to leave without being noticed.

But what should you do if you encounter a black bear on the trail?

Always try to keep your distance.

Black bears sometimes “bluff charge” when cornered, threatened, or when trying to steal food. If you find yourself close to a bear or a bear charges, **do not run**, talk to it in a calm voice and slowly back away.

Black bears rarely attack humans.

However, if you are attacked by a bear, **do not play dead, fight back!** Use rocks, sticks, or anything you can to defend yourself.

If a bear is stalking or following you quietly on a trail, do not run. Instead leave the area immediately and get to the safety of a building or a vehicle.

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