

The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board would like all Yukoners to be aware of bear activity this winter



Grizzly bears are hibernators, meaning they are generally inactive through the winter months while denning. However, this is not necessarily true of all individual bears.

Grizzly bears can remain active through the winter months for many reasons. For some bears it may be hunger due to changing food sources, for others it may be changing territory due to the presence of other bears in their area.

Bears that are active in the winter tend to be hungry and have low fat stores, and for these reasons have the potential to be aggressive in looking for food.

With recent issues of grizzly bears in and around Yukon communities, the YFWMB is encouraging all Yukoners to be aware of the possibility of active bears in the backcountry and around their communities all year.

While you are outside this winter, please be **BEAR AWARE**, be **SAFE**, and be **PROACTIVE**.

- If you are hunting, be sure to remove your harvested animal immediately and be prepared for a potential encounter with a bear if you are returning to the kill site.
- If you are ice fishing, be aware that blood around ice fishing holes is a potential bear attractant. Be alert and attentive of the shoreline while fishing.
- On winter walks, keep an eye out for bear tracks and leave the area if tracks are seen.
- If you are spending time in your cabin in the backcountry, be consistently on the lookout for bear activity nearby and have a plan if there is a bear encounter.
- Avoid leaving garbage, food, or other potential bear attractants outside your home or cabin.

Bear activity near communities or residences should be reported to Conservation Officer Services (Yukon Government):

1-800-661-0408 ext. 8005

(Toll-free in Yukon, NWT, Nunavut)

