



**HOLDEN POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
1370 MAIN STREET HOLDEN, MA 01520

**From the office of the Animal Control Officer  
March 20, 2015**

### **Black Bear Sightings**

As in past spring and fall seasons, the Holden Police Department has begun receiving reports of black bear sightings in local neighborhoods and outlying rural areas.

Black bears are generally non-aggressive, but it can be disconcerting to have one near your home. Please follow some common sense guidelines to prevent them from wandering close to houses, such as:

- Keep pets indoors and/or under your control
- Don't feed pets outside
- Temporarily bring in your birdfeeders
- Keep trash containers indoors
- Suspend composting

Bears who come out into our neighborhoods generally wander back into the woods on their own if left alone. Do not attempt to chase, frighten, or tease them.

If you feel a bear is creating a public safety hazard, please call the Holden Police Department at (508) 210-5600 menu option 1, or 9-1-1 if it is an emergency.

For some excellent information and suggestions about living with our bear population, check the Mass Wildlife website for the following article as well as other pages they have published about bears in Massachusetts:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dfg/dfw/wildlife/wildlife-living/living-with-bears.pdf>