



CITY OF BURNSVILLE, MINNESOTA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 2, 2014

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BEAR SIGHTING REPORTED IN BURNSVILLE

On Sunday, June 1, officers responded to a call of a bear sighting near 134th Street and Parkwood Avenue in Burnsville. The bear was reported to have a badly wounded rear left leg, and was holding it up when walking. By the time officers arrived, the bear had left the area.

The bear sighting matches other such reports from neighboring cities in recent days. The Burnsville Police Department is asking residents to not go out looking for the bear, but if it is seen, call 9-1-1 so its whereabouts can be tracked. The department will work with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to keep the bear away from populated areas if sighted.

According to the DNR, bear sightings in the Twin Cities are not uncommon, especially in the spring. Often, the bears are young males searching for their own territory after emerging from hibernation and being chased off by other bears. The DNR says if left alone, these bears will often move on to an area with fewer people and less opportunity for problems.

"The best way to resolve human-bear conflicts is to do everything possible to avoid them in the first place," says Cynthia Osmundson, DNR central region wildlife manager. "In areas where bears have been reported, it's best to eliminate or secure anything the bear may smell and consider as food – including bird feeders, garbage, pet food and grills. Once a bear finds food at a particular location, it's likely to return."

The DNR also offers the following advice. If a bear shows up in a backyard, call 9-1-1, and leave it alone. Standing around gawking is risky, and may cause the bear to take refuge up a tree. If it is treed, remove people and dogs from the area. Bears usually are as wary of humans as we are of them. While bear attacks on humans in Minnesota are very rare, bears should always be treated as a wild animal that's capable of inflicting serious harm.

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