



## FROM THE DESK OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

### **MORE BEAR SIGHTINGS IN LAKE TANSI**

In recent days, we at the Lake Tansi Police Department received information that a black bear was seen on the golf course near Kanapolis Drive. Bear sightings in Lake Tansi have become more common in recent years. Black bears are not usually aggressive, but some commonsense practices should be followed to ensure that there will not be any unfortunate incidents.

The following recommendations should always be observed.

The age-old adages: GARBAGE KILLS BEARS and A FED BEAR IS A DEAD BEAR could not be truer. Nationwide bear management experience has clearly shown that bears attracted to human food sources, or that are deliberately fed by humans, have a relatively short life.

Tennessee residents and visitors can support bears by taking steps to ensure that wild bears remain "wild" by carefully managing sources of human food or garbage that might attract bears.

Measures should be taken to restrict access to garbage by not putting it outside until garbage pickup day.

- Never feed or approach bears!
- If a bear approaches you, it is probably trying to assess your presence.
- Make your presence known by yelling and shouting at the bear in an attempt to scare it away.
- If approached by a bear, stand your ground, raise your arms to appear larger, yell and throw rocks or sticks until it leaves the area.
- Never run from a black bear! This will often trigger its natural instinct to chase.

- If a black bear attacks, fight back aggressively and do not play dead! Use pepper spray, sticks, rocks, or anything you can find to defend yourself. If cornered or threatened, bears may slap the ground, “pop” their jaws, or “huff” as a warning. If you see these behaviors, you are too close! Slowly back away while facing the bear at all times.
- Bears are some of God’s most beautiful creatures and we all love them. But, always remember they are very powerful creatures and natural behavior can be dangerous to humans even if they do not initially seem aggressive. They can become aggressive quickly if they feel threatened.

Notify the TWRA immediately if you witness aggressive behavior by black bears!

Anthony Brown, Chief of Police