



# BEARSMART

## Wood Buffalo

### TIP SHEET: WILDLIFE AWARENESS FOR A SAFE RE-ENTRY

The Horse River Wildfire has caused the displacement of wildlife throughout the Municipality of Wood Buffalo. As residents re-enter Fort McMurray and the surrounding communities it is important to understand the current wildlife situation and how to prevent further impacting the animals.

#### **Where are the wildlife now?**

- Most animals have fled the impacted forest areas to find refuge and natural sources of food.
- Some animals may have found refuge within residential areas.

#### **When will the wildlife return?**

- The animals that fled will likely return to their previous home range throughout the summer months.

#### **How can residents prevent human-wildlife conflicts when returning home?**

- Check for signs of wildlife in and around your property, this can include scat, tracks or scratch marks
- Make noise prior to entering any unsecured buildings and listen for possible animals within the buildings.
  - Provide any trapped animal an escape route.
  - If you suspect a bear may be in a structure on your property call the Fish & Wildlife Office.
- Prevent habituation and conditioning of wildlife by ensuring they do not get access to any human food sources.
  - Secure food sources to be disposed of (e.g. garbage and appliances) until the pickup date or deliver them to a designated landfill drop-off.
  - Report nuisance wildlife to the Fish & Wildlife Office.

*It is advisable to return to Fort McMurray with bear spray.*

#### **Contacts**

Fort McMurray Fish and Wildlife Office

780-743-7200

Municipality of Wood Buffalo Waste Hotline

780-743-7947