

Appalachia Georgia Friends of the Bears **Vehicle-Bear Mortality (VBM) Incident Response 2025 Protocol**

IF YOU SEE A BLACK BEAR VEHICLE-BEAR MORTALITY (VBM) DO THE FOLLOWING:

SAFETY.

Please be careful and use caution when you react to a Black Bear VBM. The reason VBM takes place is because of the human's need for speed and not driving according to conditions. We DO NOT want you to become a human casualty.

If the Black Bear is still alive, leave it alone. DO NOT APPROACH! Immediately call 911!

1. If any part of the Black Bear VBM is over the solid white line and in the driving lane, call 911 and report the VBM. It is a traffic hazard and needs to be removed from the roadway.
2. If the Black Bear VBM is outside the solid white line and out of the driving lane, call the **NON-EMERGENCY** number for the county that you are in. The **NON-EMERGENCY** telephone numbers for select counties are at the end of this document.
3. Call the Georgia DNR. Call the Georgia DNR "Call the Ranger Hotline" at 1-800-241-4113 (or *DNR for AT&T Mobility Customers) seven days a week, 24 hours a day. You can also call this number if you suspect poaching.

* Please provide a contact number so the Game Warden can contact you if more information is needed.

* Please provide the county in which the VBM or violation occurred in.

* All information is strictly confidential, and you can remain anonymous.

* If it is safe to do so, take a photograph of the VBM.

LOCATION. We cannot overemphasize the importance of obtaining an accurate location for the VBM. It is important to have a good location for both Georgia DNR and the Sheriff's Department. It allows us to rapidly close in on the location and not spend precious time trying to find it. Some methods of obtaining a location are:

- Using your GPS, obtaining a latitude/longitude location [post accurate]
- Street address
- Nearest Mile Marker sign
- Nearest identifiable business or building
- Nearest road intersection
- Nearest terrain feature [least accurate]

It is also important to get a good description.

- IF POSSIBLE AND IT IS SAFE TO DO SO, PLEASE TAKE A PHOTOGRAPH of the Black Bear VBM! Georgia DNR insists on a photograph of the VBM to count it.
- Size. Compare it to another known animal size, please have something more solid than, "it's a Cub," because many times people call a Cub and it is often an older Bear. A photograph allows us to compare the Bear's relative size with its surroundings.
- The reason it is important is that someone will often snatch the VBM, which is legal (Georgia Statute § 27-3-28, "The Road-kill Law,") if they report it to Georgia DNR within 48 hours. We know this does not happen often. If you see someone picking up a Black Bear VBM, get their tag number and report it to the Georgia DNR. If the person picking up the Black Bear VBM doesn't report it within the required 48 hours, it violates Georgia Code § 27-3-26. In accordance with (IAW) Georgia Code § 27-3-26, it is unlawful to possess, buy, sell, barter, or exchange a Black Bear or Black Bear part unless lawfully "harvested." Any person violating this provision is subject to a fine of not less than \$5,000.00 or confinement for a term not to exceed twelve (12) months or both upon conviction. We were able to account for two Black Bear VBM in 2022 because our supporters took photographs and the Bears were taken prior to our arrival.

4. Contact us through Facebook, info@agfriendsofthebears.com, or call (770) 904-9578. If we do not answer, please leave a message. We do screen our calls. Facebook has become unreliable to deliver messages through our Facebook page in a timely manner. If we can get to the location in a safe and reasonable time, we will try our best to get to the location.

5. Thank you for caring about the Appalachia Georgia American Black Bears. We are their human voice, and God's hands, and feet! The Appalachia Georgia Friends of the Bears' mission is to reduce Human – Bear conflict through proactive educational outreach programs, increasing public awareness about coexisting with Black Bears, the use of humane bear deterrents, and advocacy.

NON-EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

COUNTY	NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER
Banks	(706) 677-1234
Bartow	(770) 387-5195
Catoosa	706-935-2323
Chattooga	(706) 857-3400
Cherokee	(678) 857-3400
Dade	(706) 657-4111
Dawson	(706) 344-3636
Fannin	(706) 632-6022
Floyd	(706) 236-4541
Forsyth	(770) 781-3087
Franklin	(706) 384-7118
Gilmer	(706) 635-8911
Gordon	(706) 602-0911
Habersham	(706) 778-3911
Hall	(770) 536-8812
Hart	(706) 376-3930
Lumpkin	(706) 864-3633
Murray	(706) 695-6222
Pickens	(706) 253-8911
Rabun	(706) 782-7777
Stephens	(706) 779-3911
Towns	(706) 896-7460
Union	(706) 439-6038
Walker	(706) 375-7810
White	(706) 865-0911
Whitfield	(706) 370-4900

[UPDATED: February 03, 2025]