

# Wildlife Safety



## Living with Muskoxen

As muskoxen come down from their windblown winter habitat to feed on vegetation that emerges at lower elevations, here are a few muskox safety reminders:



### Give Space

A muskox that has stopped feeding, walking, or resting has noticed you.

This change in behavior communicates that you are close enough.

If approached further, they may become agitated and react defensively.

### Do not surprise

Avoid walking through dense, tall vegetation where visibility is limited.

If these areas are unavoidable, make noise and announce your presence.

Always scan your surroundings for sign of muskoxen and avoid areas where muskoxen may be congregated.

### Do not disturb

Female muskoxen are very protective of their young and may react defensively if threatened.

Do not approach young muskoxen, even if you think they may be orphaned or abandoned.

If you have a situation you feel needs to be reported, contact ADF&G.

### Caution with Dogs

Keep dogs under control at all times.

Do not leave dogs outside unattended.

Dogs that must be left outside should be housed in a securely anchored, freestanding, chain link enclosure.

### How to react

If charged: Run.

Do not stand your ground. Get away as fast as you can.

If possible, run for cover behind a large structure, such as a house, car, or rock.



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# Taking Game in Defense of Life and Property as it Pertains to Bear & Musk Oxen

By Brian Miller, Alaska Wildlife Trooper

**A**laska Law allows for the killing of wild game animals outside of normal hunting seasons in defense of life and/or property (DLP) if as long as the animal's actions and behavior were not provoked by something the person has done. Things listed in the law that a person *cannot* do to cause a situation in which a DLP kill would be necessary would be:

**To harass or provoke the animal.** This includes things like approaching an animal that is somewhere out, away from causing danger, and trying to make it move. I have spoken to people who wanted bears or musk oxen to move from their favorite berry patch and wanted to know what they could do to make them move. The answer is not usually what people want to hear – *not much*. If your arriving at the location does not convince them to move, then it is up to you to find another patch until the animal has moved on.

**To leave "bait" out for the animal.** Most people would not leave "bait" for a bear at their cabin or remote site but leaving trash out on the ground around the area is pretty much doing the same thing. This does not include necessary activities such as drying fish, seal or meat on racks.

The law requires that all other means that are practical in a given situation be used before the animal is killed. If it is possible in the given situation, "warnings" have to be given to the animal. If a family wakes up with a bear or musk ox outside of their cabin, yelling at the animal, banging pots and pans together and even throwing something at it or shooting near it (if this can be done safely) may take care of the problem. This should be done before the animal is killed. If, however, a person is out chopping wood and doesn't see a bear approaching them until it is very close, it may be necessary to kill the animal without giving it any warning.



Lastly, any animal killed in defense of life and property automatically becomes property of the State of Alaska. A report must be made to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game or the Alaska Wildlife Troopers

within 25 days and it is required that the animal be salvaged according to the law. Bears and Musk Oxen have different requirements as to what has to be salvaged. If there are any questions as to what is required to be salvaged, it can be found by looking at 5AAC 92.430 on the internet or calling the Alaska Department of Fish and Game at (800) 560-2271 or the Alaska Wildlife Troopers at (800) 443-2835.

Below are some examples of situations in which DLP kills have been made.

- A family returned to fish camp after an outing in a boat and saw a bear raiding their fish rack. As the boat approached, the bear ran away. When the family got to shore, the bear was already over 100 yards away and moving away. One of the family members shot and killed the bear. This is not a good DLP kill because the bear was already moving away and was not a threat at that time to life or property. The man was charged with killing a bear out of season.
- If the bear had been a repeat offender and had done this several times, the family could have called ADF&G to get a special permit to kill the bear as a "nuisance animal" and it could have been legally killed.
- Another case occurred when a family was at camp and a bear was seen approaching some children playing on a trampoline. The bear was still 100 yard from the children and the children were close to the camp. The adult who saw the bear had the children come inside and scared it away by yelling and banging pots and pans together. The bear came back within minutes and the resident shot a gun near the animal. It ran to the wood line but just stayed there, looking at the campsite. Again, within minutes, the bear came back to the campsite and began circling it. The adult then shot and killed the bear. This was legal in Defense of Life and Property and met all of the requirements of the law.
- In another example, a miner was busy in a remote area taking samples and looked up a hill to see a bear running at him at less than 100 feet. He drew his gun and shot the bear. Because of the immediate threat to his safety, he was justified in doing so and the kill was legal.

Obviously, every scenario cannot be addressed. If there are specific questions, please call Alaska Department Fish & Game at (800) 560-2271 or the Alaska Wildlife Troopers at (800) 443-2835 and discuss it with them.



Alaska Municipal League 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Local Government Conference  
DRAFT Agenda

Wednesday, November 29 - VIRTUAL

- 9:00am Newly Elected Officials Training via Zoom
- Budgets and Government Accounting
  - Lobbying Effectively
- Noon Break for lunch
- 1:00pm Newly Elected Officials Training via Zoom
- Ethics and Conflict of Interest
  - Introduction to Title 29 or Title 29 for Experts
- 4:30pm Adjourn

Monday, December 4

Affiliate Sessions

- AMMA – Managers
- AAMC – Clerks
- AMAA – Attorneys
- AAAO – Assessors

Tikahtnu C  
Kahtnu 1 & 2  
Tikahtnu E/F  
Tikahtnu D

Tikahtnu B

Newly Elected Officials

- 8:30am Welcome and Introductions
- 9:00am **Reviewing the Fundamentals of Elected Office**
- Open Meetings Act
  - Quasi-Judicial Role and Ex-Parte Contact
- Noon Lunch
- 1:00pm **Reviewing the Fundamentals of Elected Office**
- Roles and Responsibilities of Municipal Officials
  - Parliamentary Procedure
- 3:00pm **Q&A and Discussion**
- 4:30pm Adjourn
- 5:30pm **ACoM – President’s Legislative Reception**
- First-time Attendees, Newly Elected Officials, Mayors + Legislators

Tikahtnu B

Tuesday, December 5



### Affiliate Sessions

- AMMA – Managers Ballroom C
- AAMC – Clerks Kahtnu 1 & 2
- AMAA – Attorneys Ballroom E/F
- AAAO – Assessors Ballroom D
- ARSSTC Annual Meeting K'enakatnu 6

### Alaska Conference of Mayors

Ballroom B

8:00am Breakfast

9:00am **33<sup>rd</sup> Legislature**

10:30am **Infrastructure**

Noon Lunch

1:00pm **Session**

2:00pm **State Fiscal Analysis and Policy Discussion**

3:00pm **ACoM Annual Business Meeting**

ACoM President - Mayor **Glenda Ledford**, City of Wasilla

- Guidelines
- Potential Policy Statements
- Election of Officers

4:30pm Adjourn

5:00pm **Alaska Municipal Health Trust Annual Meeting**

K'enakatnu 6

Attended by current plan participants for annual business meeting of Trustees; open to everyone. Light appetizers provided.

6:00pm **Alaska Municipal Clerks - Annual Banquet**

Ballroom A

### Wednesday, December 6

7:00 am Registration open

8:00 am **Breakfast**

9:00 am **Opening Session**

- **Welcome**
- Land Acknowledgement
- Pledge of Allegiance
- **Members of the Congressional Delegation**
  - **Sen. Lisa Murkowski**, U.S. Senate (*invited*)
  - **Sen. Dan Sullivan**, U.S. Senate (*invited*)
  - **Rep. Mary Peltola**, U.S. House (*invited*)



9:45 am	<b>AML – Year in Review</b>	Tikahtnu Ballroom
10:00 am	<i>Break</i>	
10:15 am	<b>State of the State</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Governor Mike Dunleavy (<i>invited</i>)</li></ul> <b>Legislative Priorities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Senate President <b>Gary Stevens</b> (<i>invited</i>)</li><li>• Senator <b>Cathy Giessel</b> (<i>invited</i>)</li><li>• House Speaker <b>Cathy Tilton</b> (<i>invited</i>)</li><li>• House Minority Leader <b>Calvin Schrage</b> (<i>invited</i>)</li><li>• Representative <b>Bryce Edgmon</b>, Chair, Bush Caucus (<i>invited</i>)</li></ul> <b>Budget Projections</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Alexei Painter</b>, Legislative Finance</li></ul>	Tikahtnu Ballroom
11:45 am	<b>Lunch</b> <b>A Day in the Life</b> <i>Spotlight on the experience of our rural mayors and managers, in daily activities and operations, followed by panel discussion with federal officials.</i>	Tikahtnu Ballroom
1:15 pm	<i>Break</i>	Foyer
1:30 pm	<b>Concurrent Sessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recruiting, Retaining, &amp; Managing a Healthy Workforce</li><li>• Preparing for &amp; Mitigating Environmental Impacts</li><li>• Local Government Role in Broadband</li><li>• Introduction to Asset Management</li><li>• Implementation of Carbon Offset Program</li></ul>	
2:45 pm	<i>Networking Break</i>	Exhibit Hall
3:00 pm	<b>Concurrent Sessions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implementation of Updated Alcohol Statutes &amp; Regulations</li><li>• Hiring &amp; Managing a Village Police Officer</li><li>• Effective Public &amp; Tribal Engagement</li><li>• Cities of Opportunity &amp; Social Determinants of Health</li><li>• Implementing Effective Asset Management</li></ul>	
4:15 pm	<b>Exhibitor Showcase</b>	
4:30 pm	<b>Music &amp; Networking in the AMLounge</b>	
4:30 pm	<b>Work Session</b>	



- Evaluating Building Codes
- Energy Intake Hub & Project Development
- Coastal Resilience

4:30 pm **Committee Meetings** K'enakatnu 6  
*The AML Legislative and Resolutions Committee will conduct this formal meeting to 1) review and provide for members' consideration legislation that impacts local governments, and 2) develop and approve AML 2024 resolutions, for action at the Annual Business Meeting.*

- Legislative Committee
- Resolutions Committee

4:30 pm **Nominating Committee** Kahtnu 1  
*The AML Nominating Committee will conduct this formal meeting to develop and approve the final candidate slate for the AML board of directors.*

5:30 pm **Community Block Party and Silent Auction** Tikahtnu A

7:30 pm Adjourn Day One

**Thursday, December 7**

7:30 am Registration

7:30 am **Breakfast and AML-JIA Business Meeting**

8:30 am Announcements

8:45 am **Concurrent Sessions**

- Labor Negotiations – Best Practices
- Transportation Development – Statewide Equity
- Strengthening Coastal Resilience
- Local Government Action on Housing
- Tax Talk – News, Dos, & Don'ts

10:15 am *Networking Break*

10:30 am Concurrent Sessions

- Making the Most of your Money
- BSA – Evaluating the Cap
- New Energy – Deploying Federal Investments
- Leveraging AI – Effective Use of ChatGPT & Other Business Decisions
- Alaska's Public Lands & NACo

11:45 am *Break*

12:00 pm **Annual Awards Luncheon**

- Elected Official of the Year