



Dear faculty, staff, and students,

Beware of Bears!!

The number of sightings of black bears in Fukushima Prefecture has significantly increased compared to previous years. There have also been frequent sightings in Aizuwakamatsu. Keep an eye on reports of sightings, and make efforts to protect yourself.

[This leaflet was based on an advisory from Fukushima Pref. (1 July 2026)]

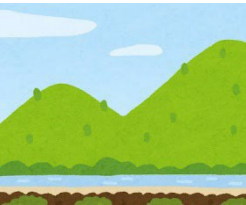


Bear Encounter Hotspots



Danger!

Riverbeds





Areas near fruit trees





Morning and evening walks

Hiking





Near woods and thickets

Mushroom picking





Near farmland in the morning or evening

Abandoned houses and warehouses



Avoiding Bear Encounters

1 Keep an eye on sighting reports.

It is important to know where bears have appeared.

Use the sighting maps on the Aizuwakamatsu City and Fukushima Prefecture homepages, the city's disaster info newsletter, and other resources.

Bear Sighting Maps

Aizuwakamatsu Website

Fukushima Pref. Website

2 Carry noise-makers such as bear bells or radios.

When going places where bears live, carry a bear bell, radio, or other noise-making items to announce your presence.

Bear bells can be purchased at home improvement stores, etc.

3 When going for walks, runs, or hikes in the morning or evening, take steps to avoid bear encounters, such as going in a group and carrying bear bells.

Bears are most active during the early morning and evening hours.

Be sure to take sufficient care to avoid encounters.

4 Do not leave food scraps, vegetables, pet food, or other items that attract bears outside.

Bears are obsessed with food. Once bears learn the taste of human food, they tend to frequently appear in human settlements, so do not leave food scraps outside.

If you spot a bear on campus, please contact the following numbers after assuring your own safety.

■ UoA Security Office 0242-37-2700 or ■ UoA General Affairs and Budget Division 0242-37-2535

Ten Measures to Prevent Bear Attacks

Taking a few basic steps can help to prevent bear attacks. Faculty, staff, and students should also be aware that bears may be lurking in their immediate environment and act accordingly.

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(1) Be cautious when walking outside before sunrise and after sunset!

Carry noise-making items such as bear bells even during the day.
Particular caution is needed in mountainous areas.

(2) Check the safety of your commuting and walking routes!

Check whether there are places surrounded by underbrush or thickets where bears may be lurking.

(3) Riverbanks are common routes for bear appearances!

Do not approach riverbanks with poor visibility due to bushes or thickets, whether it is day or night.
Please also be very cautious of farmland, grassy areas, and other places near rivers.

(4) People have been attacked even while walking dogs!

Please pay attention to your dog walking routes and times. Never leave uneaten pet food outside!

(5) Be cautious even in residential areas and on your own property!

Bears may be lurking on your property or nearby.
Check for signs of bears, and don't ignore strange sounds outside your home.

(6) Be cautious of bear intrusions into vacant houses and warehouses!

Bears are attracted to grains, paint, grease, and other items stored in warehouses.
Thoroughly secure doors, windows, and other entry points to prevent intrusions.

(7) Be cautious during outdoor activities such as hiking, cycling, and camping!

Pay particular attention in mountainous areas, and check the bear activity situation in the area beforehand.

(8) Mushroom picking is very risky in summer to fall!

Mushrooms are one of bears' favorite foods.
Even if you are carrying bear bells or similar items, the risk of attack is extremely high.

(9) Be cautious of attacks around fields and orchards!

When walking near such places, take precautions such as making loud noises to stay alert.
Avoid approaching these areas at night.

(10) Be cautious of bear attacks in the mountains and near rivers!

If you will be spending time in mountainous areas or near rivers, be sure to bring bear spray.