

POLAR BEAR



- The Governor is responsible for protecting people in the settlements on Svalbard from polar bear attacks.
- No guaranty.
- This is polar bear land!
- The most settlements have good routines about how to act on polar bear visits.
- The largest settlements, Longyearbyen and Barentsburg, with a lot of children, will be given very high priority on polar bear observations.



- Worst case we might have to kill the polar bear.
- Legal authority for this in Svalbard Environmental Protection Act, Section 33; kill for protection of person's life or prevent significant material damage.
- §34; kill on special permissions. (remains near permanent og temporary settlements, and represent a risk of injury to people og significant material damage. Not possible to scare away!)
- Decided by the Governor, in emergency by the police



- The Governor have plans on how to respond to reports about polar bear observations.
- A lot of elements to evaluate.
- Time of year, light/dark, possibility to observe also to track, weather, risk of avalanche.
- How many polar bears?
- Distance from settlements.
- What is going on /planned? (Arrangements, Svalbard ski marathon!)
- Capacity (manpower / equipment).





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Verdens nordligste avis

Disse bjørnene klatret over flyplassgjerdet og gikk inn på flystripa i Svea. FOTO: Bjørn Valle/Afis Svea

- In, or close to the settlements. (LYR/BB)
- Call 112!
- Police is responsible to do what's necessary to protect the citizens from polar bear attacks.
- We will use all available recourses to control the situation. (People, cars, snowmobiles, boats and helicopter)





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Verdens nordligste avis

Sysselemanden måtte bruke skutere når de jaget bjørnene i det dårlige været. FOTO: Trond Olsen/Sysselemanden

- Locate the polar bear.
- If possible and necessary inform / evacuate people near by the situation. (Megaphone)
- Try to cut of, or scare the polar bear away.
- Use cars, snowmobiles, sirens, explosion device, helicopter etc. (We have also the possibility to use rubber bullets from shotguns).
- Try to follow/escort the polar bear in the wanted direction.
- Its own speed! Possibility to rest.
- Drug (by NP) the bear and transport it away.
- Always try to get advices from our own specialists or specialists from Norwegian polar institute NP)





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Verdens nordligste avis

Berit Våtvik møtte isbjørnbinna og de to ungene hennes i Vei 238 i dag tidlig. FOTO: Berit Våtvik

Møtte binna på nært hold

QUESTIONS ?

