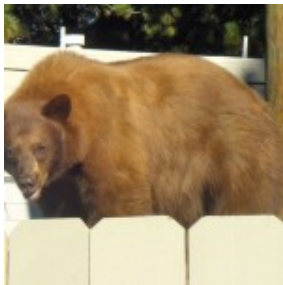


Tahoe bear-human encounters on the rise

By Jeff DeLong, Reno Gazette-Journal

People and bears have grown a little too close for comfort in the Reno-Tahoe area, a situation increasingly dangerous for both.

Behavior and physical characteristics of bears living near urban areas are altered.



A bear in a South Shore neighborhood in fall 2009. Photo/Janice Eastburn

They're bigger – sometimes much bigger. Many skip winter naps.

They reproduce early and often. They die young. And every year, aggressive black bears smash their way into homes and cars in food-hunting burglaries that can put them in dangerous proximity to people.

Some experts question if these are still truly bears.

Read the whole story