

Washoe deputy mistakenly shoots live round at bear

Updated May 7:

The following statement was issued by Washoe County Sheriff Chuck Allen this morning after learning that the bear from the May 6 incident has died: "I am saddened to hear of the passing of the bear from yesterday's incident in Incline Village involving one of our deputies. We appreciate the efforts made by the Nevada Department of Wildlife. The sheriff's office will thoroughly review the incident and take whatever measures are deemed appropriate."

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An Incline Village bear is recovering from a gunshot wound.

A Washoe County sheriff's deputy intended to shoot a rubber round to scare the bear away, but instead loaded a live round.

Officers had been called at 10:45am May 6 to deal with a group of bears near residences in the area of Driver Way and Village Boulevard. They found a mother bear and three cubs.

"This group of bears had been previously identified as food aggressive and deputies have had numerous encounters with this group in recent weeks," the department said in a press release.

The Nevada Department of Wildlife was notified and arrived on scene at approximately noon. NDOW transported the adult bear to a veterinarian for evaluation and treatment. NDOW says the cubs are old enough to be on their own and that NDOW will formulate a management plan for the cubs.

– Lake Tahoe News staff report