

# 3 steps for



# POLAR BEAR SAFETY



## 1. Always remain vigilant

A polar bear encounter in or near your community can occur at any time. Report any tracks or polar bear sightings to others in your community via community Facebook page, VHF/CB radio, text, or phone. Notify your City and Tribal officials and schools. Be sure to share the location of sightings.

## 2. Prepare your defenses

If you encounter a polar bear, **DO NOT RUN**. Move slowly to nearby shelter. Talk to the bear in your native language. Create space between you and the bear. If you have a deterrent, such as a firearm, prepare to use it. If you are in fear for your or another person's life, do not hesitate to take the bear.



## 3. Avoid attracting bears

Polar bears are curious and have a strong sense of smell. Items that may attract polar bears include landfills or dumps, trash piles, traditional food hanging to dry and age, and other polar bear tracks.



**ANY PERSON CAN TAKE A POLAR BEAR IF IT IS IMMEDIATELY NECESSARY TO DO SO IN DEFENSE OF YOUR OR ANOTHER PERSON'S LIFE.**

Only Alaska Natives can take polar bears for subsistence. If someone in your community takes a polar bear in defense of life but no one in your community wants to claim that polar bear for subsistence, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at (907) 786-3311. Remember to report the date and location of all polar bears taken for subsistence to your community tagger within 30 days of the take. If you do not know your community tagger, contact Brad Benter or Sarah Hanchett at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (907) 302-8321 or (907) 223-1391.