On December 8, 2015, Seminole County adopted the Urban Bear Management Ordinance in order to address refuse collection and other wildlife management techniques intended to reduce human-bear conflicts in the area. The ordinance applies to both unincorporated and incorporated areas of Seminole County.

Who Is Affected in the City?
All Altamonte Springs residential refuse customers (and commercial properties serviced by private haulers) situated west of Interstate 4 are in the ordinance area. Areas within the overall boundary east of I-4 have been designated a “caution zone” and are not currently subject to enforcement.

How Do Residents Comply?
The ordinance requires that residents place trash containers out for collection after 5 a.m. on their scheduled collection day. After pick up, containers must be removed and secured as soon as possible, but no later than 7 p.m. There are two options for compliance.

Option #1—Keep Your Trash Containers Secure:
If you are able to secure your garbage in a shed, garage or enclosed structure on non-collection days, and do not place containers curbside before 5 a.m., you DO NOT need a bear-resistant container.

Option #2—Use a Bear-Resistant Container:
If you store your refuse outside on non-collection days and/or must put them out before 5 a.m. on your scheduled collection day, you ARE required to use a bear-resistant container.

Note: Recyclable materials stored outside on non-collection days and/or placed out on your scheduled pick-up day must be free of food residue and materials that could attract bears.

How Do Commercial Properties Comply?
Seminole County requires that all commercial properties within the ordinance area must secure their refuse in bear-resistant containers/dumpsters or retrofit existing containers/dumpsters to their hauler’s specifications to become bear-resistant. The time restrictions do not apply to commercial properties.
A New Ordinance Seeks to Reduce Human-Bear Conflicts in Seminole County

Who Pays for the Containers?
Per Seminole County, residents who are required to or wish to use a bear-resistant container are responsible for all purchasing costs. Commercial properties should consult with their refuse hauler.

Which Container Should I Buy?
Bear-resistant containers must be a fully-enclosed residential refuse container of sturdy construction with a reinforced lid and latch mechanism which prevents bears from accessing contents inside. Container capacity can range between 32 and 96 gallons. Visit www.BearAwareSeminole.com for a list of Seminole County-approved containers.

When Does Enforcement Begin?
Although enforcement has been adopted by Seminole County, the City is seeking to educate residents before they must comply with the new ordinance regulations. Altamonte Springs has modified the city code and is retrofitting existing sanitation equipment to accommodate the bear-resistant containers. City implementation will begin in April 2016.

Need More Information?
- For ordinance information including a boundary map, contact the Seminole County Solid Waste Management Division at (407) 665-2260 or www.BearAwareSeminole.com.
- If you see bears in your area, contact the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at (352) 732-1225 or www.MyFWC.com.
- For Altamonte Springs refuse collection questions, contact the Public Works Solid Waste Division at (407) 571-8607 or www.Altamonte.org/SolidWaste.