

## Bear sighting causes lockdown

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School officials in Hickory put Jenkins Elementary School on lockdown when police received word of a nearby bear sighting earlier this week.

The playground was cleared and students were kept inside. Parents were notified to pickup their students instead of letting kids walk home. Police searched for the animal near the school but were unable to locate the bear. Wildlife experts attribute increased bear sightings to an Easter freeze that killed some of the bears' food supply, causing them to venture into residential neighborhoods. If you spot a bear, wildlife officials recommend staying indoors and calling your local law agency.