

# Harvester Harassment

## Best Practices in the Event of Harassment while Exercising Ojibwe Treaty Rights

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Ojibwe tribal members have the right to exercise their inherent rights in a safe environment. If you are harassed while hunting, fishing, or gathering in the Ceded Territory, it is important to know how to take immediate action. Please follow the guidelines below to keep yourself safe and to properly document the occurrence. Following “The Four Cs” supports both short-term and long-term safety. Reporting harassment allows for enforcement intervention, which may reduce future incidents, creating a safer environment for all harvesters.

### If you are harassed while exercising your treaty rights, follow “The Four Cs”

#### Create Distance.

Staying safe should always be your #1 priority. If you are being physically harassed (rocks are being thrown, firecrackers set off, gunshots fired, etc.), immediately move to a location where you will be safe. The same is true if there is a verbal threat of physical harm (“I’m going to get my gun,” etc.). If you are being verbally harassed but there is no immediate threat of physical harm (you are yelled at to leave, called names, etc.), use your best judgement about continuing to harvest in that area. Never engage or provoke harassers.

#### Confirm your Location.

Documenting the location where harassment is taking place is important and helpful when contacting law enforcement and when filing a report. One of the easiest ways to confirm your location is to use a smartphone. Location mapping apps allow you to “Drop a Pin” to mark your exact location. Download the app to your phone prior to going out harvesting. Two of the most popular location mapping apps are Maps and Google Maps. The onX Hunt app is also frequently used for hunting. If you don’t have a smartphone, do your best to know and provide directions. Look for easily identifiable roads, landmarks, trees, docks, houses, houselights, etc.

#### Call 911.

In the event of physical harassment or a verbal threat of physical harm, **CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY.** Give them your name, location, phone number, situation, and any additional information the dispatcher may request. Provide your home phone number in addition to your cell phone in case you get disconnected, especially if you are harvesting in a remote area. You may be asked to stay on the line until officers arrive on scene to provide them with important updates. Once law enforcement arrives, they will address any active threat or emergency prior to taking a statement. Be prepared to spend some time at a safe location nearby so that you can provide the officer(s) with a detailed report.

#### Check in with GLIFWC.

If the harassment you are being subjected to does not warrant emergency response, call GLIFWC Enforcement at 715-685-2113 to document the incident after you are done harvesting.

