

Public Safety

MOUNTAIN LIONS

Every summer, numerous mountain lion sightings are reported in Cordillera. As campers, hikers, and wildlife enthusiasts head into the wild property owners are reminded that we live in lion country. Lions are at the top of the food chain and are deserving of the attention they receive.

As predators, lions enjoy the chase and are capable of bringing down fairly large animals on their own, although they normally feed on small animals. A favorite prey of mountain lions are raccoons. As carnivores, virtually all of a mountain lion's diet is meat. There are documented cases of lions attacking pets and people. Statistically, these occurrences are rare, but non the less proper precautions must always be taken. Property owners should report sightings to Public Safety so it can communicate with CDOW.

Property owners should heed the following precautions:

- Closely supervise children when they play outdoors, especially around dawn and dusk when lions are most active.
- Mow the grass on your lot to eliminate cover for lions, which like to stalk in tall grass and bushes. (*Contact the Design Review Board before cutting native areas.*)
- Do not leave small children and pets unattended outside during summer. Pets should be on a leash.
- Make noise when coming and going, especially from dusk until dawn.
- Turn on outside lights before stepping outside.

In areas where lions might be present,

Travel in groups and make noise, especially from dusk until dawn when lions are most active.

If you find dead animals that appear to be killed by a lion the lion is might be near by or watching.

Lion sightings are rare but if you see one:

Do *not* approach the lion.

Stay calm. Back away slowly.

DO NOT RUN. Running may trigger the lion's predatory instinct to chase you.

Open your jacket and raise your arms to make yourself appear larger.

Pick up young children so they don't panic and run.

If a lion behaves aggressively, throw rocks, branches, or anything you can find without crouching down or turning away.

Wave your arms and speak firmly.

In the rare case you are attacked by a lion:

Fight back.

Remain standing if possible—try to get up if you are knocked down.