



Marina Police Department

PRESS RELEASE

MOUNTAIN LION SIGHTING

DATE OF INCIDENT: September 19, 2011
LOCATION OF INCIDENT: Marina Airport
DEPARTMENT CONTACT: Lieutenant Rick Janicki/PIO

On September 19, 2011, during the early morning hours a mountain lion was seen at the Marina Municipal Airport in the area of Imjin Road and Reservation Road. The Police Department wishes to make people aware of the sighting and to urge people to be more vigilant if they are walking, jogging or otherwise recreating or working in the in the area the mountain lion was sighted.

Though encounters with mountain lions are rare please enhance your safety and that of your friends and family by following some basic safety rules when in mountain lion habitat. Below are some simple guidelines to follow while in mountain lion territory.

1. When it comes to personal safety, always be aware of your surroundings, wherever you are; conduct yourself and attend to children and dependents accordingly.
2. Always hike, walk, jog, backpack, and camp in wild areas with a companion.
3. Supervise children, especially outdoors between dusk and dawn. Educate them about mountain lions and other wildlife they might encounter.
4. Never run past or from a mountain lion. This may trigger their instinct to chase. Make eye contact. Stand your ground. Pick up small children without, if possible, turning away or bending over.
5. Don't approach a mountain lion. Most mountain lions want to avoid humans. Give a mountain lion the time and space to steer clear of you.
6. Never bend over or crouch down. Doing so causes humans to resemble four-legged prey animals. Crouching down or bending over also makes the neck and back of the head vulnerable.
7. If you encounter a mountain lion, make yourself appear larger, more aggressive. Open your jacket, raise your arms, throw stones, branches, etc., without turning away. Wave raised arms slowly, and speak slowly, firmly, loudly to disrupt and discourage predatory behavior.
8. Try to remain standing to protect head and neck and, if attacked, fight back with whatever is at hand (without turning your back) people have utilized rocks, jackets, garden tools, tree branches, and even bare hands to turn away mountain lions.

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9. Landscape for safety. Remove vegetation that provides cover for mountain lions. Remove plants that attract wildlife (deer, raccoons, etc.). By attracting them you naturally attract their predator the mountain lion.

10. Don't feed wildlife. Don't leave pet food outside. Both may attract mountain lions by attracting their natural prey.

11. Keep pets secure. Roaming pets are easy prey for cougars.

11. Confine and secure any livestock (especially at night) in pens, sheds, and barns.