

While the Cougar is in the area please take the necessary precautions especially with children and pets.



Children should be accompanied by adults and anyone with a dog should not let it out unless it is on a leash.

Cougar Safety Awareness

Although a cougar attack is highly unlikely, it is always good to be prepared and informed as to what to do should you have an encounter with a cougar.

Detailed below is a summary of the information provided by the BC Ministry of Environment in their brochure which can be viewed on www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/cougsf.htm

Children

- Cougars seem to be attracted to children, possibly because their high-pitched voices, small size, and erratic movements make it difficult for cougars to identify them as human and not prey.
- Talk to children and teach them what to do if they encounter a cougar.
- Encourage children to play outdoors in groups, and supervise children playing outdoors.
- Consider getting a dog for your children as an early-warning system. A dog can see, smell, and hear a cougar sooner than we can. Although dogs offer little value as a deterrent to cougars, they may distract a cougar from attacking a human.
- Consider erecting a fence around play areas.
- Keep a radio playing.
- Make sure children are home before dusk and stay inside until after dawn.
- If there have been cougar sightings, escort children to school in the morning.

Your Yard, Accommodation, and Pets

- Store garbage indoors or in a wildlife resistant container.
- Roaming pets are easy prey; bring pets in at night.
- Do not feed pets outside. This not only attracts young cougars but also attracts many small animals, such as mice and raccoons that cougars prey upon, as well as bears.

Hiking & walking around the Village

- Hike in groups of two or more. Make enough noise to prevent surprising a cougar.
- Carry a sturdy walking stick to be used as a weapon if necessary.
- Keep children close-at-hand and under control.
- Watch for cougar tracks and signs. Cougars cover unconsumed portions of their kills with soil and leaf litter. Avoid these food caches.
- Cougar kittens are usually well-hidden. However, if you do stumble upon cougar kittens, do not approach or attempt to pick them up. Leave the area immediately, as a female will defend her young.

If You Encounter a Cougar

- Never approach a cougar. Although cougars will normally avoid a confrontation, all wildlife are unpredictable. Cougars feeding on a kill may be dangerous.
- Always give a cougar an avenue of escape.
- Stay calm. Talk to the cougar in a confident voice.
- Pick all children up off the ground immediately. Children frighten easily and their rapid movements may provoke an attack.
- Do not run. Try to back away from the cougar slowly. Sudden movement or flight may trigger an instinctive attack.
- Do not turn your back on the cougar. Face the cougar and remain upright.
- Do all you can to enlarge your image. Don't crouch down or try to hide. Pick up sticks or branches and wave them about.
- If a cougar behaves aggressively.... Arm yourself with a large stick, throw rocks, speak loudly and firmly. Convince the cougar that you are a threat not prey.
- If a cougar attacks, fight back! Many people have survived cougar attacks by fighting back with anything, including rocks, sticks, and bare fists.

Please report sightings to the caretaker in your building or a Mount Washington staff member. Thank you.