



Safety in Community: COUGAR SIGHTINGS

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/info/wildlife_human_interaction/docs/cougars.html



There have been unconfirmed sightings of cougars on Capilano Reserve IR #5 near Khatsilano Road. Please ensure that you share this information with your family.

Children and Cougars

- Cougars seem to be attracted to children, possibly because of their high-pitched voices, small size and erratic movements; these character traits may make it difficult for cougars to identify children as humans and not prey.
- Talk to your children and teach them what to do if they encounter a cougar.
- Children playing outdoors should play in-groups. Children shouldn't be left unsupervised.
- Consider getting a dog or using a dog as an early warning system. A dog can see, smell and hear a cougar sooner than a human.
- Consider erecting a fence around play areas.
- Keep a radio playing
- Make sure children are home before dusk and stay indoors until after dawn - the period of time cougars are most active.
- If there have been cougar sightings, escort children to the bus stop early in the morning. Clear shrubs away from around the bus stops, making a radial area of - 9 metres.
- Having a light installed at the bus stop will also increase security.

Cougar Encounters

- The following are guidelines in the event that you do encounter a cougar:
- Stay calm and keep the cougar in view. Pick up children immediately - children frighten easily, the noise and movements they make could provoke an attack. Back away slowly, ensuring that the animal has a clear avenue of escape. Make yourself look as large as possible. Keep the cougar in front of you at all times.
- Never run or turn your back on a cougar. Sudden movement may provoke an attack.
- If a cougar shows interest or follows you, respond aggressively. Maintain eye contact with the cougar, show your teeth and make loud noise. Arm yourself with rocks or sticks as weapons. Crouch down as little as possible when bending down to pick up things off of the ground.
- If a cougar attacks, fight back. Convince the cougar you are a threat and not prey. Use anything you can as a weapon. Focus your attack on the cougar's face and eyes.





Backcountry

- The Ministry website and pamphlets will provide information to minimize and avoid cougar encounters as well as what can be done if you encounter a cougar. Many of the safety precautions recommended for bears apply to cougars as well.
- Keep pets leashed or leave them at home.
- Always keep children in sight. Cougars can be attracted to children due to their small size and the noise they create. Never let your children wander if you are in cougar country.
- If going hiking, travel in a group - cougars are less likely to attack groups of people. Avoid hiking alone.

Pets

- Roaming pets are easy prey for cougars, keep them leashed or behind a fence.
- Bring your pet in at night. If the pet must be left out at night confine it to a kennel with a secure top.
- Don't feed the pet outside. The pet food might attract young cougars or small animals such as squirrels or raccoons which cougars prey upon.
- Place domestic livestock in an enclosed shed or barn at night.

If you see a cougar please contact the following:

- **Conservation Officer at 1-877-952-7277**

