

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/>

Protecting Communities:

At this point in time, we believe the best way to manage the situation is to keep neighbors informed about the presence of a mountain lion, as well as reducing and/or eliminating access to possible lion “attractants” (food, water, and shelter). Cut back any low-lying vegetation that may be creating hiding spaces for lions near residences (at least 2-3 feet off the ground). Encourage children to play outdoors in groups and during the daytime only, and have adults supervise children when playing outdoors. Keep dogs and cats indoors when they cannot be closely monitored or be on-leash outdoors. Recreate in groups and avoiding venturing into mountain lion habitat during low-light conditions. Use of non-lethal deterrents - such as radios, air horns, motion-detecting strobe lights, alarm systems, and/or water sprinklers/jet streams - may also help to discourage wildlife. Lastly, making efforts to discourage potential prey animals (primarily mule deer, but also raccoons, coyotes, and even outdoor cats) from visiting the community is highly encouraged. These animals, as well as water sources (ponds, swimming pools, and bird baths) may also be attracting mountain lions to a given area. Being prepared and aware is the best prevention for human-lion conflict!

Protecting Pets and Barnyard Animals:

Domestic animals should be kept safely indoors or within completely enclosed shelter structures when they cannot be closely monitored or be on-leash outdoors - particularly at dawn, dusk, and nighttime (when mountain lions actively hunt). All shelter structure materials should be securely fastened to each other, and that no gaps bigger than 4 inches are present between the roof, walls, and any other paneling that a lion could squeeze through. The roof material would also need to be strong enough to support the weight of a lion (max weight of a male

lion is about 200 lbs). Mountain lions will typically target sheep, goats, calves, and other unsecured small “barnyard” animals as easy prey sources. Full-sized adult horses are not typically targeted by mountain lions as prey animals, though young horses may be and should be safely secured at night. Specially trained livestock guardian dogs are also recommended for property owners that have large pastures of free-roaming livestock that cannot be kept within fully enclosed shelter structure at night. Keep in mind, mountain lions can jump over fences 10 feet or more in height. See information provided by the Mountain Lion Foundation to learn more about safeguarding our domestic animals.

Mountain Lion Activity:

While mountain lions typically avoid people, it turns out that they can also utilize some residential areas when moving about the landscape - including neighborhoods like yours in the “urban-wildland interface” (the transition zone between potential wildlife habitat and developed areas). We’ve also come to realize that mountain lions are not as much of a safety concern to humans as we once thought they were. As demonstrated in a study by researchers at UC Santa Cruz, they are typically more afraid of us than we are of them! Mountain lion attacks on people are extremely rare, but we of course recommend being aware of possible activity when living near/recreating in mountain lion habitat. I would encourage you to view our “Preventing Conflicts with Mountain Lions in California” brochure and Human-Wildlife Conflicts Toolkit, as well as the multi-agency collaboration “Coexistence FAQs” website to learn more about mountain lions.

Role in the Ecosystem:

Mountain lions play an important role by helping to maintain healthy ecosystems and species diversity. Mountain lions are considered a “keystone species” – that is, a species that has such influence in an ecosystem that were they to disappear, there would be dramatic changes to the environment and negatively impact the other species there. They regulate populations of prey animals (such as deer), and influence the movements of other local predators (such as coyotes

and bears). We strive to encourage responsible cohabitation with mountain lions so that communities can feel safe and still experience the benefits this native species offers to our local landscapes.

Reporting Wildlife Activity:

If you would like to report future wildlife observations or incidents, please consider using the CDFW Wildlife Incident Reporting (WIR) System.

REPORTING - <https://apps.wildlife.ca.gov/wir/incident/create>