



If You Encounter a Mountain Lion:

Every situation is different with respect to the lion, the terrain, the people and their activity.

- Go in groups when you walk or hike in mountain lion country and make plenty of noise to reduce your chances of surprising a lion.
 - A sturdy walking stick is a good idea; it can be used to ward off a lion.
 - Make sure children are close to you and within your sight at all times.
 - Talk with children about lions and teach them what to do if they meet one.
- Do not approach a lion, especially one that is feeding or with kittens. Most mountain lions will try to avoid a confrontation. Give them a way to escape.
- Stay calm when you come upon a lion. Talk calmly and firmly to it. Move slowly.
- Stop or back away slowly, if you can do it safely.
 - Running may stimulate a lion's instinct to chase and attack.
 - Face the lion and stand upright.
- Do all you can to appear larger.
 - Raise your arms.
 - Open your jacket if you're wearing one.
 - If you have small children with you, protect them by picking them up so they won't panic and run.
- If the lion behaves aggressively, throw stones, branches or whatever you can get your hands on without crouching down or turning your back.
 - Wave your arms slowly and speak firmly.
 - What you want to do is convince the lion you are not prey and that you may in fact be a danger to the lion.
- Fight back if a lion attacks you. Lions have been driven away by prey that fights back.
 - People have fought back with rocks, sticks, caps or jackets, garden tools and their bare hands successfully.
 - Remain standing or try to get back up!

Courtesy Colorado Parks and Wildlife: Jason Clay, CPW NE Region PIO