

# **WARNING !**

## **A MOUNTAIN LION HAS RECENTLY BEEN SIGHTED IN THIS AREA**

### **Keep the following safety tips in mind to avoid encountering a mountain lion in the wild.**

#### **Avoid a mountain lion encounter**

- Don't hike or run at dawn or dusk. Mountain lions are most active during these times.
- Don't let pets run unleashed. This is a sensitive point with dog owners who love to run with their four-legged partners, but a running dog can trigger a cat's predatory response and even lead a mountain lion back to the pet owner.
- Never run or hike alone. Go with a friend or in a group.
- Keep children close while on the trail. Small children running ahead may attract a mountain lion.
- Carry a deterrent device such as capsicum spray and know how to use it.
- If a mountain lion is spotted in the wild, follow these safety precautions to avoid an attack.

#### **Avoid a mountain lion attack**

- Never approach a mountain lion. Slowly back away.
- Never run from a mountain lion. Quick movements may trigger an attack.
- Appear larger than they are by raising the arms above the head or steadily waving a jacket. Do not bend over which will make a person look "smaller" to the mountain lion.
- Maintain eye contact to show the animal that you are aware of its presence.
- Talk or yell loudly. Let others in the area know what the situation is.
- If hikers are traveling with small children, pull them close or pick them up without bending over.
- Carry a deterrent device such as capsicum spray and know how to use it.
- Be prepared to fight with a branch or rock or pepper spray. Do not "play dead."

**For more information, please call Natural Resource Coordinator at 447-8454.**