

General Information about living in mountain lion territory

- Cordillera is mountain lion habitat and has been home to mountain lions for many years. Mountain Lion sightings are not uncommon. Mountain lions have bred and raise young in Cordillera. There are probably more lions living in this area than most people would guess.
- Mountain Lions are normally solitary, elusive, and avoid human contact. Most people have never seen a mountain lion. When lions are sighted they often go the opposite direction.
- Confrontations between people and mountain lions are very rare. Lions tend to avoid confrontation if there is a way out.
- While aggressive behavior from lions is rare, people should avoid agitating female lions with kittens or lions and their meals. Mountain Lion kittens have spots and long tails. In Colorado, bobcats or lynx have spots but have short tails. Bobcats frequent Cordillera but are not a threat to people.
- Any mountain lion activity that indicates a lion may be losing this natural cautiousness should be reported to Public Safety. Public Safety will communicate this information to the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife.
- Do not feed pets outdoors and keep your pets on leashes. While mountain lions normally avoid dogs, even a large dog is no match for a mountain lion. Dogs should not be left in fenced areas or kennels unless they have roofs. Lions can easily go over a six foot fence.
- Attempt to discourage wildlife, such as deer, from frequenting your property. Mountain lions follow their food.
- Children should not play outdoors unattended. Children should be educated about mountain lions -- what do to, and not do, if they see a mountain lion.
- Use exterior lighting when outdoors at night. Mountain lions are more active at dusk and dawn.
- Consider trimming the native areas of your property to eliminate hiding spots for lions.
- Mountain lions stay in close proximity to their meals. Use caution if you see an animal carcass that you suspect was killed by a mountain lion. Assume the lion is watching. Contact Public Safety to arrange for the carcass to be removed.
- Mountain lions hide the animals they kill, dragging them to discrete locations and covering them with leaves, branches and pine needles
- Mountain lions are carnivores and the prospect of a chase stimulates their natural instincts of pursuit, similar to a cat and a ball.

- Hike with other people and avoid hiking at dusk and dawn. While confrontations between people and lions are rare, confrontations between lions and groups of people almost never happen. Hiking sticks may be used in self defense.

If you see a Mountain Lion...

- Mountain lions sighted at a distance, minding their own business, are not normally of concern. Most will go the opposite direction.
- Do Not Run - You cannot outrun a mountain lion and running may stimulate the lion's instinct to chase.
- Stay calm - do not panic. Keep others, especially children, calm.
- Back up slowly and face the lion. **Do not turn your back.**
- **Yell and appear as large as possible. If you are wearing a coat or have a pack use them to appear larger.**
- If you are with other people or children, get in a group.

If a Mountain Lion attacks...

- **Do not play opossum.**
- **Attempt to stay on your feet and face the lion. Lions like to attack from behind.**
- **Fight back - your life may depend on it...**

Pepper Spray

- People ask about pepper spray as a defense against mountain lion attacks. Literature suggests that pepper spray is an effective tool to use against an aggressive mountain lion. HOWEVER, users must consider that the pepper spray is equally effective against people and can be debilitating. Literature suggest that pepper spray can be used to create clouds the lion must run through.

This information is not intended to scare people; but, to increase awareness and educate the community in order to take proper precautions.

PLEASE REPORT ALL SIGHTINGS TO OUR DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY, MR. BOB EGIZI, AT 970-569-6261
OR E-MAIL begizi@cordillerametro.org