

Date: September 16, 2022
To: University Community
From: Nader Oweis, Chief of Police
Re: Mountain Lion Sighting near campus

Late last night, our dispatch center received a report of a mountain lion that may have been struck by a vehicle while it was crossing the road on Petaluma Hill Road near the Laurel Drive entrance. The mountain lion ran off towards Laurel Drive. Officers checked the area, but were unable to find signs of an injured animal or locate the mountain lion.

We have alerted the California Department of Fish and Wildlife of the report.

Although mountain lion sightings are rare, they do occur in Sonoma County. Please use caution and stay aware of your surroundings, especially late at night or in the early morning hours.

If you see a mountain lion on campus, immediately call 911 or (707) 664-4444.

SAFETY TIPS

If you encounter a lion, remember the goals are to convince it that you are not prey and that you may be dangerous. Follow these safety tips from the National Park Service:

- **Do not approach a lion.** Most mountain lions will try to avoid a confrontation. Give them a way to escape.
- **Do not run from a lion.** Running may stimulate a mountain lion's instinct to chase. Instead, stand and face the animal. Make eye contact. If you have small children with you, pick them up if possible so that they don't panic and run. Although it may be awkward, pick them up without bending over or turning away from the mountain lion.
- **Do not crouch down or bend over.** A human standing up is just not the right shape for a lion's prey. Conversely, a person squatting or bending over resembles a four-legged prey animal. In mountain lion country, avoid squatting, crouching or bending over, even when picking up children.
- **Do all you can to appear larger.** Raise your arms. Open your jacket if you are wearing one. Again, pick up small children. Throw stones, branches, or whatever you can reach without crouching or turning your back. Wave your arms slowly and speak firmly in a loud voice. The idea is to convince the mountain lion that you are not prey and that you may be a danger to it.
- **Fight back if attacked.** Individuals have fought back successfully with sticks, caps, jackets, garden tools and their bare hands. Since a mountain lion usually tries to bite the head or neck, try to remain standing and face the attacking animal.