PUBLIC SAFETY ALERT

Mountain lion sightings

Call 911 if you see a dangerous animal that threatens or could harm our community.
Attention Hungry Valley Residents & Visitors

Feb. 12, 2018—Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Tribal Police are warning the community about recent mountain lion sightings. According to the RSIC Tribal Police Chief, a mountain lion has been spotted near the cattle guard on Eagle Canyon road as well as near the Hungry Valley water tank. If you see a mountain lion or any other dangerous animal, please call 911. To report sightings on the reservation, but not direct threats to the people, pets or homes, please call the non-emergency dispatch at 775/323-2677.

Appearance:
An adult male mountain lion can stand 30 inches at the shoulder and measure up to eight feet in length from nose to tail. Females are 3-4 inches shorter in height and a foot shorter in length. The tail makes up about one third of the body length. In Nevada, the average adult male mountain lion weighs 137 pounds and the average adult female weighs 98 pounds.

Habitat:
Mountain Lions are adapted to a wide variety of habitats and environmental conditions found Nevada. They prefer dense cover or rocky, rugged terrain, but also occur in desert areas. In Nevada, lion habitat is commonly associated with pinyon pine, juniper, mountain mahogany, ponderosa pine and mountain brush. Lions generally are most abundant in areas where deer are plentiful. Individual lions live in areas varying in size from 10 to 370 square miles. The mountain lion’s range depends on the terrain and how much food is available. The increasing human population in Nevada has caused mountain lions to retreat to more isolated and rugged terrain. The mountain lion is a solitary animal. Adult males usually travel alone. If tracks suggest two or more lions traveling together, it is probably a female with kittens.

Legal Status:
Mountain lions are not threatened or endangered. There are mountain lion hunting seasons in Nevada.

Prey:
The mountain lion’s main prey is deer, but it will also hunt sheep and horses. It has become increasingly common for mountain lions to prey on pets and livestock.

Prevention:
Take precautions to reduce their risk of encountering a mountain lion, by deer-proofing your landscape. Remove dense vegetation from near your home and installing outdoor lighting will make it difficult for mountain lions to approach unseen.

Never try to get closer to a mountain lion or feed it. A person is one thousand times more likely to be struck by lightning than attacked by a mountain lion, however mountain lions are wild animals and, like any wildlife, can be dangerous.