

Be Aware – Active Cougar in Shelly Road / Martindale Road Area

The City of Parksville is warning residents of recent cougar activity in the area **southeast of Shelly Road/Stanford Ave East and west of Martindale Road**, as two livestock have recently been killed in that region. The Conservation Officer Service is aware of the situation and working towards a solution. Nearby campgrounds and golf courses have also been made aware of the recent activity.

Please review the following **tips and guidelines** when encountering a cougar:

- Remain calm and never run.
- Make yourself look as large as possible and back away slowly.
- Maintain eye contact, look big, make noise/yell, and be assertive.
- Keep the cougar in view and allow a clear exit for them.
- Make noise in wooded areas so they know of your presence.
- Watch for cougar tracks and signs (scratched trees, scat, food caches or unconsumed prey covered with vegetation). If you encounter food caches and/or fresh tracks, leave the area immediately.
- If going hiking or walking, travel in a group. Cougars are less likely to attack groups of people.
- Carry bear spray.

Children/Pets and Cougars

- Talk to your children and teach them what to do if they encounter a cougar.
- Children playing outdoors should play in groups and should not be left unsupervised.
- Consider having a dog nearby as an early warning system, since a dog can see, smell, and hear a cougar sooner than a human. Be aware that off leash dogs can attract and bring cougars and bears back to you.
- Keep a radio or music playing.
- Make sure children are home before dusk and stay indoors until after dawn – the period of time when cougars are most active.
- Roaming pets are easy prey for cougars. Keep them leashed or behind a fence.

If livestock is killed or injured, please advise the Conservation Officer Service (COS) Call Centre at 1-877-952-7277.

For more information about cougars and what measures you can take to stay alert, visit [Staying Safe Around Wildfire \(Cougars\) - Province of British Columbia](#)

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*The City of Parksville is located on the traditional territory of the Coast Salish Nations,
home to the Snaw-Naw-As First Nation and the Qualicum First Nation.*