

# Animal Safety Tips when Hiking

## Tips to minimize conflicts with rattlesnakes while hiking:

- Stick to well-used, open trails
- Avoid walking through thick brush and willow thickets
- Do not step or put your hands where you cannot see
- Wear over-the-ankle boots and loose-fitting long pants.
- Watch all snakes from a distance and be aware of defensive behaviors that let you know you are too close

## Tips to minimize conflicts with Mountain Lions while hiking:

Mountain lions are quiet, solitary and elusive, and typically avoid people.

- Do not hike, bike, or jog alone.
- Avoid hiking or jogging when mountain lions are most active—dawn, dusk, and at night.
- Keep a close watch on small children.
- Do not approach a mountain lion.
- If you encounter a mountain lion, do not run; instead, face the animal, make noise and try to look bigger by waving your arms; throw rocks or other objects. Pick up small children.
- If attacked, fight back.
- If a mountain lion attacks a person, immediately call 911.

## Tips to minimize conflicts with Black Bears while hiking:

- Keep a close watch on children, and teach them what to do if they encounter a bear.
- While hiking, make noise to avoid a surprise encounter with a bear.
- Never approach a bear or pick-up a bear cub.
- If you encounter a bear, do not run; instead, face the animal, make noise and try to appear as large as possible.
- If attacked, fight back.
- If a bear attacks a person, immediately call 911.

California Department of Fish and Game: Keep Me Wild Campaign

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/keepmewild/>



# Rattlesnake



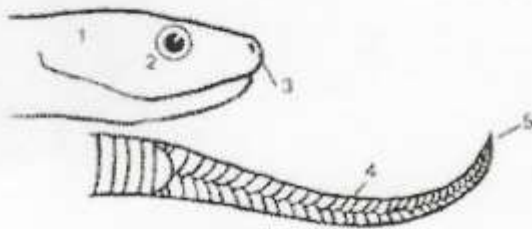
## Non-venomous Vs Venomous Snakes



Red touches black is friend of Jack.

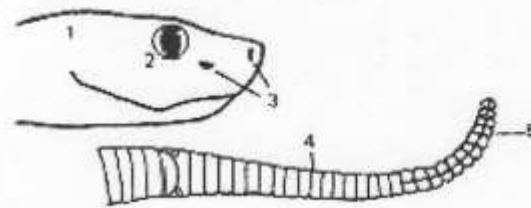


Red touches yellow, can kill a fellow.



### NON-VENOMOUS SNAKES

1. Head usually oval, but may be somewhat triangular.
2. Pupils round.
3. No pits-only nostrils present.
4. Divided scales on underside of tail
5. Although many snakes vibrate their tail when upset, non-venomous snakes never have rattles



### VENOMOUS SNAKES

1. Head distinctly triangular.
2. Pupils elliptical.
3. Pits as well as nostrils present.
4. Undivided scales on underside of tail.
5. Except for the copperhead, tail ends in a rattle.

### Tips to minimize conflicts with rattlesnakes while hiking:

- Stick to well-used, open trails
- Avoid walking through thick brush and willow thickets
- Do not step or put your hands where you cannot see
- Wear over-the-ankle boots and loose-fitting long pants.
- Watch all snakes from a distance and be aware of defensive behaviors that let you know you are too close

# Mountain Lion



## **You may be attracting mountain lions to your property without knowing it!**

More than half of California is mountain lion habitat. Mountain lions generally exist wherever deer are found. They are solitary and elusive, and their nature is to avoid humans.

Mountain lions prefer deer but, if allowed, they also eat pets and livestock. In extremely rare cases, even people have fallen prey to mountain lions.

Mountain lions that threaten people are immediately killed. Those that prey on pets or livestock can be killed by a property owner after the required depredation permit is secured. Moving problem mountain lions is not an option. It causes deadly conflicts with other mountain lions already there. Or the relocated mountain lion returns.

Help prevent deadly conflicts with these beautiful wild animals.

### **Living in Mountain Lion Country**

- Don't feed deer; it is illegal in California and it will attract mountain lions.
- Deer-proof your landscaping by avoiding plants that deer like to eat. For tips, request A Gardener's Guide to Preventing Deer Damage from DFG offices.
- Trim brush to reduce hiding places for mountain lions.
- Don't leave small children or pets outside unattended.
- Install motion-sensitive lighting around the house.
- Provide sturdy, covered shelters for sheep, goats, and other vulnerable animals.
- Don't allow pets outside when mountain lions are most active—dawn, dusk, and at night.
- Bring pet food inside to avoid attracting raccoons, opossums and other potential mountain lion prey.

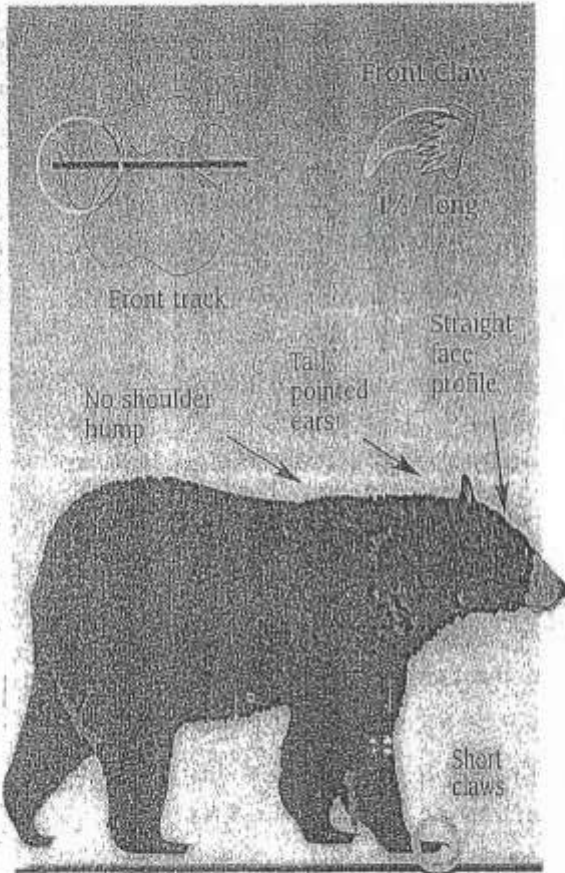
### **Staying Safe in Mountain Lion Country**

Mountain lions are quiet, solitary and elusive, and typically avoid people.

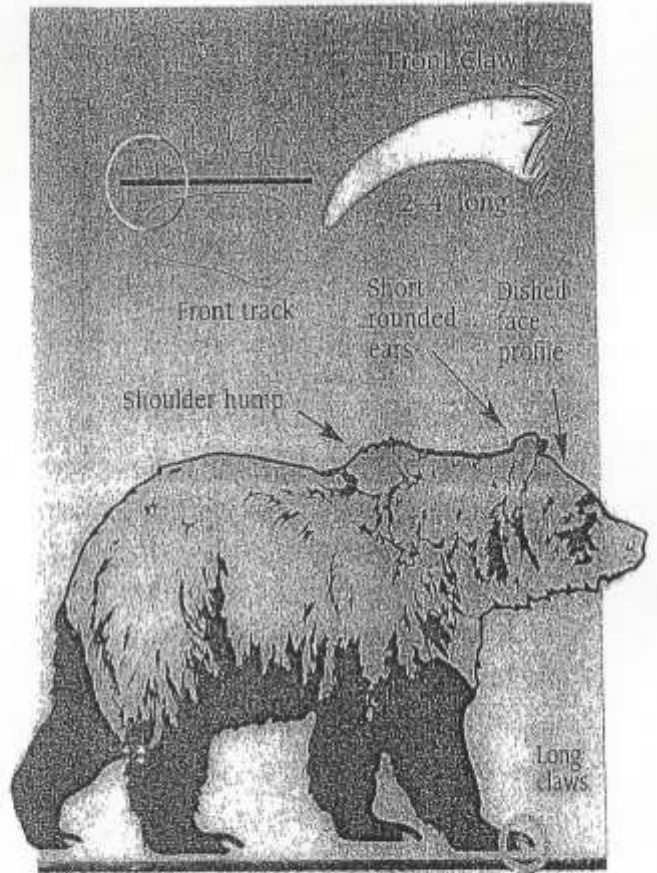
Mountain lion attacks on humans are extremely rare. However, conflicts are increasing as California's human population expands into mountain lion habitat.

- Do not hike, bike, or jog alone.
- Avoid hiking or jogging when mountain lions are most active—dawn, dusk, and at night.
- Keep a close watch on small children.
- Do not approach a mountain lion.
- If you encounter a mountain lion, do not run; instead, face the animal, make noise and try to look bigger by waving your arms; throw rocks or other objects. Pick up small children.
- If attacked, fight back.
- If a mountain lion attacks a person, immediately call 911.

### BLACK BEAR



### GRIZZLY BEAR



Courtesy of the Center for Wildlife Information

## BEAR ENCOUNTERS - Never approach a bear!

**In the campground:** Do not run. Be aggressive; assert your dominance by standing tall and making noise to scare the bear away. Banging pots and pans together and shouting loudly may work.

**In the woods:** This is the bear's territory; respect that and do not run. Make eye contact, but don't stare. Pick up small children. Make yourself appear as large as possible. Stay calm and quiet, back away slowly.

Black bears will usually avoid confrontation with humans.

Bears will often climb a tree

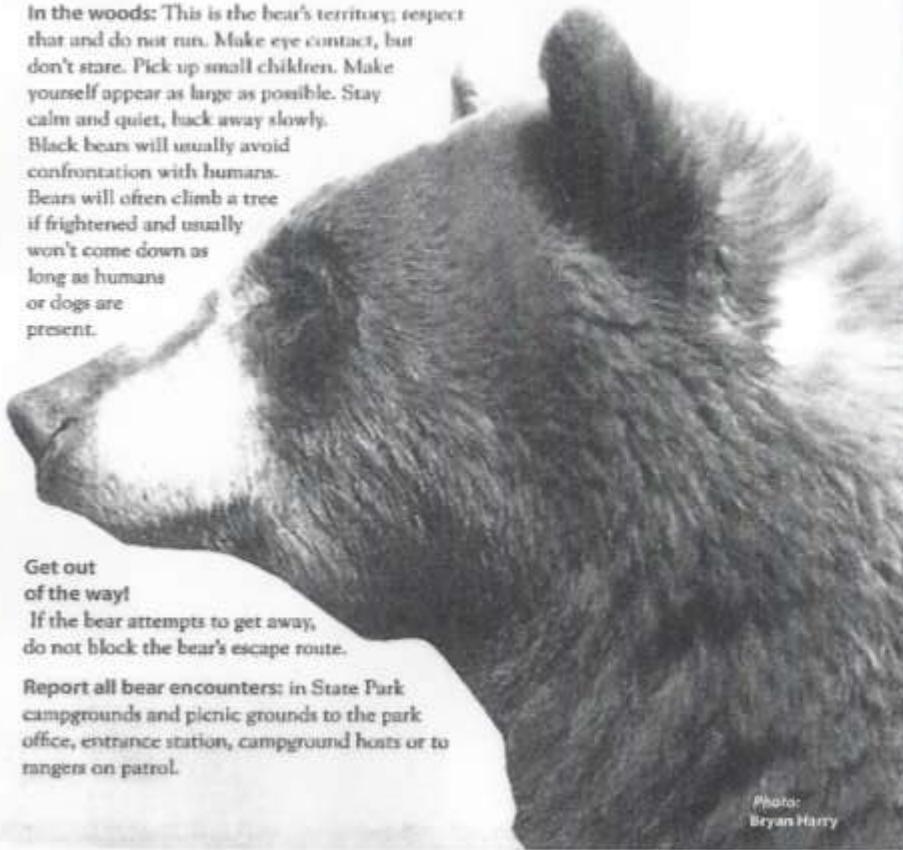
if frightened and usually

won't come down as

long as humans

or dogs are

present.



### Get out of the way!

If the bear attempts to get away, do not block the bear's escape route.

**Report all bear encounters:** in State Park campgrounds and picnic grounds to the park office, entrance station, campground hosts or to rangers on patrol.

Photo:  
Bryan Harry

Strict regulations are in place to reduce conflicts between humans and bears. There is zero tolerance for non-compliance.

- Bear-resistant food storage facilities are available at Sierra District Campgrounds.
- All food and refuse must be stored in the bear-resistant facilities provided unless it is being actively used or transported.
- No food or refuse may be stored in a vehicle in the campground.
- Food that cannot be stored in the bear-resistant facilities provided must be discarded.
- Non-compliance will result in park staff confiscating food and/or issuing a citation.

What you know and do can prevent injury to bears, property, even to you, your family and friends!