



Media Advisory

Date: February 16, 2020

Contacts:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife: Captain Todd Tognazzini 805-610-3916

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District: 650-691-2165 or 650-772-3638

Rancho San Antonio County Park and Open Space Preserve closed following suspected mountain lion encounter

Cupertino, CA— Rancho San Antonio County Park and Open Space Preserve is temporarily closed due to an encounter between a preserve visitor and an animal.

At approximately 10 a.m. Sunday, a Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District ranger provided first aid to a child who was injured by an animal while walking on a trail about 2 miles from the main parking area. The animal, suspected to be a mountain lion, was scared away by adults who were with the child. The Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office and Fire Department also responded. The child was treated on-scene for minor injuries and released to parental care.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife officers, with assistance from Midpen rangers, are investigating the incident and attempting to locate and positively identify the animal. Rancho San Antonio County Park and Open Space Preserve is closed until further notice, and will reopen when the investigation is finished and Midpen determines it is safe to do so.

Midpen works closely with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to minimize conflicts between wildlife and people. When an encounter happens and the animal can be located and positively identified, CDFW determines what action to take.

Mountain lions live throughout the Santa Cruz Mountains region and generally are not a threat to people. Most avoid areas of human activity and are easily scared off by loud noises. Seeing a mountain lion is rare and an encounter like this is very unusual. Visitors to parks and open space should remain vigilant when outdoors in mountain lion territory. If you see a mountain lion in Midpen preserves, remain calm, make yourself large and loud and slowly back away. Never turn your back or run. Report sighting to Midpen rangers at 650-691-2165.

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