

In The Unlikely Event That You Should Ever Encounter A Predator, Here Are Several Predator Safety Tips From Experts

GENERAL

1. Keep small children in sight and under control at all times.
2. Keep pets on a leash at all times and make sure they are in dog kennels or cabins at night.
3. Don't leave any food or trash outside the cabins (except in designated bins).
4. Predators are generally more active from dusk to dawn.
5. Carry bear-spray and a stout walking stick to intimidate predators and protect yourself.
6. Do not hike after dark. Always hike with a companion and make noise (pebbles in a pop-can makes a good rattle).
7. Be alert in areas of heavy cover, overhanging ledges or large overhanging tree branches.
8. Do not approach dead animals, especially recently killed or partially covered deer. Watch for tracks, scratch piles, or partially covered droppings.

We also have a more detailed version of this document available, as well as the "source materials" they were compiled from, if you wish to read them.

ENCOUNTERS

1. If you see a predator, detour away from it (If you see a cub, Mom is near by & you should leave).
2. Don't get between a bear cub & it's Mother. She will try to defend her young.
3. Never feed a carnivore or try to approach it.
4. If it is close, and notices you, **Stop, Stand Tall, Stay Calm, Never Run Or Try to Hide.**

!!! TURNING YOUR BACK, RUNNING AWAY, CROUCHING AND HIDING IS WHAT PREY DOES !!!

5. If you have a surprise encounter with a bear, it may exhibit defensive behavior, especially if startled or protecting its cubs or food. It may stare directly at you, pop its jaws, swat the ground, or huff and snort. They may even bluff charge, but stop short or run past. If so, experts recommend you stand your ground. - **DONT RUN!**
6. Identify yourself as human by talking in non-threatening, deep tones, singing, arms outstretched. Shake your can rattle.
7. Avoid direct eye contact with bears, wolves & coyotes, while still keeping an eye on them.
8. Leave them an escape route.
9. Talk to it firmly in a loud voice and your clap hands to disrupt and discourage predatory behavior.
10. Pick small children up if possible so they don't panic and run, and although it may be awkward, do it without bending, over crouching, or turning away from the animal. For cougars this is particularly important.
11. Back away slowly, while watching, always facing the predator. Try to group together, if possible.
12. (**For cougars**) Do all you can to appear larger -- raise your arms, stand on a stump or rock, hold your coat open above your head and wave your arms slowly.
13. **At signs of aggressive behavior (see table below):**
 - Act more aggressive and intimidating, while continuing to back away.
 - Shout and make lots of noise, wave your arms, and try to appear as large as possible.
 - Throw rocks and branches or whatever you can reach without crouching or turning your back.
14. **If it attacks**, try to stay on your feet & use any means necessary to deter it. Fight back using fists, sticks, rocks, bear pepper spray (everything in your power) to convince the animal you are not an easy prey item.
15. If you're being attacked by a black bear, wolf, coyote or cougar **DON'T EVER GIVE UP OR PLAY DEAD !!!**
16. ***"It is legal to use lethal force (via firearm) to protect one's life but it is rarely necessary"***.

Tree climbing to avoid bears is popular advice but **not practical** in most circumstances.

All black bears, all grizzly cubs and some adult grizzlies can climb trees and can run up to 30 miles an hour, faster than an Olympic sprinter. Running to a tree may provoke an otherwise uncertain predator to chase you.

PREDATOR	SIGNS OF AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR
BEARS	It may stalk or approach you even after you have made your presence known. It may lower its head, follow, and advance with a fixed gaze. The bear perceives you as prey.
COUGARS	Crouching with ears back, teeth bared, hissing, tail twitching and hind feet pumping in preparation to jump.
COYOTES & WOLVES	It does not retreat, holds its tail high, and raises its hackles, barking or howling.

This summary has been gleaned from the following publications:

- University of Idaho, "University of Idaho US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service Tips for the Public on Living Peaceably With Wildlife", www.uidaho.edu
- Mountain Lion Foundation, "Cougar Safety Tips", www.mountainlion.org
- Office of Council Member Nancy Pyle, "Mountain Lion & Coyote Safety Tips", City of San Jose, CA
- National Park Service, "Minimizing the Dangers of a Bear Encounter", www.nps.gov
- US Scouting service project, "Safety in Bear Country, Bear Facts, and Bear Encounter Stories" USSSP/usscouts.org Home