Notes from the Field: Wildlife Safety

We are our own worst enemies!

DARWIN AWARDS
The two most abundant things in the universe are hydrogen and stupidity.
Mammal Diversity

Richness of the 359 species with range maps

Species

88
≤30
Reptile Diversity

Richness of the 295 species with range maps

Species

1

69

BiodiversityMapping.org
## Risk Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX</th>
<th>HAZARD PROBABILITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Frequent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catastrophic I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate III</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negligible IV</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Extremely High**
- **High**
- **Moderate**
- **Low**

The risk assessment matrix illustrates the relationship between the severity of the risk and the probability of the hazard. The risk is categorized as *Low* based on the matrix.
Wildlife can be lethal...
Rabies

- Avoidance of animals acting unusually
- Consider pre-exposure vaccine
Bear Safety

- **Prevention:**
  - Keep food, toiletries, etc. in refrigerator or closed bear boxes
  - Keep dishes clean and away from windows
  - Be aware while walking

- **If you see a bear:**
  - Remain calm and do not approach
  - Slowly move away – do not run
  - Make yourself look big and talk in normal voice
  - Bears will stand to see and bluff charge
Lion Safety

MOUNTAIN LION HABITAT

Mountain lions are a natural part of this region’s environment. Lions typically live alone and hunt between dusk and dawn. Adult lions are generally wary of people and try to avoid contact. In the rare case of an encounter with a mountain lion, use caution.

IF YOU ENCOUNTER A MOUNTAIN LION:

- FACE LION. BACK AWAY SLOWLY.
- BE LARGE. SHOUT.
- IF ATTACKED, FIGHT BACK.
- KEEP CHILDREN CLOSE.
- PICK UP CHILDREN WITHOUT BENDING.

Mountain Lion — 7-8 feet
Bobcat — 3 feet
Domestic Cat — 2 feet
Human — 6 feet tall
HOW TO PREVENT A SNAKEBITE

- Avoid places where snakes may live, including tall grass or brush, rocky areas, fallen logs, bluffs, swamps, marshes, leaves, and deep holes in the ground.
- Watch where you step and where you sit when outdoors.
- Never handle a snake, even if you think it is dead. Recently killed snakes may still bite by reflex.
- If you are planning to spend time in a snake-prone area, it's best not to go alone in case you are bitten by a snake or have another emergency. If you must go alone, make sure you bring a fully charged mobile telephone, and stay wherever your phone gets a signal.

When moving through tall grass or weeds, poke at the ground in front of you with a long stick to scare away snakes.

Shine a flashlight on your path when walking outside at night.

Wear long pants and sturdy close-toed shoes when spending time outdoors.
Bambi and the 3 Little ‘Pigs’
Take home message

- Be Aware
- Act to Prevent
- React to Avoid

Sometimes the best relationship is a long-distance relationship

Distance gives us a new perspective.

Distance makes the heart grow fonder.

75 ft / 23 m
deer and most other wildlife

150 ft / 46 m
black bears

75 feet = about two bus-lengths