



## SAN MATEO POLICE DEPARTMENT

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### **MEDIA RELEASE / COMMUNITY ALERT**

**For Immediate Release No. 20200420-016**

**Monday, April 20, 2020**

#### **SMPD Community Alert: Mountain Lion Sighting and Safety Tips**

On Monday, April 20, 2020 at 1:15 a.m., San Mateo Police Department officers were responding to an unrelated call for service when they reported seeing a mountain lion jaywalking at the intersection of W. Poplar Avenue / N. El Camino Real. Likely knowing he was in violation of the State jaywalking code, the mountain lion quickly ran westbound. Multiple officers saturated the area and conducted a thorough search of the area; however, they were unable to locate the animal.

Officers described the mountain lion as 5'-06" in length, 150 pounds, and brown colored.

This alert is for information only and has been issued only as a precaution to our community. The San Mateo Police Department would like to remind you of a few simple tips to protect you and your loved ones from mountain lions. If you see a mountain lion in your neighborhood, please dial 9-1-1.

#### **PLEASE REMEMBER THESE SAFETY TIPS REGARDING MOUNTAIN LIONS**

Although it would be rare for a mountain lion to approach humans, you should follow a few simple rules to keep you and your family safe:

- Do not feed deer. It is illegal in California and it will attract mountain lions.
- DO NOT APPROACH a mountain lion if seen, especially one that is feeding or with offspring. Most mountain lions will try to avoid confrontation.
- Avoid hiking or jogging through wooded areas when mountain lions are most active—dawn, dusk, or at night.
- Keep a close watch on small children when hiking or traveling in or about wooded areas.
- Do not run if you encounter a mountain lion. Instead, face the animal, make noise and try to look bigger by waving your arms; throw rocks or other objects; pick up small children.
- For more information about mountain lions, click [www.keepmewild.org](http://www.keepmewild.org).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOUNTAIN LIONS PLEASE VISIT THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE WEBSITE AT <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/>.**

#### **MEDIA INQUIRES**

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