

# Mountain Lion Martial Arts?

## Mid Peninsula Regional Open Space District wants you to defend yourself.... But not with a gun

In the Sierra Azul Preserve next to Los Gatos, the government warns you that you may be attacked by a mountain lion while on the trails. And they clearly state they want you to fight off the attack.....but they just don't want you to use a weapon. And especially not a gun.



**Trail Regulations posted on the website are quite clear about what you are not allowed to do in the Preserve. They state.....**

**“For Your Safety and the Protection of the Environment...**

Visitors are responsible for knowing and obeying the District's Land Use Regulations **District Ordinances**

**Weapons:** Weapons of any kind are prohibited on preserves.”

So just how do the benevolent Environmentalists at the Open Space District suggest you defend yourself?

**Do not run from a lion.** Instead, **stand and face the animal. Make eye contact.** If you have small children with you, pick them up if possible so they **don't panic and run.** Although it may be awkward, pick them up without bending over or turning away from the mountain lion.

**Do not crouch down or bend over.** If you're in mountain lion country, avoid squatting, crouching or bending over, even when picking up children.

Do all you can to **appear larger. Raise your arms.** Open your jacket if you are wearing one. Throw stones, branches, or whatever you can reach without crouching or turning your back. **Wave your arms slowly and speak firmly in a loud voice. The idea is to convince the mountain lion that you are not prey and that you may be a danger to it.**

**Fight back if attacked.** Hikers have **fought back successfully with sticks, caps, jackets, garden tools, and their bare hands.** Since a mountain lion usually tries to bite the head or neck, **try to remain standing and face the attacking animal.**

So, in summary..... Stand up straight, engage in a staring contest, bad mouth the lion in an authoritative voice, wave your arms, and make yourself look big. And if all this fails, get in a wrestling match with the cat.

Try as I might, I can't find any reference to a Mountain Lion martial arts program being sponsored by the Open Space District. Maybe it's time someone locked up one of these idiots in a cage with a Mountain Lion and let them show us how it is done.