



Rancho Simi

RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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RANCHO SIMI RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT OFFERS TIPS TO STAY SAFE WHEN INTERACTING WITH WILDLIFE

With summer arriving, hiking season is underway. The Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District invites you to enjoy its 51 developed parks and 80 miles of hiking trails and reminds you of important safety tips while exploring the great outdoors this summer.

When on trails, hikers are encouraged to walk with a partner and be aware of your location and surroundings to avoid becoming disoriented or lost. Always keep dogs on a leash, bring plenty of water, and always plan to finish your hike before sundown.

In the event you find yourself interacting with potentially dangerous wildlife, it's important to remain calm. If you encounter a rattlesnake, back away slowly and make noise. Give the snake time to move away, and alter your route if the snake does not vacate the area. Do not attempt to capture or use a stick to remove a rattlesnake from a trail.

Though encounters with mountain lions are incredibly rare, it is important to know how to safely navigate this situation. Back away slowly. Do not turn your back to the mountain lion, and do not run. Make yourself appear larger than the mountain lion, wave your arms, and speak in a loud voice. If you're with a child or pet, pick them up, or keep them as close to you as possible.

For more information about hiking safety, visit the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District online at www.rsrpd.org, call (805) 584-4400, or email info@rsrpd.us.

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