

## **Bear/ Cougar Alert Procedures for Aspenwood**

### **A. Daily Procedures:**

1. Hallway Exterior Doors unlocked between 8:00-9:00am; 10:15-10:30am; 12:00-12:40pm; 2:45-3:30pm to allow for students or parents to enter the building if bear/cougar is sighted.
2. Exterior garbage cans put out in morning and brought inside building every afternoon.
3. Principal or designate visually checks playfield prior to students being dismissed at recess and lunch
4. Staff on supervision wear safety vests and carry horns and /or whistles.

### **Emergency Actions**

#### **B. Bear/cougar Sighting off of school grounds:**

1. Phone call from neighbours or parent received. Time and location of bear/cougar sighting are noted.
2. Announcement made to notify school if sighting is near a dismissal time.
3. Students kept indoors if time of bear/cougar sighting is near a break time (recess, lunch)
4. Students and parents advised via PA system of bear/cougar sighting in neighbourhood if sighted near 2:45pm. Students must be under direct supervision of their parent or daycare provider when released. Students walking home alone will be kept at school and provided with further instructions from Principal.

#### **C. Sighting of bear/cougar on school grounds during instruction time:**

1. Staff report bear/cougar sighting to office.
2. Announcement made to notify school that a bear/cougar is on school grounds.
3. Students kept in at recess and lunch (Indoor Day)
4. Port Moody Police and Conservation Officers are contacted immediately for assistance or further instructions.

#### **D. Sighting of bear/cougar on school grounds if students or staff are outdoors (Morning; Recess; Lunch or Afterschool)**

1. If sighted by supervising staff, a whistle/ horn is blown. Three loud blasts.
2. Announcement made asking everyone to proceed indoors.
3. Students enter the school via the nearest unlocked exterior door. Move calmly towards entrances. Students then proceed to their classrooms once they are in the school.
4. Port Moody Police and Conservation Officers are contacted immediately for assistance or further instructions.

#### **E. If You See a bear/cougar:**

- ✓ Remain calm; don't panic. Often the animal is simply looking for food and will move on if it finds nothing to eat.
- ✓ Keep away from the bear/cougar and go inside – bring all students inside.
- ✓ Never approach the bear/cougar and do not run from the bear/cougar. Do not act submissively by crouching down or whispering.
- ✓ Warn others of the bear/cougar's presence, but don't do it by yelling
- ✓ If the bear climbs a tree, keep people and pets away. Eventually when things quiet down, the bear will come down and leave. This usually happens after dark when the bear feels safe. Once the bear is safely out of the area, check the area to ensure there are no attractants available.

**Staff, students and parents are instructed to not approach the bear/cougar or its young.**

For more information check out the link below.

[http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/info/wildlife\\_human\\_interaction/docs/cougars.html#encounters](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/info/wildlife_human_interaction/docs/cougars.html#encounters)