BC **Forest Safety** Council

Other Alerts

Safety Alert Type:
Other

Location: North Selous, Nelson BC

Date of Incident: 2008-05-09
Company Name: Kalesnikoff Lumber Co. Ltd. – Woodlands

Details of Incident:

While locating a lot boundary in the North Selous area an employee was approached by an adult cougar. Luckily he was alerted to the approach of the cougar by the timorous chattering of a nearby squirrel. The employee scanned the hillside for the cause of all the excitement when he noticed a large cougar glaring at him from the shade of a nearby tree approximately 20-30 meters away. The direction of the cat was along the same route from where the employee had just come from, so he presumed that the cat was intentionally following him.
Once the cougar was aware that the employee was watching, it sat down and acted nonchalant.

At this point the employee pulled out his bear spray, and grabbed a large stick. He tried yelling and brandishing the stick in what he hoped would be a threatening manner, but this had no apparent effect upon the cat. Thus began a bit of a stand-off. When the employee did try to back away, the cougar would go into a threatening crouch position, which caused the employee to stand his ground, yell a bit, and try to look big. This would cause the cougar to return to a sitting position.

Eventually the employee was able to leave the scene, all the while with his eyes on the feline. The employee must have put on a good show, as the cougar did not respond with a crouch, or try to follow behind him. The employee made his way to his vehicle, about a kilometer away, stopping occasionally to make sure he was not being followed.

Recommended Preventative Actions:

The employee reacted according to approved safe work procedures for cougar encounters, lessening the chances of an adverse situation to occur.

More Information Contact Details:

Kalesnikoff Lumber Co. Ltd. – Woodlands
Phone: (250) 399-4211

Copyright © 2008 BC **Forest Safety** Council. All rights reserved.