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## Local Mountain Lion Attack

A 50-year-old homeless man is recovering in a hospital after allegedly being attacked by a mountain lion in Perris over the weekend.

The victim was taken to a nearby hospital Saturday morning with injuries consistent with a mountain lion attack – lacerations, puncture wounds and bite marks at the base of the skull.

He had surgery Saturday night and his condition is unknown.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) law enforcement officers and biologists responded to the area and were unable to locate the lion. Baited traps have been set in an effort to capture the lion and officers are on scene.

CDFW will make all reasonable efforts to ensure the actual offending animal is destroyed. DNA samples were collected from the victim to match with the lion if it is captured. If the animal is found it will be destroyed in the interest of public safety.

“The first priority of any law enforcement agency is the safety of the public and we are doing everything we can to find and capture this animal before it can harm anyone else” said CDFW Assistant Chief Dan Sforza. “We are asking nearby residents to be aware there is a lion in the area and to be careful with their pets and children.”

The attack happened off of Highway 74 west of the 215 freeway.

If confirmed this will be the 15th verified lion attack on humans in California since 1986. The last fatal attack was in Jan. 2004 at Whiting Ranch Regional Park in Orange County. A 63-year-old man survived a lion attack in July 2012 in Nevada County.

For more information on living with wildlife: [www.dfg.ca.gov/keepmewild](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/keepmewild)

To receive more detailed, up-to-date information directly from the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department via e-mail, register for “Nixle” alerts at [www.Nixle.com](http://www.Nixle.com) or more directly at [local.nixle.com/register](http://local.nixle.com/register) Or, text your zip code to 888777 to receive text alerts only.

The incident is under investigation.



Above is a photo of a full-grown mountain lion .

### Media Contact

Joe Vargo

Public Information Officer

☎ 951-956-2120

✉ [jvargo@cityofperris.org](mailto:jvargo@cityofperris.org)



**Perris City Hall**  
101 N. D Street  
Perris, CA 92570

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