



Trail Safety

The Aliso & Wood Canyons Wilderness Trail is available for walkers, joggers, and bicyclists to enjoy for outdoor recreation. A portion of the 14-mile trail is also used by students walking to and from Aliso Viejo Middle School and Aliso Viejo High School. The trail may be a convenient route to school; however, users of the trail need to be aware and consider their safety to avoid potential hazards.

Consider the following facts:

1. The remoteness of the trail can provide an opportunity for other users to loiter or camp in heavy vegetation or to hang out near or inside the flood control area.
2. The sporadically used trail is out of view and out of earshot of the public.
3. The trail has no emergency phones posted along the route used by students.

Like crime prevention, safety is everyone's business. Students and parents who use the trail are encouraged to follow these safety tips:

- Be alert and aware at all times.
- Be observant and routinely look around you, scan the vegetation and listen to the trail noise.
- Stay on the trail instead of walking into the vegetation or onto paths to decrease your chance of suffering an injury or getting lost.
- Be aware of where you are and know the landmarks for the location of your whereabouts on the trail, such as the schools, parks, and ball fields.
- Travel in groups. Stay together!
- Wear a whistle or even a personal alarm.
- Do not be distracted by texting, phoning, or listening to music with ear buds. When you are distracted, anyone can silently approach you from behind and you could become an easy target for assault.
- Keep your phone handy to call in an emergency situation.
- If you encounter wildlife—such as a mountain lion, bobcat, or rattlesnake—keep your distance, back away slowly, and do not run. Call 9-1-1.
- If someone does approach you, get a good description, run to the nearest populated area, and call 9-1-1.

The trail is periodically patrolled by Orange County Parks and Orange County Sheriff's Department.

To report life-threatening emergencies or crimes in progress, call 9-1-1.

To report suspicious activity, call Sheriff's Dispatch at (949) 770-6011.

Thank you for staying safe!

**Aliso Viejo Police Services
Crime Prevention Unit
Orange County Sheriff's Department
(949) 425-2563**