

Bear Attack Injures Hiker in Western Tokyo



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A man was injured after being attacked by a bear while hiking in Okutama Town in western Tokyo on Sunday, according to Japan's public broadcaster NHK.

Police and local officials said the incident occurred at around 11:55 a.m. when the man, who was hiking alone, encountered a bear on a mountain trail near Mount Sanukido. The animal suddenly attacked, causing severe injuries to his face and arms.

Rescue teams airlifted the man to a hospital while he remained conscious. Authorities said his condition was serious but not life-threatening.

Following the attack, local officials and police, along with hunters, searched the surrounding forested area but were unable to locate the bear. A trap cage has been installed in the vicinity as a precautionary measure.

The incident took place approximately one kilometer from the nearest residential area, raising safety concerns among residents and hikers. Authorities have urged public to avoid nearby trails and take precautions, including using bear bells when entering mountainous regions.

According to the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, at least seven bear sightings have been reported in Okutama since April, indicating increased wildlife movement.