



DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Dale J Schmidt Sheriff Scott Mittelstadt Chief Deputy

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fake Guns Look Very Real/Use Common Sense

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office supports individuals second amendment rights as well as manufacturers and consumers rights when it comes to the ownership or use of firearms or fake guns when it is done in compliance with the law. We do ask that citizens use common sense and sound judgement when using toy/fake guns or BB guns in view of the public.

Many toy guns or BB guns are on the market that are very difficult to differentiate from real guns. Whether they are airsoft guns that shot small toy pellets, BB guns for target shooting or completely fake toy guns, most look very realistic and in the wrong circumstance can cause significant disruption to the peace and tranquility of everyday life or even create a high risk situation.



Toy guns are generally required to have an orange tip in an effort to make them more easily identifiable as a toy gun. This however, as can be seen in the picture, is easy to miss from a distance, in low light situations or when covered up or cut off as is commonly found to be the case with many located by law enforcement.

Furthermore, gun manufacturers now have the ability due to technology to make real guns using just about any color. This can add to the difficulty from a law enforcement or the public's perspective in identifying a weapon as real or fake.

It is for these reasons that the Dodge County Sheriff's Office asks anyone who intends to use toy or BB guns in view of the public to think through how others may view what they are doing and consider the potential risks associated with their activity prior to engaging in such behavior. We also ask parents to monitor their children's activity with these objects to ensure they are not putting themselves at risk or creating a risky situation in their neighborhood.

It is not uncommon for individuals with no actual intent to harm anyone to go out into the public to act out games similar to what they see in movies or have played on gaming systems. When this is done in a public area this type of activity can lead to very disruptive, unintended, yet very real consequences.

With all that is happening in the world today and the incredible access to different forms of media from around the world, the general public is much more sensitive to individuals with guns in their neighborhoods and rightly so. Also, as there are more and more individuals today exercising their 2nd Amendment rights, these seemingly innocent games being played by children and sometimes young adults could lead to catastrophic consequences.

We ask that anyone using toy or fake guns in view of the public to go above and beyond to make it clear that it is not a real gun and carefully consider the potential consequences of your actions.

Questions may be directed to Sheriff Dale J. Schmidt.

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