



## Anna Police Department

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## News Release

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### Summer Safety Tips for Anna Parents of Airsoft “Gun” Enthusiasts

**ANNA, TEXAS (JUNE 28, 2019)** – The Anna Police Department (APD) is always looking for ways to improve the safety and well-being of our neighbors. We saw this post (screen shot below) by the Mineral Wells Texas Police Department and wanted to share it, along with the link (below) to an article with excellent safety tips for Anna parents of children who are Airsoft “gun” enthusiasts. Our hope is this information will help Anna parents of Airsoft “gun” enthusiasts prevent accidents this summer.

We realize Airsoft competitions are popular in formal Airsoft indoor and outdoor competitions, and sometimes these competitions take place in wooded areas, fields and even residential backyards. We want to increase awareness for Anna parents, as well as Airsoft players, about the personal injury potential when using Airsoft “guns”.

In addition to the personal injury awareness regarding the discharging of Airsoft “guns”, we want parents and Airsoft players to be aware of the potential tragedy which could result from an Airsoft “gun” in the hands of a player, being mistaken for a real gun by Anna police officers, or well-intentioned citizens.

Look at the photos below in the post from the Mineral Wells Police Department showing the Airsoft replica of a Sig-Sauer P320 semi-automatic pistol, and a real Sig-Sauer semi-auto pistol. The replica pistol can easily be mistaken for a real pistol. Imagine how difficult it would be to distinguish between the replica pistol and a real pistol from 25 to 50 feet away, and while the Airsoft player holding it is waving their hands around.

Now, imagine Anna 911 call-takers receiving calls from well intentioned citizens reporting “person(s) brandishing “gun(s)” walking down an Anna neighborhood street. Dispatchers send multiple Anna officers to this location. However, the “persons” are just a few teens (who may appear to be adults) on their way home from afternoon or evening Airsoft games.

Anna police officers arriving at the location see “persons” carrying “guns” just like the dispatcher described. Officers make contact with the “persons” from a safe distance (perhaps 25 to 50 feet) and order the “persons” to put down their “guns””. However, the “persons” are tired from playing hard, they half-hear the officers and they fail to drop their “guns” as directed. Then, they turn toward the officers to better hear them, with the “guns” still in their hands, and maybe even unknowingly, their guns are now partially pointed toward the officers. *This is how a horrible tragedy can occur.*

Parents of children who are Airsoft players, talk with your children and explain to them the importance of following the orders of police officers without hesitation if they are playing Airsoft games, carrying their “guns” and come in contact with an Anna Police Officer.

“The link below is a great article written by a personal defense training professional about Airsoft “gun” dangers related to incidents involving her own children. It contains excellent suggestions for improving Airsoft “gun” safety which we can use here in Anna,” said Anna Police Chief Jeff Caponera. “By sharing this safety information about Airsoft “guns” with Anna parents and their children, we all can help prevent any Airsoft accidents this summer.”

<https://www.personaldefensenetwork.com/article/kids-guns-three-airsoft-mistakes/>



## Mineral Wells Police Department



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Which one of these is a toy and which one is real? By the time you decide it may be too late.

The pistol with a silver slide is an air soft replica of a Sig Sauer P320 seized by our patrol officers after it was displayed in a threatening manner during a recent incident. The bottom pistol is an actual Sig Sauer P320 carried by our officers on duty... [See More](#)



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