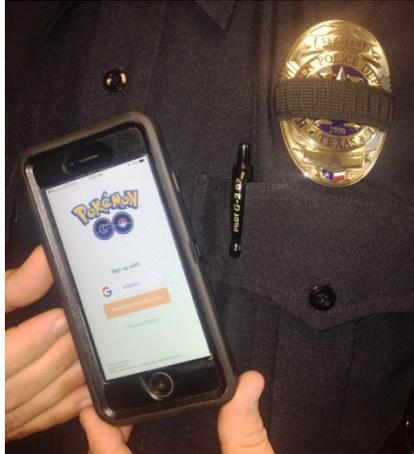


HARLINGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE
2016-0161

HONOR ◊ COURAGE ◊ INTEGRITY

PUBLIC SAFETY ANNOUNCEMENT



Pokemon, you know... 'pocket monsters', is a cultural phenomenon that gained popularity in the 1990s and is now known world-wide by all ages. The newest installment in the Pokemon franchise comes in the form of the smart phone app, Pokemon Go. We are sure you've seen it by now, if not played it. The game allows users to leave the house and explore their surroundings to catch Pokemon through augmented reality.

As the Pokemon Go fever sweeps the nation, we are providing a few safety tips to for folks caught up in the craze.

1. **Be aware of your surroundings:** Stay alert and aware of where you are and who is around you. LOOK UP! the app is designed to buzz when that sneaky Pokemon is near so no reason to stay glued to the screen.
2. **Set limits on where your kids can go:** Setting regular boundaries can limit the amount of strangers that you or your kids could encounter. "Don't go past the stop sign," "Don't leave the yard."
3. **DON'T DRIVE & POKEMON GO!:** No Pidgey or Pikachu is worth sustaining injury or being involved in an accident. Don't put yourself or others at risk.
4. If you're traveling in an unfamiliar area, let someone know where you will be.
5. **People may think you're a suspicious person.** There have been notable stories where players had the police called on them because they were in a public place at odd hours.



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6. **If the police stop you** on a report of being suspicious, understand that community concerns are greater than your gameplay concerns. Calmly explain that you're just playing a video game and **show police you're willing to listen to them when they stop you.**

7. **Know park hours.** You can get cited by local authorities, and most communities have park hours posted near the entrance.

8. **It's just a game.** Remember, you may have opponents during gameplay, but they are not your 'enemies.'

9. **Walk!** Most GPS-enabled games require you to get out into the community. They're designed to get your body up and moving - and in better shape.

10. **Bring a friend.** Pokemon GO is designed as a social game, and you'll end up being safer and having more fun in the long run when you play with friends.

11. **Manage your battery life.** Your phone is your primary communication device in the community. Be sure to have a phone charger/charging cord with you or stored in your vehicle. Invest in a portable battery charger and make sure to periodically charge it and have it handy during times of extended gameplay.

Source: One Patch editor gives safety tips for playing GPS-driven mobile games, including the new craze Pokemon GO. [Mike Carraggi \(Patch National Staff\)](#)



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