

DEKALB POLICE DEPARTMENT

David Byrd, Chief of Police



PRESS RELEASE



For Immediate Release

Issued: June 8, 2022

To Provide Info Call 815-748-8400

To Report a Crime/Request Emergency Police Response Call 9-1-1

Public Safety Message About Imitation Guns

DeKalb Police have a simple message: Do not show imitation guns in public. An imitation gun is a realistic copy of an actual firearm. Over the past month, DeKalb Police have seen an increase in imitation guns being carried in public places by teens and adults alike. An imitation gun is sometimes indistinguishable from a real gun because of the attention to detail during production. Imitations can include:

- Airsoft, BB, or pellet guns
- Replica or prop guns
- Paintball guns
- Toy or novelty guns, such as Orbeez guns

Imitation guns can be fun to play with, but they can pose safety hazards and create fear and panic if used in public places. People might mistake an imitation gun for a real gun and call police, which could have serious consequences.

Every year throughout Illinois, police respond to numerous incidents where firearms are reported, but later upon close examination, the guns are revealed to be realistic imitations. Because of their realism, imitation guns have also been involved in numerous police shootings and close calls nationwide.

DeKalb Police take firearms complaints seriously due to the threat to public and officer safety. We will respond quickly with appropriate resources, tactics, and level of force. It could be a potentially deadly confrontation, even though it is our intention to avoid deadly force confrontations whenever possible. That is why it is imperative that imitation guns be removed from the equation.

PLEASE REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

City of DeKalb Police Department
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815.748.8400 / TDD 815.748.8400 / Fax 815.748.2055
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Bottom Line: If it looks like a real gun, it is treated like a real gun by police. Even under ideal conditions, it can be challenging or impossible to determine if a gun is real or fake, simply by looking at it.

Because of the potential risks involved, you cannot legally show most imitation guns in public places. If you do, depending on the circumstances, you can be fined, arrested, and have your gun seized. For your safety and the safety of others around you, please obey the law and do not openly show imitation guns in public.

Safety Tips for using Imitation Guns:

- Please use imitation guns in a safe, responsible, and lawful manner
- Never play with an imitation gun in public places such as shopping centers, parks or schools.
- Use air gun imitations only where legally allowed at designated play areas, gun ranges, or on private land outside of the City of DeKalb.
- Do not point an imitation gun at another person, even if you are joking.
- Handle air gun imitations with care to avoid injuries.
- Set rules for children playing with imitation guns so they understand the dangers of misusing them.
- Keep imitation guns out of sight and locked in a case to prevent misunderstandings, accidents, or theft.
- If you are carrying an imitation gun and are approached by police, put the gun down and obey their instructions, period.

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