Dangerous Game

Florida 8th-grader wielding pellet gun shot down
January 14, 2006
(The Sun News) – A 15-year-old Florida boy who brandished a pellet gun at school was on life support Friday after he was shot by a deputy during a confrontation. San Bernardino, Florida.

Teens Arrested for Drive-By Shooting with Toy Gun
March 29th, 2007
(KSL News) – West Valley police arrested some teenagers tonight for a drive-by shooting with a toy gun. Salt Lake County, Utah.

LAPD Probes Shooting Of Woman Holding Toy Gun
December 27, 2005
(NBC4 TV)
SUNLAND, Calif. – An investigation was under way Tuesday into the shooting by LAPD officers of a woman holding what turned out to be a toy gun outside a residence in Sunland.

Boy is shot as he holds a toy gun
November 3, 2005
(International Herald )
JERUSALEM: A Palestinian boy carrying a toy gun was shot and seriously wounded by Israeli troops on Thursday during clashes in the northern West Bank town of Jenin.

PBSO 2006 Stats
Toy/Fake Guns
Robbery 4
Attempt Murder 1
Burglary/Theft 3
Assault/Battery 8
Other Crimes 9
Suspicious Incidents 11

PBSO 2007 Stats
Toy/Fake Guns
Robbery 6
Burglary/Theft 1
Assault/Battery 13
Other Crimes 4
Suspicious Incidents 11

PBSO 2008 Stats
Toy/Fake Guns
Robbery 0
Burglary/Theft 1
Assault/Battery 0
Other Crimes 4
Suspicious Incidents 5

The mission of the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office Crime Prevention Unit is to help reduce crime in business and residential communities by working together in partnership and through various proactive strategies, techniques, and programs.

EMERGENCY - DIAL 911

Non-Emergency Numbers:
South County (561) 995-2800
North County (561) 688-3000
West County (561) 996-1670

For more information contact the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office Crime Prevention Unit
1937 N Military Trail, Suite-Q
West Palm Beach, Florida 33409
(561) 688-3970
Email: CrimePrevention@pbso.org

Awareness Against Toy Guns
Can you distinguish the difference?
A Wisconsin company that disguises deadly firearms with bright paints and camouflage has a new target: Mayor Bloomberg. Lauer Custom Weaponry, whose products were banned in the city in 2006 because they make dangerous guns look like innocent toys, is taunting the anti-gun mayor with a line of paints named “The Bloomberg Collection.” The company - which named its purple hue after Barney, the dinosaur beloved by toddlers - is peddling a rainbow of candy-colored paints for each of the five boroughs. There’s red for Manhattan, rose for the Bronx, blue for Brooklyn, green for Queens and orange for Staten Island.  

Legislation: The 1988 “Federal Toy Gun Law” Prohibits manufacturers from selling imitation firearms unless there is a blaze orange plug in the barrel or a marking designated by the Secretary of Commerce.¹ Federal legislation pending in the US House of Representatives would require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to ban toys that resemble real hand guns in size, shape and overall appearance.²

¹The Secretary of Commerce may provide for an alternative marking or device for any toy gun not capable of being marked with the orange plug. The Secretary of Commerce may also make adjustments and changes in the marking system. 15 USCA § 5001 (2003).

²H.R. 211 (7 January 2003).

No Toys Here......

Makeshift toy guns have been around almost as long as firearms themselves, but the modern history begins with the cap gun, invented by shotgun manufacturers who retrofitted their factories in the settling smoke of the Civil War. In 1886, the first BB gun was created, scaring parents because it actually worked. Cheap, non-functional replicas, called penny guns, sprang up then as well, riding the coattails of improved manufacturing techniques.

In the 1950s, the toy gun vaulted into the mainstream when the swashbuckling, dual-holstered cowboy of the Wild West boosted sales to almost $300 million dollars over the decade. (Think Ralphie Parker, boy protagonist of “A Christmas Story” and his quest for the Red Ryder BB gun.) Westerns waned eventually, but the rise of the toy gun continued in the following decades.

In the 1980s, anti-gun activists leveled their sights on BB guns. The pared-down pistols and rifles, they noted, could do just what mothers had cautioned they would for years: “put your eye out.” One study found that almost all BB guns were able to achieve the 39 meters per second required to penetrate the eyeball.

Toy guns didn’t become a target of federal lawmakers until the late 1980s, when the Federal Imitation Gun Law was passed, requiring manufacturers to modify their toy guns to make them appear less realistic. In October 1992, the U.S. Department of Commerce issued regulations governing the “Marking of Toy Look-Alike and Imitation Firearms.” Under the new specifications, toy guns were required to bear a solid, “blaze-orange” plug at the tip of their barrel, or be colored entirely white, bright red, orange, yellow, green, blue, pink or purple.