

The Irvine Police Department and Irvine Unified School District are working in partnership to prevent tragedies that could affect the entire community. School personnel, citizens, and police officers are facing increasing incidents involving the use of air-soft type guns (rifles and handguns). The purpose of this pamphlet is to 1) inform parents of the criminal, civil and education laws regarding the use and possession of air-soft type guns, and 2) to prevent needless injuries or deaths that may result from the use of these replica-style guns.

These guns are typically realistic scale replicas of a handgun or rifle that fire a plastic projectile (BB) by means of a mechanically compressed spring. The increase in popularity has raised both legal and safety concerns related to the possession and use of these guns. Many parents and young people may be unaware of these safety issues and the existing City Of Irvine ordinances prohibiting the discharge of air- soft guns or any firearm within the city limits.



**Legal Consequences:** Section 4-14-103 of the Irvine Municipal Code prohibits the discharge of any firearm or air-soft gun that forcefully discharges any type of projectile, including metal or plastic BB's, anywhere within the city limits. As such, use of air-soft type guns is unlawful and the violator, whether an adult or juvenile, is subject to arrest and prosecution under the provisions of the code. Other charges may include: Brandishing a Weapon or Disorderly conduct.

9-1-1  
Crimes in Progress

### **Educational Consequences:**

The Irvine Unified School District considers air-soft type guns to be "dangerous objects of no reasonable use to the pupil at school," and IUSD students face serious consequences for the possession and/or use of air-soft type guns, up to and including expulsion from the school district.

Students may be suspended and/or expelled for acts delineated in the California Education Code, the state law governing public schools in California. These consequences are for behaviors that occur at any time related to school activities or school attendance, including but not limited to, while on school grounds during school hours, during lunch whether on or off campus, while going to or from school, and during, going to or coming from a school-sponsored activity.

The possession and/or use of air-soft type pellet guns under any of the conditions stated above violates at least two sections of California Education Code 48900 and, depending on the circumstances of the incident, may include several more. Students who are found to be in violation of these sections will be suspended from school and may be recommended for expulsion.

## Safety Consequences:

Another critical issue regarding the majority of these air-soft guns is their similarity to real firearms. Many of the guns are specifically designed as exact replicas of contemporary firearms. It can be very difficult to distinguish the replica gun from a real gun and this has resulted in numerous calls to police from concerned citizens. These calls could have resulted in officers mistaking an air-soft gun for a real firearm. Unfortunately, throughout the country there have been a number of police-involved shootings involving individuals armed with replica-style guns.

## CONTACTS

Irvine Police Department Business Desk (949) 724-7000

Shawn Wirth, IUSD Coordinator of Student Services  
(949) 936-5171

### School Resource Officers

Shane Holloway, (949) 724-7050  
University High School

Mike Frei, (949) 724-7275  
Woodbridge High School

Justin Russell, (949) 724-7251  
Creekside High School

Kayla Wiebe, (949) 724-7181  
Northwood High School

Eddie Robinson, (949) 724-7239  
Irvine High School

Frough Jahid, (949) 724-7184  
Beckman High School

## Know the Facts About Replica Guns



Can you tell the difference?



Information from  
The Irvine Police Department &  
The Irvine Unified School District