



SHERIFF

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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"Orbeez" Toy Gun Warning

Summary:

San Carlos- The San Mateo County Sheriff's Office has been made aware of incidents involving gel ball blasters "Orbeez Guns" being used throughout the City of San Carlos. Firing hydrated gel balls or "water bullets" (thawed or frozen) at people, cars, and animals is against the law. If you are a victim or see a gel ball blaster being fired maliciously, please call 911. Those firing gel ball blasters at all are in violation of Penal Code Section 246.3(b). Those firing gel ball blasters maliciously may be charged with a misdemeanor, depending on injuries sustained from the assault. The San Mateo County Sheriff's Office strongly encourages parents to discuss these devices with their children. A toy gun stops being a toy when it victimizes others.

Over the past few weeks, several community members have reported to the Sheriff's Office that they were struck by water beads that were shot by a toy gun known as a "Gel Blaster" or "Orbeez Toy Gun." Orbeez are small gel pellets that are loaded into a toy gun and can be discharged rapidly. These incidents have occurred throughout the city, but mainly in the downtown and surrounding areas. Witness statements have provided limited suspect details but suggest five juvenile suspects, driving an unknown make/model vehicle have been involved in multiple assaults. The suspects drive past the victims and discharge the toy gun at random individuals walking down the street, mostly in the evening hours.

Anyone who has information regarding these incidents is encouraged to call the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office at 650-363-4911 or our Anonymous Tip Line at 1-800-547-2700.

Written by: Sgt. Scott Mueller

