

Safety Corner

How to play Pokémon Go safely?

Unlike typical computer games that one can play at home comfortably, Pokémon GO encourages players, known as Pokémon trainers, to visit different areas to capture Pokémon or challenges others in Pokémon Gyms. It is terribly good fun but venturing into the real world can bring real danger. Here are some tips to help Pokémon trainers play the game safely:

- Same rule as “don’t drink and drive”, do not play Pokémon when driving. Never.
- Similarly, do not walk and play at the same time, especially when crossing the street. You may walk into people or a pole; worst yet, a sink hole or a car. Avoid moving while you are staring at your phone, stop to catch your Pokémon.
- Be alert at all times, and be aware of your surroundings. Phone-snatching robbers do not take time off training to catch Pokémon.
- Do not play alone in quiet streets. Play in pairs or as a group in well-lit areas to ensure your personal safety.
- Beware of strangers who want to take you somewhere for powerful, rare Pokémon. Be cautious of being lured into a bad situation.
- Be respectful, not every place that has a Pokémon is an appropriate place to go; e.g., hospitals, police stations, funeral homes, and churches. Do not go to areas you usually would not if you weren't playing Pokémon GO.
- Accompany your child if he or she is not old enough to play alone. Keep an eye on your child at all times when training to catch Pokémon outdoors.
- Protect your private information; and be careful about false mobile applications and suspicious online tools.

=====

The Safety Corner is contributed by Ir Prof. Vincent Ho, who can be contacted at vsho@UCLA.edu