

Tulsa Police Department

Child Exploitation Unit

A Public Safety Information Bulletin

A Seemingly Innocent Menace

An Introduction to “PEDO BEAR”

It is recommended that the following content be for **adult consumption only**, or shared under **adult supervision and guidance**.



“PedoBear” as the original Internet meme on left, and the incarnation of “PedoBear” handing out Free Candy at San Diego’s Comic Con.

What’s a Pedo Bear?

First, some definitions;

Pedophile – one affected with pedophilia

Pedophilia - sexual perversion in which children are the preferred sexual object (thanks Merriam-Webster)

Internet Meme - a image, catchphrase or concept that spreads rapidly from person to person via the internet, largely through internet-based email, blogs, forums, imageboards, social networking sites and instant messaging

In recent years, PedoBear, Pedo being a shortened version of Pedophile, started as an “Internet meme”. PedoBear originated in Japan as a cartoon meme, known for his lecherous nature towards prepubescent children. Multiple Internet postings and photos are available of PedoBear.

The Internet postings and photographs, some photo-shopped and some not, refer to children in a sexually provocative manner. His cute face and non-threatening appearance negate the truth of his sinister, much darker side.

In fact, one of the things that make PedoBear popular is the controversy surrounding his licentious love of little girls. PedoBear is and should be associated with the Internet and pedophiles/sexually-preferential offenders who reportedly use him to communicate their interests in young children to each other.

At the San Diego Comic Con 2010 in July of this year, law enforcement discovered an individual dressed in a PedoBear costume, handing out candy and being photographed in contact with attendees, including multiple children. Once identified, the young man and his costume were excluded from the family-friendly event.



PedoBear posing for photos with attendees at San Diego’s Comic Con.



PedoBear's image on a vehicle window.

Following this introduction to PedoBear, it was found that his attendance was documented in photographs, which were readily available on the internet. And his presence is not restricted to this particular event.

This use of an otherwise family-friendly event for malignant means became obvious, when looking at the pictures and realizing their context. Disguised as innocence, this underground community that would make victims of our children, teasingly reaches out into the light of day. Law enforcement's concern is what their ultimate intentions could be.

Since the Comic Con, law enforcement in San Diego, with this new knowledge of PedoBear's existence, has come across PedoBear's image in situations during which they were contacting those that exploit and/or abuse children.

The intention of this bulletin is to make the community aware of Pedo Bear's image both on the Internet and in reality, and alert citizens that his presence may be an indicator of the presence of individuals who have a predilection to sexually inappropriate, or even, assaultive behavior. While not an absolute, the image of PedoBear should be a sign that you should use caution with whatever situation you are in or the individuals involved.

Be aware of your community events and the elements who might be lurking at them.

It should be noted that PedoBear's presence was neither condoned nor promoted by the Comic Con organization or staff, nor the San Diego Convention Center. Both have been supportive with law enforcement efforts with regards to this information.



PedoBear posing with a young Comic Con attendee.

For concerns in your particular community, please contact your local law enforcement agency.

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This informational bulletin was shared with your law enforcement agency by:



Thanks to Fred Baclagan, Special Agent Supervisor, California DOJ/CATCH Team for his contributions to this Training Bulletin. Definitions and additional information supplemented by Merriam-Webster Online. Some photos retrieved from Internet postings associated with PedoBear. Some photos altered to prevent identification of subjects pictured.