

SAFETY ALERT!!!

DID YOU KNOW THAT....

....the Chat room is the most dangerous area on the internet? The people you meet on-line may not be who they say they are. Predators and pedophiles can and do surf the web looking for victims.

.....every E-mail has a return address and some you receive may contain a fake return address? Anything you say on-line can be copied and forwarded to others you do not know.

....without meaning to, you may give out enough personal information that puts you and your family at risk?

....there are laws and legislation to protect you from becoming a victim resulting from an internet encounter?

Safely Surfing the Web and the Law

Should you encounter any of the following while you are surfing the web, you should automatically contact your local law enforcement agency, the FBI, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children:

1. You or anyone in the household has received child pornography.
2. You have been sexually solicited by someone who knows that you are under the age of 18 years of age.
3. You have received sexually explicit images from someone that knows you are under the age of 18 years of age.

If any of these occur, keep the computer turned off to preserve any evidence. Unless directed to by the law enforcement agency, do not attempt to copy any of the images and/or text found on the computer.

For further information or to report a crime:

Mesa Police Department
480-644-2211

Federal Bureau of Investigation
602-279-5511

National Center for Missing and
Exploited Children
1-800-843-5678

or visit online at:
www.cybertipline.com
www.fbi.gov/publications



A Teen's Guide to Surfing the Web Safely



Basic Rules for Internet Safety



Mesa Police Department
Crime Prevention
www.mesaaz.gov/police

Basic Rules for Teens to Surf the Web Safely

Your Identity should be kept private.

Always avoid giving out your name, mailing address, telephone number, and any information that would help someone find your actual identity. That includes not revealing the name of your school or work!

Never make plans to meet the friend you "meet" on-line.

You are placing yourself in a very dangerous situation when you agree to actually meet the person you meet on-line. If you are determined to meet this person, talk it over with your parents and never go to the meeting by yourself. Arrange to meet in a public place, such as a restaurant or a mall that YOU are familiar with, and NEVER go alone. As an added precaution, have your parents accompany you on the first meeting.

Never respond to any chat room message, E-mail, or news-group message that makes you feel uncomfortable or is hostile, belligerent or inappropriate.

If you get such a message, don't respond. Show it to your parents or an adult. Answering, even negatively, only encourages the sender.

Report Harassment

If someone sends you messages or images that are obscene, lewd, filthy, or indecent with the intent to harass, abuse, annoy or threaten you, this may be a crime and it should be reported to your Internet service provider and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's CyberTipline by calling 1-800-843-5678.

Talk with your parents about ground rules for surfing the web.

There should be an agreement between you and your parents about your on-line activity. What time you may go on-line, length of time and what activities you can participate need to be talked about and agreed to. You need to understand their concerns for your safety and they need to be assured that you will come to them and report any activity that may jeopardize your safety.

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children:
www.missingkids.com



Surfing the web can be fun as long as it is done safely

Safety steps to take once you and your parents have agreed to meeting your "on-line" friend.

Make the meeting on YOUR terms:

► **YOU** pick the place of the meeting. Make sure that the location is a well-lit, public place that you are fairly familiar with so that you know how to contact security if help is needed.

► **YOU** arrange for your own transportation to and from the meeting place. DO NOT agree to let your friend take you home or go to another location. Bring money to call home or a cab, if needed.

► **YOU** bring a friend or a parent for your safety. Suggest a "double date" if your parent is unable to go so that you have additional support, if needed. ALWAYS pay your own way on the first meeting.

► **YOU** set the conditions of the first meeting and don't let your new "friend" change them.

► **YOU** be prepared to report to your parents and to the police if your new "friend" attempts to make you do anything you do not want to, go anywhere you don't want to go, or in any way jeopardizes your safety. You should be prepared to furnish a positive identification of your "friend" to the police, if needed.