Are you "Catching 'em all?"

(NOTE: This is General Public Awareness Information)

722 Pokémon species are hiding in front of bushes, landmarks, museums, stores, restaurants and parks. They are beckoning you to come find and catch them. The Pokémon Go mobile app is catching on with magnitude 'move set' speed. Cell phones (and the people taking them there) are meeting up at Poke stops, 'gyms' to battle it out, and staying up till the wee hours to capture the rare ones.

In case you haven't heard of Pokémon Go, it's a virtual reality (VR) mobile device App where people explore their real life surroundings, gather up virtual life Poke balls by visiting Pokestops (real life landmarks, restaurants, parks, etc) and then train them to gather in real life locations to fight with other virtual life Pokémon Go characters in virtual life 'Gyms'.

As with all Mobile apps, know that risks exist. Here are some tips on how to minimize them:

Guard your Physical Safety!

Use common sense safety practices: Go in groups; don't play while driving your car or riding your bike. Stay aware of your physical surroundings. Respect the property rights of others and the fact that some locations are private or protected.

Physical Safety and Responsibility

- Motorist and pedestrian accidents due to distracted walking or driving are increasing.
- People with mal-intent can lure you to their location by setting up Pokémon 'lures' in order to rob you or worse (Robberies and muggings have already happened in Missouri and San Francisco)

What to do?

- All game players are not 'known good'. Always practice basic physical safety principles for you and the people around you
- Don't go places alone, go in groups-with people you've known through personal-real life (not virtual) contact
- Stay very aware of who your children are playing with and where they are going. Go with them if possible.
- Stay aware of your physical surroundings; be very careful about tracking Pokémon in isolated areas.
- NEVER play while you are driving, riding a bike, or walking across a street.
- Use the buzz feature, so that you can know when you are close to a Pokémon and look where you are going at the same time.

Permissions and Data

Stop and think before clicking "I agree" before installing the App. Know what you are agreeing to. Read the Privacy Policy and Terms of Service. This App, like others, has a privacy policy that says you agree to allow companies and partners to track how and where you use the App, access control parts of your device and stored information, and when you can file a lawsuit with the company.

Apps collect data that you can't get back!

Read what they are collecting and doing with it (now and for stated potential future use) in their PRIVACY POLICY and TERMS of SERVICE. If you don't agree, don't click "I Agree" without checking further

What to do?

- Read the entire Terms of Service (ToS) and Privacy Policies. I know: they are long. But you need to know what data is being collected and what they are going to do with it. Think about what happens to your data if the company is sold. If you don't agree with what the App's policies, check with your mobile provider on how you can disable the App permissions you are concerned with (if possible) before you "agree". If disabling those permissions is not possible, you may not want to install this App.
- GPS data is required to play. Don't play in places you don't want to be geo-tagged. Remember: knowing your location history during your normal daily routine would make it easy for someone to spy on you if they got that data.

- Don’t take pictures of protected property (personal; health related locations or people in them; government; law enforcement; company or other restricted private areas or information without expressed permission). Pay attention to what is in the background or foreground and within reflective surfaces of the picture. Check to be sure you don’t expose something in a picture that is private or protected.

Cyber Security

Cyber Security risks exist for all Mobile Apps, including Pokémon Go. Because this is so popular with so many people, it will also be a popular hacker target. You can minimize (but not eliminate) the chances those risks will be exploited by making sure you and your family and friends use the below best practices.

Risks Exist for all Mobile Apps

If you decide to install the App, make sure you take best practices to minimize your risk. Make a brand new account and a strong password, stay current with App updates, and download only from the Google Plan or Apple App Store

What to do?

- Download only official versions from the developer (Niantic) from Google Play or Apple App stores). Malicious code has been found hiding in look-alike Pokémon Apps or Pokémon tip documents. It’s so popular; every other add-on will be at risk for look-alikes as well, so always go to the Google Play or Apple App stores to get them.
- Use a unique, new trainer (screen) name that includes no personal information (birth date/year, address, phone #, name, etc). Others can view the trainer name at gyms, and it is displayed if you place lures at Pokestops.
- Log in with a brand new-just created account. Create a Pokémon Trainers club account or a ‘throw away’ Gmail account. Using your personal Gmail account to log into any App is not best practice.
- As always, use a unique and strong password or passphrase. Do not reuse other passwords! Never use your official work user name and/or password.
- Always update the App to the latest version. Do not delay in applying updates as updates generally contain important security patches.