

TSA officials: leave meat tenderizer, replica grenades at home

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The Transportation Security Administration has a message for holiday air travelers: leave the replica grenades and meat tenderizers at home.

As they do every year, TSA officials at the Des Moines International Airport trotted out a bevy of confiscated items bold or careless air travelers have tried to bring through the airport's security checkpoints.

TSA Federal Security Director Jay Brainard said the grenade was found in a bag packed by a five-year-old traveler.

"I don't even let my six-year-old pack a lunch," he said.

During the brief news conference, TSA officials reiterated three tips for traveling: Arrive two hours before a flight's scheduled departure time; visit tsa.gov for the latest information and list of acceptable travel items; and remember that liquids, no more than 3.4 ounces, should be taken out of plastic bags before hitting the checkpoint.

> That's the No. 1 holdup at a security checkpoint for the TSA," Brainard said.

Business traveler Lawrence Tidwell, 43, a former Air Force computer technician, said he appreciated the TSA's efforts of letting the public know about the threats it receives.

Whatever it takes to ensure the safety of air travelers," said Tidwell, a Dallas, Texas, resident who served in the Air Force from 1991 to 2000. "It's to raise awareness and be more open to travelers and let them know what threats are out there. I'd rather be safe than sorry."

Here are some of the items shown off Tuesday.

1. Kitten-shaped key chain
2. A variety of police batons
3. An inert replica grenade brought on by a five-year-old boy
4. An assortment of ninja throwing stars

Marco Santana



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5. A crow bar
6. A 10-inch saw blade
7. Several gun clips
8. A puddy knife
9. A sharp letter opener
10. A revolver-shaped laser pointer

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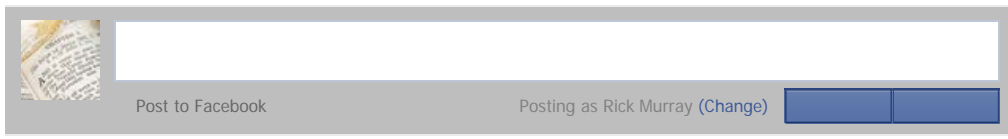
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