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# El Paso Police Department Urges Community to Hike Safely

**EL PASO, Texas**— As temperatures rise and more residents and visitors head outdoors to enjoy the beautiful trails around the city, the El Paso Police Department's Combined Search And Rescue (COMSAR) team is reminding the public of the importance of hiking safety and preparation.

The EPPD COMSAR team trains regularly to ensure they are ready to respond at a moment's notice, but hikers can reduce risks significantly by being prepared. Safe hiking starts with smart planning.

Before heading out on a hike, the department recommends following these essential safety tips:

- **Dress for the conditions.** Wear sturdy footwear and dress in layers for comfort and protection from the sun.
- **Protect yourself from the heat.** Apply sunscreen, wear sunglasses, and use a hat to shield your face.
- **Know your route.** Carry a map or GPS device, and make sure your electronics are fully charged before starting.
- **Stay hydrated.** Bring enough water—at least 1 liter for every 2 hours of activity—and pack extra snacks.
- **Carry the essentials.** A flashlight and a basic first aid kit can make a big difference in an emergency.
- **Stick to the trail.** Avoid wandering off marked paths and stay alert to changing trail conditions.
- **Share your plan.** Always let someone know where you're going and when you expect to return. Cell phone service may be unavailable in some areas.
- **Be wildlife aware.** Encounters with animals like rattlesnakes are rare but can happen. Observe from a distance and never attempt to handle or provoke wildlife.

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Promoting **Transparent & Consistent Communication**  
Among All Members of the Community

**Media Contact:** Stephanie Shields  
ASKPD@elpasotexas.gov  
915-838-5098