

Keeping Children Safe


Firearms are in more than one third of all U.S. households, so they are a very real danger to children, whether you own one or not. That's why it's important to talk to kids about the potential dangers of firearms, and what to do if they find one, where ever that might be.

Steps For Children

- STOP
- DO NOT TOUCH
- LEAVE THE AREA
- TELL A RESPONSIBLE ADULT

Steps For Parents

- Relate firearm safety rules to children.
- Emphasize that a firearm should never be used without adult supervision.
- Practice firearm safety with your children.
- Emphasize to children that firearms are not toys.
- Teach the difference between real firearms and toy firearms.
- Teach children how to properly identify a firearm and avoid unsafe situations.



Firearms are in more than one third of all U.S. households and are used in 50% of all suicides in the U.S.



SUICIDE IS PREVENTABLE

Dial 2-1-1 or 1-800-273-8255

PREVENTSUICIDE.ORG

Lifeline Crisis Chat

<http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org>

Text Line

Text CT to 741741 for free 24/7 support.



www.nssf.org/safety

This CTSAB brochure produced in cooperation with NSSF.

SUICIDE IS PREVENTABLE

1 WORD VOICE LIFE

Be the 1 to start the **conversation**

PREVENTSUICIDE.ORG

FIREARM SAFETY AND SUICIDE PREVENTION

This brochure is not intended to be a complete course on firearm safety/suicide prevention and is not a substitute for formal, qualified instruction in the handling, using or storing of firearms.

Firearm Ownership

From the moment you decide to own a firearm, you are not just exercising your right, but taking the responsibility to use that firearm in a legal manner, rationally, intelligently, and safely at all times, without exception.

It is important that firearm owners follow safety precautions while handling and storing their firearms, not just for their own safety, but for the safety of their families and the general public.

Seek Proper Instruction

To obtain instruction regarding the operation of your firearm you should do the following before attempting to use a firearm:

- Speak to a reputable firearms dealer.
- Speak to the manufacturer directly.
- Read and understand the owner's manual.
- Attend a reputable firearms safety handling course.

10 Rules of Safe Gun Handling

1. Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
2. Treat all firearms as if they are loaded.
3. Know your target, your target's environment, and any other safety hazard before you fire.
4. Use the correct ammunition for your firearm.
5. Learn the mechanical and handling characteristics of the firearm you are using.
6. Ensure the firearm is safe to operate.
7. Don't alter or modify your firearms and have them serviced regularly.
8. Wear eye and ear protection when shooting.
9. Never use alcohol or drugs before or while shooting. Alcohol and any other controlled substances will impair normal mental or physical bodily functions.
10. Never handle a firearm in an emotional state such as anger or depression.

Safe Storage

As a firearm owner, it is your responsibility to ensure that firearms in your home are stored where they are inaccessible to children or other unauthorized persons. Hiding a gun in a closet, drawer or similar location is not safe storage. Safe storage is employing precautions and multiple safeguards that provide an additional barrier against unauthorized use.

Suicide Warning Signs

Listed below are signs that someone may be at risk for suicide. Risk is greater if a behavior is new or has increased.

- Talking about wanting to die or kill oneself.
- Looking for a way to kill oneself, such as searching online or buying a gun.
- Talking about feeling hopeless, having no reason to live, being trapped, in unbearable pain, or about being a burden to others.
- Increasing the use of alcohol or drugs.
- Acting anxious or agitated; behaving recklessly.
- Sleeping too little or too much.
- Withdrawing or feeling isolated.
- Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge.
- Displaying extreme mood swings.
- Experiencing relational, social, work, or financial loss.

What to Do

- Take any threat of suicide seriously.
- Do not leave the person alone.
- Listen to and do not judge anyone you think may be in trouble.
- Take action.

**FIREARMS—LOCK, LIMIT, REMOVE
MEDICATIONS—LOCK, LIMIT, REMOVE
SUPPORT—LISTEN AND ASK**



**Studies show safe storage
of firearms reduces
deaths by suicide.**

(www.hsph.harvard.edu/means-matter)

PREVENTSUICIDE.ORG

