

GUN OWNERS LEAD THE WAY ON SAFETY

Adding Suicide Prevention to Gun Safety
While unintentional firearm deaths are low in Missouri (averaging about 16 a year), nearly 3000 residents took their lives with a gun in the five years ending 2016.



MO firearm deaths by type, 2012-2016 from CDC/WONDER 2018

Following the usual Gun Safety Rules will continue to keep unintentional gun deaths near zero. Adding the 11th Commandment could save hundreds more lives. If a family member is going through a tough time, make sure they can't get to your guns. If it's you yourself who is at risk, consider storing your guns away from home until things improve, or lock them and ask someone you trust to hold onto the keys, or change the combination.

What does it mean to be at risk? Struggling with depression, alcoholism, addiction, or other mental health issues, especially when life crises like divorce, arrest, job loss, financial problems, etc., lead to feeling hopeless or trapped.

ABOUT THE COLLABORATIVE



The Safer Homes Collaborative brings together individuals and organizations with a broad range of views on gun ownership who share a commitment to safety and preventing suicide. The Safer Homes Collaborative is modeled after the NH Firearm Safety Coalition's Gun shop project. The group includes: firearms retailers and instructors, injury prevention and mental health practitioners, public health researchers, and other committed volunteers.

Firearms are the most lethal method of death in a suicide attempt. Our goal is to prevent suicide among those of all ages by putting time and distance between the firearm and the person at risk. The first initiative in the Safer Homes Collaborative is to collaborate with gun shops and shooting ranges in a suicide prevention effort.

Gun Shop Projects like the Safer Homes Collaborative have been adopted and adapted by groups in twenty states across the country, as well as nationally by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE™
1-800-273-TALK
1-800-273-8255
www.suicidpreventionlifeline.org

For more information on
to join the Safer Homes
Collaborative go to
saferhomescollaborative.org or
contact the project director at
314.516.8454.



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GUN SAFETY RULES

11th COMMANDMENTS OF GUN SAFETY

Look inside
to see
what's new!

11 COMMANDMENTS OF FIREARM SAFETY

1. Treat every firearm as if it were loaded.
2. Always point the muzzle in the safest direction. Be aware of where the firearm is pointed. Never point it at yourself or anyone else.
3. Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot. Your trigger finger should be extended, pointing forward, pressed against the side of the gun and outside the trigger guard.
4. Be sure of your target—and what's beyond. Be absolutely sure that you have identified your target. If there is any doubt, don't shoot. Also, if you don't have a backstop, be sure you know where the shot will go if it goes beyond your target.



10. Safely store all guns to prevent theft and unauthorized access. Store all firearms unloaded and locked when not in use. Lock ammunition in a separate location. Ensure that household members who shouldn't have unsupervised access (teens and children, adults at risk for suicide or other misuse) don't know the combination to the locks or where the keys are.



11. Consider temporary off-site storage if you or a family member may be suicidal or going through a rough time. When someone is going through an emotional crisis (e.g. break-up, job loss or legal issues) or a significant change in behavior (violence, depression, heavy drinking/drug use, sleeplessness), temporarily storing guns away from home may save their life. Friends and family, gun shops, shooting ranges, or the police may provide safe storage until the situation improves.



5. Know how to safely operate and maintain your firearm before shooting. Get proper training before firing any firearms. Also, learn the specifics of each gun before you handle, shoot or clean it.
6. Be sure that your firearm is safe to operate. While unloaded, verify that the muzzle is clear of obstruction and that the gun is well maintained.
7. Be sure your firearm and ammunition are compatible. Use only the proper ammunition for the gun you are using.
8. Wear eye and ear protection when shooting. Since guns are loud and can emit debris, proper eye and ear protection can prevent injuries.
9. Never use alcohol or other drugs when operating or cleaning firearms.