



Basic Firearm Safety

- Firearms ownership carries with it a responsibility of safeguarding the welfare of others and yourself when handling firearms. Accident prevention is the user's responsibility.
- It is advisable to have a serious discussion with family members concerning the presence of a gun in the home and stressing the danger of careless or unsafe use. Teach children to: "Stop! Don't touch. Leave the area. Tell an adult!" if they find a gun.
- The improper storage of a gun at home could result in the arming of a criminal breaking into the home or the injury or death of a child who discovers the pistol and plays with it. Use gun locks and gun safes.
- A gun should always be unloaded when not in use and the ammunition stored separately from the gun.. It is generally recommended that the cylinder assembly of a revolver and the barrel assembly of a semi-automatic be removed from the frame for long term storage.
- If a member of your household is experiencing mental health issues, temporary off-site storage of guns at a location outside the home may save a life. Contact mental health professionals or authorities if you are concerned about someone's mental health who has access to a gun.
- A basic rule in pistol safety is to never assume that a pistol is unloaded. You should treat every gun as if it were loaded. Never put your finger on the trigger until ready to fire at an appropriate target. Firing at an appropriate target includes knowing what is beyond the target and in the line of fire.
- You should always keep the barrel of a gun pointed in a safe direction, even when dry firing, loading or unloading. In the event of an accidental discharge, no injury can occur if the barrel is pointed in a safe direction
- In particular, don't assume that it's okay to pull the trigger or violate any of the other safety rules just because the safety is on. Use the safety, but don't rely on it. Dropping a loaded pistol may cause an accidental discharge, even with the safety on.
- Drinking and shooting is as bad as drinking and driving. The old adage "alcohol and gunpowder never mix" is as true today as ever.

