



Check out the newly added
11th commandment on the
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GUN

SAFETY RULES

1. Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.

There's a natural tendency to place your finger on the trigger when holding a gun. Avoid it!

2. Always point the muzzle in a safe direction. Whether you are shooting or simply handling your gun, never point the muzzle at yourself or at others. Generally speaking, it is safest to have the gun pointed upward or towards the ground.

3. Be sure of your target—and what's beyond. Be absolutely sure you have identified your target without any doubt. Equally important, be aware of the area beyond your target. Never fire in a direction where there are people or any other potential for mishap.

4. Seek proper instruction. Attend a reputable firearms safety handling course or seek private instruction before attempting to use a firearm.

5. Wear eye and ear protection as appropriate. Firearms are loud. They can also emit debris and hot gases that can cause injury.

6. Be sure your gun and ammunition are compatible. Only cartridges or shells designed for a particular gun can be safely fired by that gun. Most guns have their cartridge or shell type stamped on the barrel. Ammunition can be identified by information printed on the box and stamped on each cartridge.

7. Carry only one gauge/caliber of ammunition when shooting. Smaller ammunition can be accidentally placed in a gun chamber designed for larger ammunition, creating an obstruction and a very hazardous situation.

8. Don't mix alcohol or drugs with shooting. Alcohol, as well as any other substance likely to impair mental or physical functions of the body, should not be used before or while handling firearms.

9. Keep the action open and the gun unloaded until ready to use.

Whenever you pick up any gun, immediately check the action and check to see that the chamber is unloaded. If the gun has a magazine, make sure it is empty. Even if the magazine is empty or removed, a cartridge may still remain in the firing chamber.

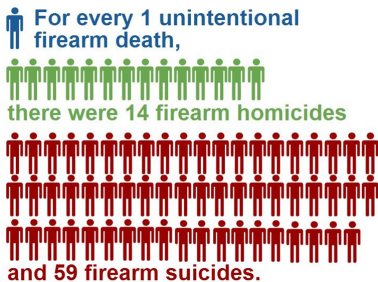
10. Store your guns safely and securely when not in use.

Hiding guns where you think children or others will not find them is not enough. Always store your guns unloaded and locked in a case or gun safe when not in use, with ammunition locked and stored in a separate location.

Newly added 11th Commandment: Consider temporary off-site storage if a family member may be suicidal. Consider temporary off-site storage if a family member is suicidal. When an emotional crisis (like a break-up, job loss, legal trouble) or a major change in someone's behavior (like depression, violence, heavy drinking) causes concern, storing guns outside the home for a while may save a life. Family, friends, as well as some shooting clubs, police departments, or gun shops may be able to store guns for you temporarily.*

*To become fully informed about making a temporary gun transfer, review Colorado gun laws, including C.R.S. §18-12-112, or consult an attorney.

Over the past several years, unintentional firearm deaths in Colorado have averaged less than 10 per year, thanks largely to increased awareness of gun safety. Unfortunately, Colorado still has a tragically high number of suicide deaths by firearms - approximately 480 per year.



The first step to reduce these numbers is to follow the 11 commandments of gun safety. The latest addition addresses suicide prevention. Firearms are the leading method of suicide in Colorado, contributing to about half of all suicides.

If a family member is going through a difficult period (like depression, a relationship break-up, or drug problem), make sure they can't get to your guns. To learn ways to get help for them, call the **National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK [8255]**.

Adapted from:

