

## HISTORICAL FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

### On The Average

- 425+ Nevadan's seek medical care for gun related injuries each year. 507 Nevadans die by suicide each year, 280 (55%) used a gun.
- On average 213+ of our youth 0-24 have received medical care for gun injuries. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for adolescents and young adults ages 10-24.
- Almost 200 of our Nevadan's 25-64 years of age are injured by a firearm each year.
- 151 men ages 45-64 take their lives. Of those, 87 (58%) die by suicide with the use of a gun.
- Nevada elders 65+ who die by suicide, use a gun 82% of the time.

## COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Does relocating the guns for a while *always* work?

Reducing access to firearms and other lethal means is only part of a broader suicide prevention plan. Those considered actively suicidal are best protected by not being left alone until they are feeling better. Getting professional help and the support of other family and friends is strongly advised. The Suicide Prevention Lifeline is available 24/7.

### Will a suicidal person just use something else if they can't get a gun?

Sometimes, yes. But almost every other method is less lethal than a firearm so there's a greater chance the person won't die in their attempt. Also, other methods allow time for rescue or give the attempter some time to change their mind mid-attempt.

## NEVADA COALITION FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION

### Mission Statement

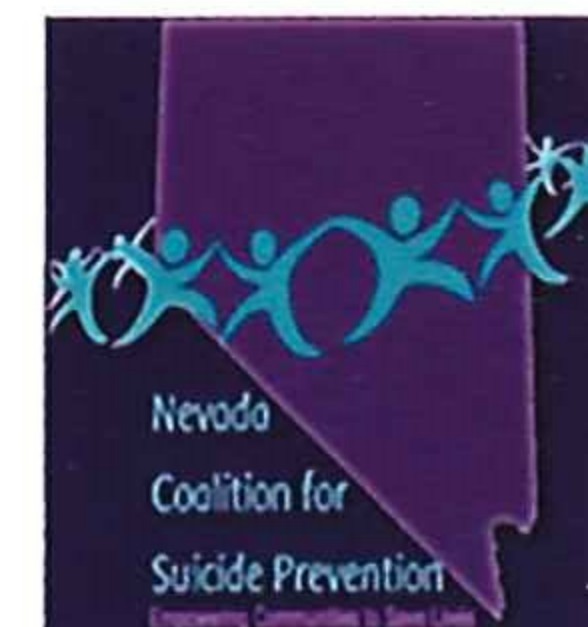
*The Nevada Coalition for Suicide Prevention is dedicated to partnering and collaborating with local and state individuals and organizations for the development and implementation of evidence based suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention strategies and programs in the State of Nevada.*

205 N. Stephanie St. Suite D-149  
Henderson, Nevada 89014

[www.nvsuicideprevention.org](http://www.nvsuicideprevention.org)

**To learn ways to get help for your loved one, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:**

**1-800-273-TALK (8255)**



# GUN

# SAFETY

# RULES

**10 COMMANDMENTS OF GUN SAFETY**

11  
Look inside  
to see  
What's new!



## SHOOTING A GUN

**1. Seek proper instruction.** Attend a reputable firearms safety handling course or seek private instruction before attempting to use a firearm. Before handling a new gun, learn how it operates. This includes knowing its basic parts, how to safely open and close the action, and how to safely remove any ammunition if loaded. Remember, a firearm's mechanical safety device is never foolproof. The safety device can never replace safe firearm handling.

**2. Wear eye and ear protection as appropriate.** Firearms are loud. They can also emit debris and hot gases that can cause injury. For those reasons, safety glasses and ear protectors are recommended.

**3. 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. Do not fire the gun if there is any question about the compatibility of the gun and ammunition.

**4. 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.

Remove unfired ammunition from clothing when you are through shooting to avoid accidentally mixing different ammunition next time you go shooting.

**5. 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. This means observing your prospective area of fire before you shoot. Never fire in a direction where there are people or any other potential for mishap. It's simple: think first, shoot second.

**6. 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.

## OWNING & HANDLING A GUN

**7. 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! Your trigger finger should be extended, pointing forward, pressed against the side of the firearm, above the trigger area.

**8. 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.

If you do not know how to open the gun's action, leave it alone or get help from someone who is knowledgeable.

**9. 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. Common sense should dictate which direction is safest depending on your location and various other conditions. Generally speaking, it is safest to have the gun pointed upward or towards the ground.

**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.

## PROTECTING LIFE

**11. Consider temporary off-site storage if a family member may have thoughts of suicide.** When an emotional crisis (like a break-up, job loss, legal or financial 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. Friends as well as some shooting clubs, police departments, or gun shops may be able to store them for you until the situation improves.