

Firearm Safety

Everyone should be concerned with firearm safety. The big factor, exactly what is firearm safety? We can begin with our four basic safety rules:



1. **ALWAYS KEEP THE GUN POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION.**
2. **ALWAYS KEEP YOUR FINGER OUTSIDE THE TRIGGER GUARD UNTIL YOU HAVE YOUR SIGHTS ON THE TARGET AND ARE READY FOR THE GUN TO FIRE.**
3. **ALWAYS KEEP THE GUN UNLOADED UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO USE.**
4. **ALWAYS BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET AND WHAT IS BEYOND AND AROUND.**

You will note that all these rules are stated positively. They are phrased to elicit the behavior desired, not phrased negatively to intimidate. The user will need to determine how to interpret these rules depending upon usage. Someone going to the shooting range will have one interpretation, a homeowner or other responsible adult using the firearm for protection will have another interpretation. The main idea, understand and follow these rules – ALWAYS!

Ancillary rules also include

- **Make sure you know how to use your gun safely.**
- **Make sure your gun itself is safe to operate.**
- **Use only the correct ammunition for your gun.**
- **Wear eye and ear protection**
- **Never use any drugs (alcohol and tobacco included) before or while shooting**
- **Store guns so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons.**

While it is last on the list, do not discount its importance. Make certain you keep all firearms inaccessible to unauthorized persons. Too many times we hear about children or other unauthorized persons accessing firearms with tragic results. Numerous storage devices are available for presumably every type of desired storage. Large floor safes probably come to mind first. Safes today are covertly disguised as fine furniture, art, housewares as well as built into walls and other areas of your home. Since our lives revolve around the automobile, several sizes and shapes of safes are designed for use in our automobiles.



Locking mechanisms have also evolved from the old dial combination locks we remember from the movies and visiting the bank. Currently available on firearm safes locking mechanisms include biometric access (fingerprint), RFID bracelets, fingertip touch combination, key fobs, magnetic access, remote release, and others.

Firearm safety is everyone's responsibility. Responsible adults need to educate our youth about the importance of firearm safety. This begins with the parents at home before children go to school or to a friend's house. The rules for youth are different than for adults or youth when accompanied by a parent or certified instructor. We teach the youth (Pre-K through fourth grade) rules

- 1. If you see a gun, STOP!**
- 2. DO NOT TOUCH.**
- 3. RUN AWAY**
- 4. Go get an adult.**

This first step is crucial. Stopping first allows your child the time he or she needs to remember the rest of the safety instructions. A firearm that is not touched or disturbed is unlikely to be fired and otherwise endanger your child or other people. Running away removes the temptation to touch the firearm as well as the danger that another person may negligently cause it to fire by pressing the trigger. Lastly, children should seek a trustworthy adult, neighbor, relative or teacher – if a parent or guardian is not available.



Protect yourself and your family by signing up for a Personal Safety class from *Advantage*. You'll learn more tips like these, how to protect yourself and essential protection techniques. Learn more about available classes online at www.AdvantageFET.com.

