

HELP KEEP A RIGHT FROM BECOMING WRONG!

Thanks to increased awareness of firearm safety, Shasta County has averaged less than one accidental gun death per year since 2005. However, within that same length of time, more than 300 residents have died by suicide using a firearm, making it the leading method of suicide in our community.

We can reduce this number when we abide by the 11th Commandment and take additional safety precautions when a gun owner is going through a mentally difficult time.

If a family member is going through a rough time, make sure he or she can't get to their/your guns. To learn ways to get help for your loved one, call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.

**NATIONAL
SUICIDE
PREVENTION
LIFELINE**
1-800-273-TALK (8255)

suicidepreventionlifeline.org

IT'S TIME. LET'S TALK.



shastasuicideprevention.com

GET PROFESSIONALLY TRAINED IN FIREARM SAFETY

For a complete list of firearm safety instructors in Shasta County, please visit:

www.ShastaSheriff.com



For more information on firearms, safety devices, or classes, please contact:

**SHASTA COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE
530-245-6000**

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THE 10



COMMANDMENTS OF FIREARM SAFETY

SECURE IT
KEEP LOVED ONES SAFE



Shasta County
**Health & Human
Services Agency**

1

Treat every firearm as if it were loaded. It might be, even if you think it isn't.

2

Always point the muzzle in a safe direction. Keep control of the direction of the muzzle at all times.

3

Be sure of your target and beyond. Be aware of the target and what surrounds it. Know the identifying features of the game you hunt. Make sure you have an adequate backstop-- don't shoot at a flat, hard surface or water.

4

Keep your finger outside the trigger guard until you're ready to shoot. Resting your finger along the frame of the gun can prevent accidental discharge.

5

Check your barrel and ammunition. Safely check the barrel and action for any obstructions, and carry only the proper ammunition for your firearm.

6

Unload firearm when it is not in use. Leave action open; carry firearm in a case and unloaded to and from the shooting area.

7

Point a firearm only at something you intend to shoot. Avoid all horseplay with a gun.

8

Don't run, jump or climb with a loaded firearm. Unload a firearm before you climb a fence or tree or jump a ditch. Pull a firearm toward you by the butt, not the muzzle.

9

Store firearms and ammunition separately and safely. Store each in secured locations beyond the reach of children and careless adults.

10

Don't drink alcoholic beverages before or during shooting. Also, do not use mind or behavior-altering medicines or drugs.

11

Consider additional safety precautions if a family member may be suicidal.

During a mental health crisis, temporarily storing guns outside the home may save a life. Local law enforcement, shooting clubs, or gun shops may be able to store them until the situation improves.

KNOW THE RISK FACTORS AS WELL AS THE SIGNS OF SUICIDAL BEHAVIOR:

- Being overwhelmed by sadness or anxiety due to job loss, a break-up, legal trouble, loss of loved one or newly diagnosed illness
- Major change in behavior: depression, violence, or alcohol/drug use
- Recent impulsiveness/risk-taking
- Expressing a desire to end their life
- Putting affairs in order, giving away prized possessions or impulsive purchase of a firearm

*If you feel someone may harm themselves before you can take action, do not hesitate to **call 911.***

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is available 24/7 at 1-800-273-8255