

to prevent firearm related injuries

## Make firearm safety a way of life!

Hunting and sport shooting are a way of life for many Albertans. Many people collect firearms. Others have a firearm that has been handed down to them by someone in their family.

In Alberta, unintended firearm deaths are rare. Firearm related deaths are always tragic though, especially when a child dies.

If you have a firearm, you can prevent injuries by taking a firearm safety course and learning how to store and transport it safely. Doing these things sets a good example for kids. It shows them that firearm safety matters.



### Quick Facts

- Many children will pick up a real firearm when an adult is not watching. Even children who are taught to stay away from firearms can forget or test the rules. Don't take chances – even if you think your child knows better. Keep your firearms unloaded and locked up when you aren't using them.
- You can be charged with a crime if you do not store your firearms safely.

### The law on storing and transporting firearms safely.

In Canada, the regulations that go along with the Firearms Act describe how owners must store their firearms. They also describe what you must do if you want to transport a firearm in a vehicle. The rules differ depending on the type of firearm you have.

This brochure describes the rules for “non-restricted” firearms. This includes most ordinary rifles and shotguns, such as the ones people use for hunting. There may be exceptions to the rules. Call the Canada Firearms Centre at 1-800-731-4000 to find out exactly what is allowed for your type of firearm.

### Rules for safely storing a non-restricted firearm.

- Always store it unloaded.
- Attach a trigger lock or cable lock **OR** put the firearm in a locked container, cabinet or room that someone can't break into easily. If you have a bolt-action rifle or shotgun, you can remove the bolt or bolt carrier instead of using a cable lock or trigger lock. Make sure the room you lock your firearm in is built solidly and the lock is secure. Call your provincial Chief Firearms Officer at 1-800-731-4000 or your local police if you are not sure.
- Store the bullets or shotgun shells separately from the firearm. Keep the bullets or shells with the firearm *only* if they are locked in a container that someone can't break into easily. If you store your firearm in a locked cabinet, container or room, then you can keep the bullets or shells locked up in the same place.

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### Rules for safely transporting a non-restricted firearm.

If you are planning to carry a firearm somewhere in a vehicle:

- It must be unloaded.
- If you leave the firearm in your vehicle, you must lock it in the trunk or in a compartment such as a truck storage box (sometimes called a toolbox). The storage box must be mounted to the truck.
- If you can't lock your trunk or storage box, you must lock the firearm inside your vehicle. People outside the vehicle must not be able to see it.
- There are some exceptions to these rules. If you have questions, call the Canada Firearms Centre at 1-800-731-4000.

### Getting a firearms licence.

To get a licence to own a firearm, you must pass the Canadian Firearms Safety Course. It teaches people how to handle and store firearms safely. You may ask to write the test without taking the course.

In Alberta, members of the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association (AHEIA) teach the course. The Association has a list of instructors on their website at [www.aheia.com](http://www.aheia.com). You can also call them toll-free at 1-866-852-4342 or 1-866-282-4342.

You must be 18 or older to own a firearm in Canada.

If you are between 12 and 17 years old, you can borrow a firearm if you have a Minor's Licence. To get a Minor's Licence, you must first take the Canadian Firearms Safety Course and pass the test. Minors cannot write the test unless they take the course.

### Important note.

The laws on owning firearms are complex. Also, the laws can change. This brochure describes some of the rules on storing and transporting firearms. It is for your information only. This brochure does not offer legal advice. Are you unsure if you are storing or transporting your firearms legally? Contact a lawyer or the Canada Firearms Centre at 1-800-731-4000.

#### For more information on firearm safety, contact:

The Canada Firearms Centre: 1-800-731-4000 [www.cfc-cafc.gc.ca](http://www.cfc-cafc.gc.ca)

The Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association [www.aheia.com](http://www.aheia.com)

In Calgary: 1-866-852-4342

In Edmonton: 1-866-282-4342

#### In your community contact:



**Learn more about injury prevention.** Learn how to prevent injuries from affecting you and your family. Call us at the *Alberta Centre for Injury Control & Research*, at (780) 492-6019. You can also send us an e-mail at [acicr@ualberta.ca](mailto:acicr@ualberta.ca) or visit our website at [www.acicr.ualberta.ca](http://www.acicr.ualberta.ca).