Safe Storage Saves Lives

Four reasons to lock your firearms:

1. Prevent children from being injured or killed. Each year in Washington state, on average, eight children are hospitalized with unintentional firearm injuries and another 10 children die by firearm suicide.

2. Prevent crimes from being committed with your gun. Many stolen firearms are used to commit additional crimes. In 2012, $4.5 million worth of firearms were reported stolen in Washington.

3. Prevent depressed teens from dying by suicide. A recent study of adolescent suicides found that over half were carried out with a gun from the adolescent’s home. www.crisisclinic.org

4. Keep schools gun-free. In 2012, over 20% of tenth graders surveyed said it was “sort of easy” or “very easy” to get a handgun.

www.lokitup.org

The risk of an unintentional shooting or suicide by minors using a gun can be significantly reduced (61%) by adopting responsible gun safety measures in the home. - Journal of the American Medical Association

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Store your guns safely and securely.

- Store firearms locked and unloaded.
- Ammunition should be locked and stored in a separate location.
- Seek instruction on proper handling and storage.
- Hiding guns where you think children or others will not find them is not enough.
- Toddlers do have the finger strength to pull the trigger.
- Purchase an approved locking device and ensure the key and/or combination is inaccessible to others.
- A firearm’s safety is not designed as a replacement for safe storage or handling practice.
- Visit www.LOKITUP.org to learn more about different forms of safe storage.

If a family member or friend appears suicidal or depressed, consider temporary off-site storage.

- 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 may save a life.
- For help contact www.crisisclinic.org

www.lokitup.org