

# Gun safety matters ...

because no one can unfire a firearm.

For someone in crisis, a locked firearm can mean the difference between a tragic outcome and a life saved. Though many Veterans are well-versed in gun safety, all Veterans and their families should understand how to properly handle and store firearms in the home.



**Firearms** – along with poisonings, motor vehicle crashes, falls, and suffocations – were one of the **top five leading causes** of injury-related deaths nationwide in **2013**.

– National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, 2013



A **2012** study showed that **firearms** could be found in roughly **34% of homes** nationwide.

– General Social Survey, 2013



The **risk** of unintentional **firearm deaths** among youths **drops by 80%** when guns and ammunition are **stored separately** in a **lockbox**.

– Journal of the American Medical Association, 2005

## Take these simple steps to keep your family safe:

- Make sure firearms cannot be accessed by children and unauthorized adults by keeping guns locked and unloaded when not in use.
- Store ammunition separately from firearms and out of reach of children and unauthorized adults.
- Regularly reassess steps to ensure safe storage and use of firearms, especially during periods of increased stress or emotional crisis.

**Request a gunlock from your local VA Suicide Prevention Coordinator.**

**Find your local SPC at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/ResourceLocator](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net/ResourceLocator).**

If you or a Veteran you know is in crisis, call the Veterans Crisis Line at **1-800-273-8255 and Press 1**.



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

• • • • • Confidential chat at **VeteransCrisisLine.net** or text to **838255** • • • • •