



## **A Gun Safety Course for Kids**

[Preface](#)

[A Message to Parents](#)

[Chapter 1- A Brief History of the Gun](#)

[Chapter 2- Gun Handling in the Movies and Cartoons](#)

[Chapter 3- What if You Find a Gun Somewhere?](#)

[Chapter 4- What if Your Friend Gets His Parent's Gun?](#)

[Chapter 5- The Three Rules of Safe Gun Handling](#)

[Chapter 6- More Gun Safety Rules](#)

[Chapter 7- Shooting at the Gun Club or Shooting Range](#)

[Chapter 8- Accidental Deaths with Guns](#)

[Chapter 9- Real Guns or Toy Guns](#)

[Chapter 10- Ammunition Knowledge and Safety](#)

[Chapter 11- Supervised Gun Handling Only](#)

[Chapter 12- Common Questions and Answers](#)

[Final Words](#)

[NRA Junior Membership](#)

[Disclaimer](#)

[More Information](#)

# Preface

My name is Marc. I am a retired Certified Firearm Instructor. I have been involved in teaching gun safety and education to both kids and adults for about half of my life. I have studied the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment (the right to keep and bear arms) for about the last twenty seven years. I am a membership recruiter for the National Rifle Association and at the end of this e-book; I'm going to give you the chance to get a Junior Membership in the National Rifle Association, with your parent's permission of course for only fifteen dollars (\$15.00).

I first got started teaching gun safety and basic gun handling to children way back in the early 1990's. For me, teaching gun safety and basic firearm education is both a hobby and a passion. I put a Web site online in 1998 called *Marc's Gun Safety and Firearm Education Site*.

I published this Web site using the free Web space allotted to me through my Internet service provider. In a fairly short period of time, this Web site got pretty popular and I quickly outgrew the web space. In January 2000, I started SaveTheGuns.com and as of this writing, if you 'google' the term 'gun safety rules for kids' or the term 'firearm education', SaveTheGuns.com gets the top spot in the world. As you can see, it is always a work in progress, as it should be I suppose.

This e-book is totally free. I'm not going to charge anyone for downloading and reading this e-book. Some would say that I should charge at least a couple of dollars, but I have found out that thousands and thousands more people will download it, read it and pass it around to others if it was free than if I charged even one dollar (\$1.00) for it, so it remains totally free. If you would like to make a voluntary donation so that I can continue this effort, it would be gladly appreciated and put to good use.

<http://www.SaveTheGuns.com/contributions.htm>

First I'm going to tell you a story. Then we're going to go into a little history of gunpowder and the invention of the gun and then we'll tell you what to do when you find a firearm somewhere in an unsupervised situation. Then we'll move onto a whole bunch of rules. Then we'll going into the latest statistics on accidental gun-related deaths, ammunition knowledge and little more. Then near the end, I will give you the opportunity to get a Junior Membership to the National Rifle Association for only \$15.00.

I care deeply about keeping children out of coffins due to the mishandling of a loaded gun. Today, the chance of a child dying because of the mishandling of a loaded gun in the United States is about a million to one (1,000,000 to 1). But to the family and friends of that one child, this encouraging statistic won't be any comfort.

I hope to teach both the child and the parent the truth on this issue. My hope and goal is to just be one gear in the machine that continues to bring accidental gun related death down to the lowest conceivable level and keep it there. Won't you join my effort? All you have to do is read what I have to say and give this e-book to somebody else. If you can give this e-book to ten (10) people chances are good that in a single year we can keep at least one child out of a coffin. Join me and spread the word.

But first, here's a story that I'd like you all to read.

It's a bright and sunny Saturday morning; it's one of those mornings just after the beginning of the new school year and a couple of weeks before the actual end of summer. Don't tell the kids that it is still actually summer though. For most school-age children summer ends when school begins.

Josh is ten years old and has just begun fifth grade a little more than one week ago. Josh and his family live in a city of about fifty thousand people. They live on the outskirts of this city, in a quiet family-oriented neighborhood.

There had unfortunately been some illegal narcotics dealing, some arrests and domestic violence and general unpleasantness going on closer to the middle of the city, which was really only about a fifteen minute drive away. It seems as if the past couple of years the city was attracting some residents who used to live in a much larger city about forty five minutes away, a city that was about twice the size of this one, but with more than twice the crime, illegal drugs and unfortunately the violence that comes with it.

About halfway through the summer of this year, there was a rash of break-ins in this quiet neighborhood. Some of the homes had things stolen from their yards, there were some loud parties further down the street that lasted much later into the night than they should have. But, even more disturbing was the increasing number of daytime home robberies.

One day, one of the neighbors across the street had a blue sedan stop out in front of the house. The driver got out and went to the door and asked to use the phone. He said he was having car trouble and his cell phone just died and ran out of battery power.

The resident was a middle-aged woman in her early forties. She let him in to use her phone because he was dressed nice and just didn't look like a trouble-maker. Well, let's just say this guy was a well-dressed trouble-maker. He yanked out a black semi-automatic handgun and held it on the woman as soon as he was able to close the door behind him. He made her go and lock herself in another room, while he took valuables from the house.

The driver of the blue sedan got away with some cash and a few pieces of family jewelry that were in the bedroom. Word very quickly got around in the rather tight-knit neighborhood, with a pretty good description of the suspect. The police department had no leads, but they kept saying that they were working on it. Then about ten days later, a guy with the same car, fitting the same description, walked right into the yard of an elderly man who was raking his lawn, took out the same handgun and walked him around the house and forced him to point out the valuables that were in the house.

After these two troubling occurrences many families in the neighborhood began to think a lot about how to protect themselves just in case this thug chose their house next time. A handful of families chose to purchase new firearms to keep at the ready if this thug decided to use their home to finance his next illegal drug buy.

Josh, the ten year old fifth-grader had just eaten breakfast. His Dad had cooked some home-made waffles from a new batter recipe he found on the Internet and cooked them on his new waffle-maker they got. Josh's friend Alex next door called and wanted him to come over and play video games until lunch-time.

Josh loved to play video games and he was dressed and ready to go out the door in about three minutes. Josh assured his Dad that he would be home for lunch by noon. In a flash, he was out the front door and over to his friend Alex's house for a morning of playing Halo on Alex's dad's new X-Box 360 game system.

Alex's dad was a gun owner, but not really a serious one. Alex's Dad had a single shot twenty gauge shotgun in the bedroom closet that was many years old and kind of rusty inside the barrel. It was not really a great option for home defense and he didn't know if it would fire. So he and his wife decided that it would be a good idea to get a new handgun for the house, just in case the bad guy in the blue sedan tried to break into their home while they were there.

Alex's dad and mom decided to buy a semi-automatic .380 ACP pistol for home defense. The guy at the gun shop said that it was good enough and reliable enough and was within their budget, so they bought it and brought it home. They had not really decided where they were going to store the pistol. They didn't discuss whether to put a trigger lock on it or not and they didn't talk about whether or not they were going to keep it loaded.

Well, let's just say that Alex's dad and mom made a lot of mistakes and did not plan very well. They decided that if they needed it to protect the home from an intruder, they probably wouldn't have the time to load it. So they decided to keep it loaded. They came home with a trigger lock for it, but they thought it was difficult to lock and unlock it and they didn't use it. They just thought it would be best to keep it in their bedroom in a drawer right underneath where the television and brand new X-Box game system was.

They showed the new pistol to Alex when they brought it home. But instead of seeking good, solid gun safety information and carefully teaching their son about safe gun handling and the rules on how to handle a firearm safely, they just told Alex not to touch it.

So Josh and Alex went to Alex's house to play some games on the new X-box. After about two hours of playing, Alex started to get bored. Alex got the idea that Josh might want to see his parent's new handgun they just bought. Alex thought it might be under the bed, so they got on the floor and looked. "Nope, not there." he said. "How about in the closet?" said Josh in a whisper. It didn't seem to be in there either.

Then one by one, they were quietly opening and closing the drawers in the bedside table and bureaus. "Ah ha." said Josh. "I think this might be it." It was in a new box, with a picture of a gun on it. Alex immediately recognized the box and said "Yes, we found it!" Josh couldn't wait to see it and lifted the box from the bureau draw and pulled off the cardboard cover. Alex wanted to be the one to show off his parent's new gun, so he quickly took the box away from Josh, ripping it away from his hands.

Without wasting any time, Alex lifted the shiny black pistol from the box. Josh commented in a hushed tone how awesome he thought it was. It was just like on television or in the movies he thought. Without waiting, Josh tried to take the pistol from Alex because he wanted to have a turn to hold it. But Alex had no intention of letting him have it. Alex knew how much trouble he would get into if his parents found out that he let a neighbor see the gun, let alone hold one.

But Josh was persistent and tried to grab it from Alex. He got a hold of the barrel and pulled on it... Alex felt the pistol slam into his hand and heard the blast come from the pistol. Alex couldn't control it because he was never shown how to and he dropped it on the floor. Josh saw an orange flash in front of his face for a brief moment and was shocked by the sound made when the gun fired.

Just as Alex's dad came rushing into the bedroom like a bull in a china shop, Josh noticed that his head hurt. The top of his head hurt like he had been whacked with a baseball bat. Alex's dad hollered out "Where is the gun!!!" But Alex was still surprised by the gun 'going off' and he was partially deaf from the sound. The sound of the handgun discharging left both of their ears ringing. Again, Alex's dad shouted and shook him. "Where is the gun!?!?"

The question finally registered with Alex's brain and he pointed to the floor where he had dropped it. Alex's dad picked it up, put it back in the box and put the cover on it. Alex began to realize how much trouble he was in and he started to cry, tears streaming down his face. By this time, Josh's head *really* started to hurt. Josh touched the top of his head and it was all wet. He looked at his hand and saw that it was blood.

Josh let out a sound that was partly shriek and partly cry. Alex's dad's attention immediately went to Josh and he saw that he was hurt. There was too much blood on top of Josh's head that he could not see where it was coming from. In a few seconds of sheer panic, Alex's dad had a phone in his hand and was dialing 911 for paramedics to come to the house.

After the 911 call, he called Josh's parents and they all went to the hospital together following the paramedics in the ambulance. After Josh was seen by the emergency room physician, it was determined that he was not in serious danger. The .380 ACP bullet went through Josh's scalp, but never penetrated his skull. After being sutured up and getting an overnight stay in the hospital, Josh was on his way to getting better. Josh was one of the lucky ones.

*(The above story is fictional. Any similarities to real events or actual people are merely coincidental. However, very similar stories happen each year.)*

Now after having read this scary story, what do you think Alex did wrong? What do you think Josh did wrong? Did you learn anything from this story?

If you ever find a gun in an unsupervised situation with no adults, you should stop in your tracks and think. You should not pick up the gun, you should not handle the gun and you should not even touch the gun. Then you should leave the area where you found the gun and go tell a trusted adult what you found and where you found it.

What did Alex do wrong in the story? Alex got the bad idea to go looking for a gun that he knew was in the house, without any adult supervision from a parent. That was wrong of Alex to seek out a gun in the home to handle by himself and it put both himself and his friend Josh in danger.

What did Josh do that was wrong in the story? Josh helped Alex look for the gun, which was wrong. Josh stayed in the area where a gun was found, which was wrong. Josh argued with Alex and tried to take the gun, which was wrong.

Both Alex and Josh did things that made the situation very dangerous. What should Alex have done? Alex should have left the gun alone and should not have tried to look for it and

show it off. What should Josh have done? Josh should have told Alex that looking for a gun in the house was wrong. If Alex continued to look for the gun, Josh should have left the home and told his mom or dad that Alex tried to show him his dad's new gun.

Would Josh have gotten Alex in trouble? Sure, it is very likely that Alex would have gotten into trouble with his parents. But keeping Alex safe is more important than keeping him out of trouble.

[Back to the top](#)

## **A Message to Parents**

This story could have been much worse. Josh could have been killed or he could have been physically or mentally disabled by the bullet. About one (1) child per week in United States dies as a result of mishandling a loaded firearm in the age five (5) to fourteen (14) year old group.

If you are talking about all children from birth to say nineteen (19) years old, about three (3) or four (4) children per week die because of the mishandling and/or unsupervised mishandling of a loaded firearm. In the year 2001, one hundred eighty two (182) children aged nineteen and under had to be buried by their families because of this.

Many more children suffer a variety of injuries as well. Some of them are relatively minor injuries requiring stitches or sutures and pain medication. Other injuries can be traumatic and life altering.

This e-book was written with older kids in mind, perhaps between the ages of nine (9) and sixteen (16). I encourage the parent to read this e-book *with* their children. Some of the concepts outlined in this e-book may be a little complex to completely understand for a child as young as 9, 10 or 11 years old. Children from Pre-K through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade should be taught as much of this information as the parent thinks they can handle and absorb.

In this e-book, I hope to give you the tools and information you need to avoid this type of injury altogether and help prevent parents from having to call a funeral home for their child's funeral services and burial. I got started teaching gun safety many years ago and I want to take this opportunity to thank you for listening to what I have to say on this sometimes controversial topic. There is a lot of misinformation and bad advice on this topic and my hope is to sort it out for you and tell you the truth.

On the anti-gun side of this argument I hear all kinds of nonsense. I hear that 'guns are bad' and I have heard that guns should never be allowed in a home with a young child. Most often I hear that all firearms and all ammunition should be locked up in separate containers in different rooms, that all firearms should be disassembled and all kinds of other nonsense alarmist stuff that usually comes from the high pitched voices of anti-gun activists who wouldn't know the muzzle from the backstrap of a handgun.

If you have made the decision to bring a gun into a home with a child; or for that matter, if you have decided to bring a child into a home with a gun; you have a set of responsibilities that you simply must address. Safe storage of firearms in the home is something that each family must address if they have chosen to keep a gun in the home.

Each family must decide how to store firearms and ammunition in the home. There are all kinds of advice out there on the issue. There are also a few states, such as the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that mandate by law that each and every firearm in the home must have a trigger lock on it, or it must be locked in an approved gun safe.

There are a lot of options to choose from as far as firearm and ammunition storage. Each family has the freedom to decide which methods to use, unless of course your own State has taken this freedom of choice away from you. Gun safes, wall safes, security cabinets, handgun lockboxes, trigger locks and cable locks are some common options.

For myself, generally speaking, my personal firearms are in a sturdy gun safe that is lag-bolted to both the floor and the wall studs with a pick-proof door locking mechanism. The more secure the gun safe is, the less the possibility that unauthorized hands will touch them or steal them. For me, my firearms are either concealed on my person in a holster, or they are in a gun safe. Firearms should not be loaded and left lying around the house.

You can be assured that if you get an unwelcome visit from a home burglar, they are quite familiar with the clever hiding place that you might have chosen in your home for a self defense firearm. But I also think and have always believed that it is a far better thing to gun-proof a child, than it is to child-proof a gun. But logic and even some state laws dictate that a combination of both is best.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution was written in a time when all males who were between the ages of 16 and 60 years old met regularly for militia exercises which included gun handling and marksmanship instruction. Since the Militia Act of 1903, that nearly mandatory instruction doesn't exist anymore.

Well before the age of service in the state militia at age 16, children even younger than that were out hunting and bringing home wild game for the family dinner. Today of course most young children at age sixteen and under do not receive competent firearm safety and marksmanship instruction from a military body and they are not typically out hunting by themselves at age ten. Times have changed indeed.

You cannot get around these responsibilities easily. Gun safety is more of a lifetime commitment than simply meeting a few limited responsibilities and obeying a few rules. Firearms and children can indeed be together without incident. Firearms have been around since sometime in the late 1100s to the early to mid-1200s. Some historians nail the date down closest to the year 1232 in China. Yes, that's not a typo, that's the early thirteenth (13<sup>th</sup>) century.

However, there was the discovery of a sculpture of a man holding a bombard with flame and a projectile emerging from it that has been tentatively dated to the later 1100's. I will speak more about this subject in the 'Brief History of the Gun' section below and again in the 'Common Questions and Answers' section near the end of this e-book.

So, you can very plainly see that the history of firearms, cannons and hand-cannons is unclear and subject to debate. But generally historians believe that they originated in China, sometime between the late 1100's and about the year 1232. The inventor is unknown.



Some historians believe that the first use of hand-held cannons to fire a projectile in Europe was during the *Siege of Seville* in Spain in the year 1247. By the time Christopher Columbus sailed to the America's in 1492, firearms were pretty well entrenched in human society. There were approximately two hundred forty five (245) years of firearm development between the *Siege of Seville* and Christopher Columbus sailing to the Americas.

Here is a photo of a firearm that was dated to the late fourteenth century (1373 A.D.):



This is a 'hand cannon' or later a 'handgonne' dated to about 1373. After six hundred thirty five (635) years of product development between the 'handgonne' above and modern times, we have this fine specimen, which is a Sig Sauer P226 Elite Stainless that was new for 2008.



Over all of the approximately eight hundred seventy eight (878) years of firearm development from the first *Fire Lance* to the year 2010 at this writing, children of every age have been around firearms of every type. (I will speak about *Fire Lances* a little later.) For example, in Switzerland, it is practically mandatory for able-bodied males of age eighteen (18) to be in the military and keep, maintain and properly store a fully automatic machine gun. Even though machine guns are properly stored in many homes in Switzerland, there are still strict rules and military regulations that must be closely followed.

The Swiss have shooting ranges in almost every town and they're almost as common as finding a donut and coffee shop in the United States. For them, it's an aspect of their culture and they're proud of it, as they should be. The latest annual statistics I've found indicate that Switzerland has only about sixty eight (68) murders committed by someone using a firearm in the entire country per year. As a comparison, the City of Chicago, Illinois had 509 murders in 2008, while in the country of Iraq in 2008; we had 314 U.S. Servicemen killed in action.

The City of Chicago, where guns are *very* strictly controlled and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment has been brazenly infringed upon, is a prime example of the total failure of gun control laws to affect the criminal mind or the violent felon's access to firearms.

In Switzerland the gun related death rate is five (5) murders committed with a firearm for every one million (1,000,000) citizens. At Switzerland's gun-related murder rate, the U.S. would only have about 4 murders per day, instead of the approximately 30 per day that we currently have.

So the country of Switzerland where there is a 'gun culture' that exceeds that of the United States, the murder rate is more than seven times (-7X) less. If the United States had the same gun-related murder rate as Switzerland, where firearm ownership is nearly mandatory, the number of murders by people utilizing a gun would drop from more than 9,600, to just over 1,500 in the U.S., but I digress.

In the early days of our constitutional republic, every male between the ages of 16 and 60 who was able-bodied, could carry a firearm and march with it, belonged to their own state's militia. Every so often, sometimes monthly, these men would gather, train, drill and practice their firearm safety, marksmanship and military skills. In most states, these militia drills were mandatory as I have already mentioned.

As time went on and throughout much of the 1800's we saw many decades of relative peace, most of the state militias fell into a state of neglect. They did not meet as often, did not train as often and eventually the state militia system fell into a state of disrepair, mostly through a lack of funding. After the Spanish-American War in 1898, many in the federal government as well as in the state militias themselves saw a need to revive and reform the state militia system.

That is why the *Militia Act of 1903* was passed. This act reorganized the state militia systems as a component of United States military and limited it to men aged 17 to 45 years old. This act also divided all males in this age range into the *Organized Militia* and the *Unorganized Militia*. The Organized Militia consisted of the *United States Army National Guard* and the *Naval Militia*. The Unorganized militia was to consist of every other male between the ages of 17 and 45 who were not involved in either of the other two organized militia units. This Unorganized Militia is not defined any further than that.

There have been a few other acts passed by Congress that further defined the roles of these units. In 1908, the Militia Act of 1903 was amended to allow the *National Guard* to be called into military service outside of the continental United States. Although this was ruled to be unconstitutional, it was resolved by making members of the Organized Militia units take a dual oath to both federal service and state service.

Since these acts in the early 1900's, private citizens who owned firearms were not required to receive safety, handling, storage and marksmanship instruction and were supposed to obtain this information and training on their own and within their families and individual communities.

#### *About the NRA-*

The National Rifle Association was incorporated in 1871, just six years after the end of the Civil War to promote basic firearm education, firearm safety and marksmanship instruction. The NRA was formed by General George Wingate and Colonel William Church and they sought to promote and improve upon the firearm handling and marksmanship for their troops. Reportedly General Wingate and Colonel Church were unhappy with the safety and marksmanship of their troops during the Civil War.

The NRA has grown to more than four million members in the past 139 years. The National Rifle Association is still the largest and most effective group in the world for promoting basic firearm education and marksmanship.

The very first President of the National Rifle Association was General Ambrose Burnside. General Burnside was also a General during the Civil War. Here is a photo of General Burnside.



**General Ambrose Burnside**

As you can plainly see General Ambrose Burnside had some seriously impressive sideburns. Did you ever wonder where we got the name for sideburns? Well, stop wondering. That's right. Sideburns were named after General Burnside, the first President of the National Rifle Association.

I have been personally involved in this issue for more than half of my lifetime. I can state without a moment of hesitation or regret that teaching your children how to properly handle guns, how to clean them correctly and getting them involved in the National Rifle Association is of the highest importance.

If you're not a current member of the NRA, I encourage you to join now or renew your membership here:

<http://membership.nrahq.org/default.asp?campaignid=XR017807>

This special Web address is my NRA Membership Recruiter address and using this address can save you \$10.00 off the normal \$35.00 membership fee for a one (1) year regular membership. That's right. One year of membership in the NRA is only \$25.00.

***But you must use that address above to get the \$10.00 off.***

**If you'd like to learn more about the benefits and the costs of membership in the National Rifle Association, please go here first:**

[http://www.SaveTheGuns.com/nra\\_membership.htm](http://www.SaveTheGuns.com/nra_membership.htm)

My hope is that this e-book entitled *A Gun Safety Course for Kids* will aid you in helping to understand your role as a gun-owning parent who has young children in the home. Even if you don't currently own a firearm, statistically speaking, at least one or both of your neighbors do own at least one gun.

According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, it has been estimated that about 45% of each of the nation's

households contains at least one firearm. Americans purchase about 4.5 million of the estimated 8.5 million of new firearms manufactured in the world each year, yet accidental firearm related deaths are at their all-time lows. I'll talk more about that later on in the book.

Even if your child/grandchild does not live in a home with a firearm, they need to know what to do if they ever find a gun in an unsupervised situation. Many years ago, the parent of a child whose son was unfortunately killed in a firearm accident at a neighbor's house contacted me by e-mail. He thanked me for my efforts, but lamented and was saddened that this information that I provided was too late for his son.

You see, his son was actually killed in a very similar fashion to Josh in the story I told at the beginning of this e-book. My goal is to make sure that you, the reader, never have to deal with that yourself. I have received an e-mail from a young friend of a child who was accidentally killed through the mishandling of a loaded gun as well. My hope is that you read my thoughts, take this issue seriously and then pass this message on to others.

[Back to the top](#)

## **A Brief History of the Gun**

There are dozens and dozens of people that I have spoken with about firearms and gun safety over the years who think that guns are a fairly new invention. They seem to have a general idea that guns were used in the *American Revolutionary War*, when Americans declared their independence from Great Britain in 1776. Most often, these people who don't have any real knowledge of the history of the gun are people who tend to support gun control laws.

Over the years, I have had many youngsters log onto my Web site on the Internet and ask me questions about guns. These questions usually range from the simple to the very complex. I've had questions submitted to me from children who ask "Can you convince my parents to get me a pellet gun for Christmas?" and I've had questions like, "Are the guns used in movies really like that?" I've had one young lady of about thirteen years old e-mail me and ask me what to do because her best friend was killed in a gun accident next door.

But by far, the most common question I get from kids is "When was the first gun invented and who invented it?" Well, that's not as easy a question to answer as one might think. You see guns are a lot older than you might guess. Guns are not something that was invented for the *American Civil War* or the *American Revolutionary War*. They are much, much older.

The first time a firearm was recorded as having been used in a battle according to some students of history was during the *Siege of Seville* in the year 1247. The Siege of Seville was a battle in Spain between Christians and Muslims under King Ferdinand III. According to Bishop Albertus Magnus (1193/1206-1280), the first use of gunpowder in Europe to fire a projectile occurred during this battle.

Twenty years after the *Siege of Seville* in the year 1267, Roger Bacon wrote down the exact formula for making gunpowder in his work *Opus Majus*. In the year 1346, the English Army used cannons against the French Army at the Battle of Crecy. By 1364, metallic hand cannons were being made in Italy. By 1370 there were many references in various works of

literature of guns on ships. In the year 1381, the town of Augsburg, Germany was recorded to have supplied thirty men with hand cannons. The term handgun (handgonne) was first used or at least written down, in the year 1388.

In the year 1410, the matchlock musket was invented. The invention of the matchlock musket is where we get the term 'firearm'. The term 'firearm' came from the shooter's arm that was used to hold the match that was used to set off the hand cannon through a touch-hole at the rear of the matchlock. The term firearm was a variation of the term 'bow-arm' and 'drawing arm' that are still used in archery.

The oldest surviving gun is a bronze gun dated to the year 1288 that was found in China in the modern-day Acheng District. The earliest depiction of a firearm was a sculpture found in a cave in the Chinese Sichuan District dated to some time in the late 1100's, many historians believe the first gun was made in China, by an unknown individual. So you see, the answer to when the first gun was invented is not simple at all.

Gun powder was probably first written about in the *Zhenyuan miaodao yaolüe*, which was a Taoist text tentatively dated to the mid-800s. Taoist monks and alchemists had been searching for a substance that would lead to immortality. The discovery of gunpowder was likely a byproduct of this experimentation. During the 900s, the Chinese were using gunpowder in fireworks to celebrate military victories and other events.

So the timeline of gunpowder and guns is still somewhat unclear, but I'll bet that you just learned something that you were not aware of. To briefly recap the history of the gun, we know there was experimentation with gunpowder in China in the mid-800s, the apparent sculpture of a gun in the late 1100s, the first recorded use of guns used in battle occurred in the year 1247. I'll go into this subject again later in the 'Common Questions and Answers' section.

The invention of the matchlock musket was in the year 1410, Leonardo Da Vinci invented the wheel-lock musket in the year 1500 and the first semi-automatic, metallic cartridge handgun was invented in the year 1892 in Austria. The history of firearms itself is interesting isn't it?

[Back to the top](#)

## **Gun Handling in the Movies and Cartoons**

If you want to know how badly one could possibly handle a loaded gun, you really don't have to look much further than your television. In my opinion, it is both hurtful and negligent to constantly depict the reckless mishandling of firearms in the entertainment industry.



In each of the previous three images, the *A-Team*, *The Terminator* and yes, even *Tom and Jerry*, the characters all have their trigger fingers resting on the trigger of the firearm and they are not ready to fire it. That violates one of the three basic rules of safe gun handling. Never touch the trigger of the firearm unless you have properly lined up your front and rear sights, you have checked your target and what is behind and beyond it and you are actually ready to fire.

Placing the trigger finger on the trigger when you're not ready to fire the gun, is the most common error in safe gun handling. Obviously our entertainment industry is not going to be a big help in trying to turn this situation around. Posing with a firearm, most often handled incorrectly, is a very common way to promote a television drama or action movie and it's not likely to stop anytime soon. Not without HUGE public pressure anyway.

Is it any wonder that the first time someone picks up a gun their trigger finger *almost* always goes right to the trigger and rests on it? Some firearms with double set triggers will fire the cartridge if the trigger is touched at all. In some rifles with double set triggers, one of the triggers is called the set trigger and the other one is often referred to as a 'hair trigger'. Some of these 'hair triggers' are so sensitive to the touch, that you could fire the gun by just barely brushing by the trigger. This is where we got the term 'hair trigger'.

I can't even begin to tell you how many violations of the three basic rules of safe gun handling I've seen broken on television and in the movies. If I actually get to watch a television program or movie where these three rules are all obeyed, it is very surprising and rare.

With tens of millions of children under age eighteen who watch television and go to the movies each year, I believe that our television and entertainment industry has a huge responsibility to teach proper gun handling procedures that they are sadly ignoring. In any given year, there are about 150 to 200 children between the ages of birth and eighteen (18) each year that die because of the mishandling of a loaded firearm.

That works out to between 3 and 4 children under age nineteen (19) per week, who have to be buried by their parents and grandparents because of the mishandling of a loaded gun. It

is my contention that the entertainment and electronic media industries bear at least part of the responsibility for these unnecessary and very avoidable deaths.

Part of the problem that we're attempting to solve is the near constant portrayal of terrible gun handling skills on television and in the movie theater. Everything from the *Three Stooges* comedy team that started in Vaudeville in 1925, to classic cartoon characters like *Tom and Jerry* and *Elmer Fudd* to the latest action-adventure movie, they almost universally show the portrayal of firearm handling incorrectly.

Kids, listen to me closely for a moment. If you would like to learn the best way and the right way of handling a gun, you should listen to me and your parents and do not pay any attention to how people on television and in the movies handle their guns. You and your parents should seek out proper instruction at a local gun club or through a Certified Firearm Instructor who has been certified by the National Rifle Association's Training and Education Division.

[Back to the top](#)

## **Kids, what if you find a gun somewhere?**

There has been a marked increase in the percentage of violent crimes committed by young people in the past few decades. Teens are committing a higher percentage of crimes than they used to. This rise in youth violence has obviously increased the possibility that an abandoned firearm could be found in an area where young people tend to gather, such as parks and playgrounds. Even though murder rates have fallen, teenagers are responsible for more of them than in the past.

Finding an abandoned handgun in a dumpster in your neighborhood, at a playground, at a park or somewhere along a roadside can happen and does happen. The vast majority of accidental firearm shootings among children happen when an unsupervised child finds a loaded gun somewhere and then proceeds to mishandle it because of a total lack of knowledge and proper gun handling skills.

It doesn't matter if the gun is found outside at a playground or inside a home in a neighbor's bedroom closet, an attic, or in a bedside table. If you find a gun somewhere, you are not allowed to touch it. The only time you should handle a gun is when you're being taught properly how to handle a gun by a parent, or by a gun safety instructor at the firing range.

Adults should not handle any unattended firearm that they might find outside either. It could have been used in a violent crime and may have important evidence on it such as fingerprints, blood, human tissue, DNA or other evidence that may be destroyed or contaminated by handling it. It is also quite possible that it is loaded and ready to fire as well. In addition, the area around where the firearm was found might also have important evidence in a criminal case, such as footprints, threads of clothing, hairs, fibers or tire tracks. It's important not to destroy any evidence that might be in the area.

If a gun is found unattended outside, an adult should stay in the general area but not so close as to destroy any evidence and keep everyone away from where the gun was found. The police or local law enforcement agency should be notified as soon as possible and a law

enforcement officer should be brought to where the gun was found. NEVER bring a gun that you found unattended outside to the police station. A better solution is to bring the police or law enforcement authority to the gun.

All unsupervised children should follow these simple rules when they find a gun either outside or inside a home:

**STOP:** Stop what you are doing. Just stop and think!!!

**DON'T TOUCH IT:** Do not touch the gun at all. Do not pick it up and bring it to an adult either, just don't touch it at all.

**LEAVE THE AREA:** Leave the area where the gun was found. Do not stay and try to take the gun away from another child who might have done the wrong thing and picked it up. Don't stay and try to convince your friend to put it back. Just listen to me and leave the area. Don't argue with someone who has just picked up a gun and do not try to take it away from them. Just leave the area.

**TELL AN ADULT:** Tell an adult where you have been and what you saw. Tell them where you were and that you found a gun and walked away. Let the adult then decide what the best course of action is.

These 4 simple rules are part of the National Rifle Association's Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program. You can find the NRA's program right here: <http://www.nrahq.org/safety/eddie/>

So there you have it kids. If you find a gun somewhere, you stop in your tracks, don't even touch it, leave the area and then tell an adult what you found and where you found it. If the gun is found outside by an adult, the same thing applies, except that the adult should bring a member of law enforcement to where the firearm was found and make sure nobody goes near it in the meantime.

One of the most common ways that a child gets accidentally shot by another child is in a struggle over a loaded gun that they found unattended somewhere in an unsupervised situation without adults around. Because of the natural tendency to place their trigger finger on the trigger (thanks in part to the entertainment industry) and the tendency to grab and pull on the barrel in a struggle, the gun is usually fired at the person who is yanking on the barrel. That is why we've told you to not touch it and walk away.

[Back to the top](#)

## **What if Your Friend Gets His Parent's Gun?**

One morning many years ago the father of a ten year old boy sent me an e-mail saying that he had been on my Web site and looked over the gun safety information I have posted and he thanked me for my hard work for gun safety. His ten year old son was killed in an accidental shooting at a neighbor's house. It was partially his story that was the inspiration for the beginning of this e-book and the story of Alex and Josh.



His son went to a neighbor's house to play for a few hours and the parents were not home. His son's friend took him to his parent's bedroom and he got out his father's brand new .44 magnum revolver. The revolver was loaded; the barrel was pointed in the wrong direction and the young boy pulled the trigger on the handgun to 'show off' his daddy's new revolver and how cool he thought it was. The .44 magnum bullet hit this man's ten year old boy right in the side of the head and threw his body into the bedroom closet.

In a flash, the youngster flew out of the house and over to the neighbor's house where his friend lived. In a frantic panic he told his friend's dad what just happened. His friend's dad rushed next door to find his son bleeding badly from his head. Within moments, this youngster would die in his father's arms on the bedroom floor of his neighbor's house.

When I spend my time and effort writing this e-book, relating these stories to you and trying to teach you the right way to think about guns and how to handle them safely and under proper supervision, I'm doing it because I care about you and your family. *Three or four families this week* are going to go through the same thing that this dad did. About three or four kids will die this week because they or someone close to them mishandled a loaded gun.

Three or four kids this week in the United States will have their lives cut short because of this. These three or four kids will never be able to go on a first date with a girlfriend. These three or four kids will not graduate high school, or buy their first car, or go onto college, or get married or have kids of their own.

If you take anything away from reading this and learn anything from this e-book, know that there are many people in your life that love you and care for you and don't want to see you get hurt. I care about making sure that you don't get hurt by mishandling a gun yourself and I care that you don't get hurt by someone around you who is mishandling a loaded gun as well.

So let's get back to the chapter's purpose... What if your friend goes and gets out his parent's gun to show you? Let's do a little role playing shall we? Let's pretend that we're both friends and we went over to another friend's house. The three of us play basketball in the driveway for a little while and we get thirsty and go inside the house for a drink.

Our friend pours us some iced water and then leaves the kitchen for a minute and tells us that he'll be right back. In a few minutes he comes back into the kitchen holding his dad's brand new hunting rifle. He says "Hey guys look what my dad just bought this weekend?" and he holds out the shiny new rifle.

What do we do now? You look at me and I look at you. What is your decision? What do we do next? I'm looking at you as my friend for guidance. Let's pretend that I've never seen a real gun before. Tell me what to do. Do you remember? STOP, DON'T TOUCH IT, LEAVE THE AREA and TELL AN ADULT.

That's right; we quietly and quickly turn around and head right out the front door together, not stopping to say a word. We both go back to your house and you tell your mom who is watching television that our friend just took out his dad's new rifle when nobody else was home and we left.

It's the right thing to do. Even if our friend gets in a whole bunch of trouble for getting out his dad's new rifle, we know that we did the right thing. Someone could have been seriously hurt or killed.

What did we just do? We stopped, we didn't touch it, we left the area and we told an adult what just happened. If one of our other friends was over there instead and they didn't walk away and they didn't know what to do, there might have been an accident.

I want you to take some time to imagine yourself in a bunch of different situations where you might find a gun or see a gun somewhere unattended, where you decide to do the right thing, by not touching it and going to tell an adult what you found. Let's look at a few of them:

- You find a handgun under a bush in your front yard near the street. What do you do? Who do you tell?
- You see another student with what you think is a gun on a school bus. What do you do and who do you tell?
- You and a couple of friends are playing near a riverbank underneath a bridge and you find a couple of blankets in a pile. One of your friends turns over the blankets and there are rifles and a shotgun wrapped up inside of them. What do you do? Who do you tell?
- You go into a public restroom at a pet store and there is a small handgun on the floor next to one of the toilets. What do you do? Who do you go to and tell what you found?
- What if one of your friends finds a gun and you don't want to touch it, you want to leave the area and go tell your mom or dad. But your friends tease you and make fun of you for not wanting to touch the gun? Once again, the same four rules apply here as well. Don't pay any attention to them. You know the right thing to do. Stop and think. Don't touch them, leave the area where the gun was found and seek out a trusted adult.

In all of these situations above, the same rules apply. Stop what you're doing, leave the area and get your friends to leave the area. Get to the nearest and most trusted adult and tell them what you found. It's not a good idea to go to a total stranger and tell them what you found is it? That's because you don't know if you can trust them. You should seek out a parent, a teacher, a trusted neighbor, a police officer, a bus driver or someone else you trust.

The truth is that any guns in the house that are not specifically for immediate use for self defense purposes and are under the direct control of an adult should be locked up where unsupervised children and irresponsible adults cannot get at them. Guns should not be left just lying around the house.

Guns found outside the house are even MORE important not to touch because they were probably used in a crime or stolen from someone and then abandoned.

Let's spend a minute with the following drill. I want you to repeat the four rules concerning what to do if you find a gun somewhere. Repeat them with me at least seven (7) times.

**STOP:**  
**DON'T TOUCH IT:**

**LEAVE THE AREA:**

**TELL AN ADULT WHAT WAS FOUND:**

(Repeat them with me seven times, I'll wait for you.)

So now if your friend gets out his parent's gun and there's nobody else around except other kids, you know what to do. Next we'll talk about handling a gun in a different situation altogether. In this next section, we'll talk about how to actually handle a real gun when you have the permission and supervision of a trusted adult and you are in a safe environment to do so. Let's start learning the correct way to handle a real gun under supervision. Next, we talk about the *Three Rules of Safe Gun Handling*.

[\*\*Back to the top\*\*](#)

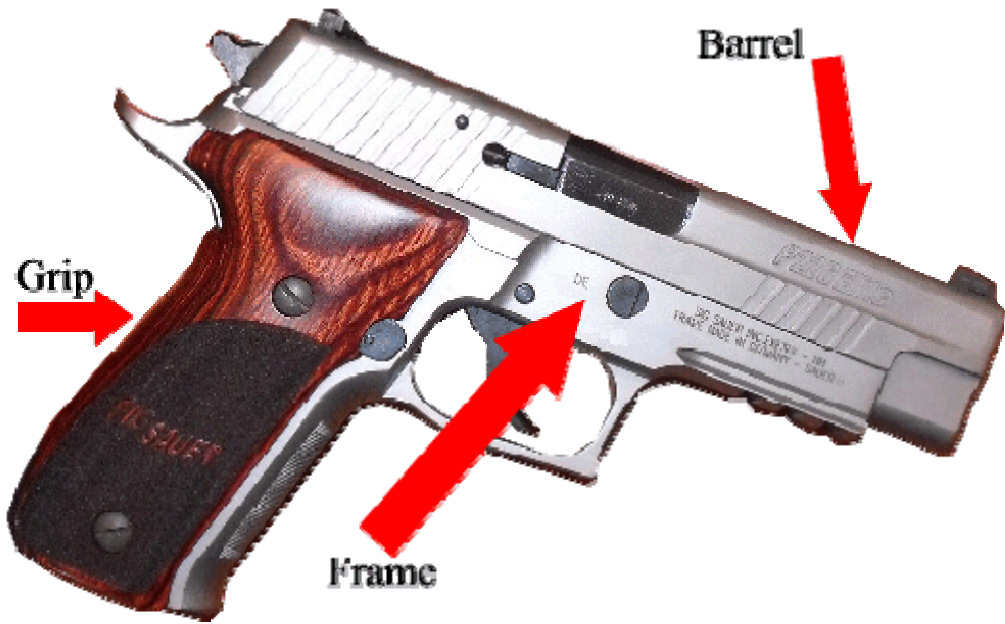
## **The Three Rules of Safe Gun Handling**

What is safety? What does safety mean? It means to take actions to avoid getting hurt or killed. What are some of the things you do all of the time to keep safe?

- You put on your seatbelt when you get into a car.
- You never talk to strangers. Adults who you don't know will not ask for directions. Adults that you do not know will not ask if you want to see his puppy and they will not offer you candy, outside of Halloween that is.
- You always look both ways before you cross the street.
- You never chase a ball or a Frisbee into the street.
- You always wear a bicycle helmet when riding a bike.
- You stop, drop and roll around on the ground if your clothes ever catch on fire.
- And you NEVER handle guns without supervision until you know what you are doing and you are totally familiar with the rules of safe gun handling.

There are many gun safety rules out there. In fact there are dozens of rules and tips concerning gun safety that I've come up with over the years. At last count I think I've probably come up with close to fifty (50) of them. But we're not talking about all the gun safety rules just yet. In this section I'm going to speak about the three basic rules of actually handling a gun safely.

Some of the rules in this section and the next section require that you know something about the basic parts of a gun. When we are talking about handguns for instance, there are three major parts of a handgun. They are the FRAME, the GRIP and the BARREL.



The *frame* is the main structure of the handgun. The *grip* is attached to the frame or in most cases is actually part of the frame itself. The grip is the part of the handgun that you hold onto when you are handling the gun safely. The *barrel* is the third basic part. The barrel is a hollow metal tube. When the ammunition cartridge fires, the bullet will move down the barrel and exit the barrel very quickly.

Here is the same picture of the handgun shown above, but now we see a mostly different set of parts that you need to know.



In this picture, the hammer, rear sight, slide, front sight, muzzle, trigger guard and trigger have been added. The muzzle is just another name for the area at the end of the barrel.

Okay, let's set up this situation shall we? This time things are different. Your dad, your uncle and your grandpa are planning to go out and do some target shooting at their local gun club or at the sand pit where your dad goes shooting with your uncle. They ask you if you're interested in learning how to shoot.

If you're not interested in learning how to properly handle a gun and safely shoot a gun, then please don't feel pressured to do so. Just politely tell them that you're not interested in learning how to shoot yet and that you would rather do something else instead. There's no shame in not wanting to go shooting if that's not what you want to do.

But even if you really don't want to go shooting, I think it's important to know how to properly handle a firearm. Even if you never go shooting or hunting, there are more than two hundred forty million (240,000,000) guns in the United States, more than 45% of all homes in the United States have at least one of them inside and they've been around for hundreds and hundreds of years, about 778 years in fact and they're not going anywhere. So you should still know how to handle one safely, even if you never ever want to shoot one.

There are only three (3) basic gun handling rules. I'm going to ask you to repeat them a few times with me and then look away from the computer screen and see if you can remember all three of them. Each and every time you handle a gun for the rest of your lives you must obey *all three* of these rules to completely avoid the possibility of an accident with a gun.

- **ALWAYS POINT THE BARREL IN A SAFE DIRECTION:**
- **NEVER TOUCH THE TRIGGER UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO SHOOT:**
- **KEEP THE GUN UNLOADED UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO USE IT:**

Repeat these three rules a few times and then turn away from the computer screen and see if you can remember all three of them.

Let's spend some time talking about these three rules. The first one is the most important gun safety rule of all. There are many variations of this rule, but I kind of like my version, because it is easy to remember and covers all the bases.

### **ALWAYS POINT THE BARREL IN A SAFE DIRECTION**

Pointing the barrel in a safe direction at all times is called *The Golden Rule of Gun Safety*. It is called the *Golden Rule of Gun Safety* for a good reason. Even if all other gun safety rules are totally ignored and the gun fires when you don't want it to, the bullet will land in a safe area.

There are other variations of this 'Golden Rule' that I have heard from other firearm safety experts. One of these is do not point your gun at anything that you are not willing to destroy. Another way to say it is to not point the barrel at anything you would never shoot at. Anyway you would like to say it; the foundation of all gun safety is to point the barrel of the gun in a safe direction.

Pointing a gun in a safe direction means to point it in such a way that if it was to be fired, nobody would get hurt and there would be no other serious damage done if the gun was to be fired. Usually, the safest direction to point a gun is at the ground or at the floor in front of you. But do not point it straight down, because your feet are there. Point it at the ground or floor and slightly to your side.

The second rule of safe gun handling is **NEVER TOUCH THE TRIGGER UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO SHOOT**. This is the second most important rule of safe gun handling.

No gun will fire all by itself without a person making it fire. A gun is fired by pulling the trigger on a loaded gun.

There is a natural tendency to put your finger inside the trigger guard when the gun is picked up. The television and movies constantly show people handling guns with their fingers on the trigger as I have already mentioned. There is a huge danger in automatically putting your finger on the trigger of a gun when you pick it up.

You have to condition yourself to automatically place your trigger finger alongside the gun whenever you handle one. There is NEVER any excuse for handling any gun with your finger on the trigger if you're not actually ready to fire it at a target.



In this photo, you can see that as I am handling the gun, my finger always remains alongside the gun and it is resting on the frame and NOT on the trigger.

The last of the three basic rules of safe gun handling is to **KEEP THE GUN UNLOADED UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO USE IT.** Keeping guns loaded and fully accessible in the home to children and unauthorized adults is very simply tempting fate. Sooner or later, it is likely that someone at some time will find that loaded gun in the home and it may very well be someone that is not authorized or qualified to handle it.

Obviously keeping a gun unloaded and inaccessible in a home will prevent that gun from being used in an emergency situation, such as an unlawful and violent home invasion. A family with young children or a household where grandchildren may visit and the apartment of an unmarried police officer will have different levels of concern as far as keeping loaded guns accessible and ready in a home environment.

This third and last of the rules of safe gun handling is the most controversial. You will hear of many firearm enthusiasts who will assert that every gun in the home should be loaded and ready to use at all times. On the other hand, you will hear of many advocates of strict adherence to gun safety rules who assert that no gun in the home should be either accessible or loaded.

The truth behind this issue is that each and every household has to make the decision on how and where to store firearms. Every family has to determine the best method of firearm storage and be able to live at peace with the decisions that they make.

Often there are compromises made. In some homes, all of the guns that are not intended to be used in cases of self defense are securely locked in a gun safe or sturdy security cabinet and are unloaded. While a gun that is intended for home defense is left loaded and accessible to authorized adults only.

There are ways to keep a handgun or shotgun reasonably ready for home defense, while still storing them safely, such as a quick-open wall safe that reads fingerprints or utilizes a quick four digit opening code. Speaking solely for myself, my defensive firearm is usually in a holster and ready to use. All of my other guns are locked up in a pick-proof gun safe.

Whichever way the parents decide is the best way to store firearms in the home, the third rule of safe gun handling still remains. Keep the gun unloaded until you're ready to use it. All children in a home where a gun is stored have to know that it is NOT OKAY to seek out those guns when nobody else is around.

That is perhaps one of the most important sentences in this entire gun safety course for kids, so I will take a moment to repeat it and I will even type it in capital letters and highlight it in yellow.

**IT IS NOT OKAY TO SEEK OUT AND TRY TO FIND GUNS THAT ARE STORED IN THE HOME WHEN NOBODY ELSE IS AROUND.**

So let's quickly review the last three parts of the course. If you ever find a gun somewhere, be it in a closet, under a bed, behind a bureau, in a bureau draw, down cellar, in an attic, outside, at a playground, on the side of the road, in the trash or in the woods, you should;

**STOP:**

**DON'T TOUCH IT:**

**LEAVE THE AREA:**

**TELL AN ADULT WHAT WAS FOUND:**

**(Repeat them with me seven times, I'll wait for you.)**

The reasons for these rules are many. The gun could be loaded and ready to fire by just pulling the trigger. The gun could have been used in a violent crime and it's generally not a good idea to get your fingerprints on a gun that was used to murder someone. Children should obey these rules most of all, because of the dangers of mishandling a loaded gun.

If a friend, brother, sister, neighbor or anyone else you know goes into a bedroom, closet, cellar, attic or wherever and brings out a gun, you are NOT to stay there and argue with them and you should NOT try to take the gun away. You are to STOP, DON'T TOUCH IT, LEAVE THE AREA AND TELL AN ADULT.

The most common way a child gets accidentally killed through the mishandling of a loaded gun, it's when one child tries to take the gun away from another child. A struggle over a loaded gun found by two or more children is EXTREMELY DANGEROUS. If I even came

upon that situation, I might even find myself running out of the house, even as a firearm training professional. That's how dangerous it is.

If you are safely among adults or a parent and/or you're at a gun club or firing range, there are three basic rules of safe gun handling.

**ALWAYS POINT THE BARREL IN A SAFE DIRECTION:  
NEVER TOUCH THE TRIGGER UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO SHOOT:  
KEEP THE GUN UNLOADED UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO USE IT:**

[Back to the top](#)

## More Gun Safety Rules

Here are some more important gun safety rules for you to keep in mind. Let's first review the most important ones. First and most important is to always point the gun in a safe direction. Secondly, keep your finger off of the trigger, third is to keep the gun unloaded unless you are ready and prepared to use it.

Here are some of the other more important gun safety rules. Over the years, I have been able to come up with about fifty (50) of them, but I won't list them all here. This is just a listing of some of the more common rules. I will list them and briefly expand on each one before we move onto the next section.

- Treat every gun you are authorized to handle as if they were loaded, even though you know that they are not loaded. Even though the gun may be empty, always treat it as if it was loaded. **Keep your finger off of the trigger.**
- Be absolutely certain of what your target is and what is behind it and beyond it. Some bullets can fly three miles or more if they are discharged while pointed up in the air. If you're shooting at a target and there is a house behind the target, someone could get hurt. Also do not shoot at junked cars, refrigerators or abandoned propane tanks, because you just don't know where the bullet could end up.
- Check to see if a gun is loaded each time you pick it up, even if you just checked it. When handling a gun, it is essential to know whether or not it's actually loaded.
- Always wear eye protection and ear protection such as shooting glasses and ear plugs or ear muffs. It's very important to protect your eyes and ears while shooting.
- NEVER try to take a gun away from someone by pulling on the barrel. Police officers have to train intensively and very often to master firearm disarmament techniques. Don't try to take a gun away from anyone without proper training.
- NEVER allow horseplay or fooling around with a gun. NEVER fool around with a real gun or pretend to play 'cowboys and indians' with one. No horseplay, ever.
- ALWAYS avoid the natural tendency to place your trigger finger inside the trigger guard of a gun. A misplaced finger on a trigger is probably the most common cause of



**an accident.**

- Do not rely on the gun's mechanical safety catch. The mechanical safeties on firearms are not foolproof. You should use them if they're available, but do not mishandle a gun, just because the safety switch is on. Mechanical safeties can and do fail to work.
- **Make absolutely sure that you're using the correct ammunition for the gun when you go shooting. Shooting a gun with the wrong ammunition cartridges in it can be very dangerous.**
- Be certain that the barrel is clear of obstructions before shooting it. Stuck bullets, gun cleaning patches and other junk that could be stuck in a barrel can be dangerous if a cartridge is fired into them.
- **Do not alter or modify your gun unless you really know what you're doing. Incorrectly modified guns can be very dangerous to both shooters and bystanders.**
- Learn everything you can about the gun you are about to use. Know the mechanical and safety aspects of each gun you handle and know exactly how to load and unload it before attempting to do so.

For one of the most complete listings of gun safety rules found anywhere in the world, go here to my Web site:

[http://www.savetheguns.com/safety\\_rules.htm](http://www.savetheguns.com/safety_rules.htm)

**[Back to the top](#)**

## **Shooting at the Gun Club or Shooting Range**

At some point, most everyone who is even slightly interested in the subject of firearms, will get an opportunity to shoot a gun at a gun club, real shooting range or even in a sandpit. What should you expect at a gun club? What are the rules? Who do you listen to? What is shooting a gun like? Will I get hurt? I will try to answer these questions as best I can for you.

When you arrive at a gun club or shooting range, there will probably be a list of rules posted there for everyone to see. The sign may say something like 'Range Rules' or something similar. You should read these rules to make sure you don't disobey any of them and get removed from being able to shoot there by the Range Safety Officer. Many times there will be one person, likely a senior member of the club there who is in charge of seeing that all safety rules are being observed and followed.

Here some rules that are typical for many firing ranges:

- Know and obey all range commands.

- Know where others are at all times.
- Shoot only at authorized targets.
- Ground level targets are not authorized without a proper backstop. See exceptions for Smallbore Rifle, High-power and Smallbore Silhouette. Maintain the proper target height to ensure that the fired projectile, after passing through the target, hits the desired portion of the backstop. This will reduce the possibility of ricochets and projectiles escaping the range safety fan or property.
- Designate a range officer when none is present or assigned.
- Unload, open the action, remove the magazine and ground and/or bench all firearms during a ceasefire.
- Do NOT handle any firearm or stand at the firing line where firearms are present while others are down range.
- Always keep the muzzle pointed at the backstop or bullet trap. Never allow the muzzle to point in any direction whereby an inadvertent discharge would allow the escape of a projectile into an outer area.

Generally speaking here are some common range commands for both adults and children to know.

- **“Ceasefire”** Ceasefire means to stop shooting immediately. Not when your gun is empty, but right then. Stop shooting and take your finger off the trigger.
- **“Unload”** The unload command means to remove the magazine and unload the chamber or cylinder.
- **“Open All Actions”** The open all actions command means to lock open the slide, cylinder or bolt. The action is all of the moving parts of a firearm that help you to load and unload the gun.
- **“Bench All Firearms Downrange”** That simply means to lay the gun down on the shooting bench, keep the barrel pointed at the target and step away from it.
- **“Check, Change or put up targets or Move Out”** That means that the range has been declared as being safe and you are authorized by the Range Safety Officer to be able to move down onto the firing range. During this target change period, nobody is to touch their guns in any way.
- **“Is the Line Clear?”** This is a command usually from the Range Safety Officer asking everyone to look and acknowledge that everyone in their group is behind the firing line and that nobody is downrange where the targets are.
- **“Commence Firing”** This is the command that says it’s okay to reload your gun and begin firing again.

Those are the generally accepted range commands and are pretty commonly used. There could be variations of these rules or additional rules and it's the shooter's responsibility to know them and follow them. Please be aware that anyone can call out these range commands, but if someone is designated as the Range Safety Officer, it's probably best to ask for a "safe range" from him or her.

But also be aware that anyone can call a "Ceasefire" especially if someone is doing something dangerous. I was at a gun club's indoor shooting range one time while shooting and someone yelled out a 'ceasefire' command because someone's young child started walking downrange to look at his target. If you see a safety violation like this, it is not only okay to yell out a 'ceasefire', *it is your duty*, even if you are a young child yourself.

**You are *not allowed* to walk downrange to look closely at your target while other people are shooting without calling for a safe range first.**

Firing ranges and gun clubs are very strict concerning gun safety and following the rules of the range. Even very experienced shooters are sometimes caught doing something considered unsafe by the Range Safety Officer. Please do not feel attacked or insulted if a Range Safety Officer corrects you or admonishes you or someone you are with. It is the job of the Range Safety Officer to guarantee the safety of everyone involved.

Shooting at gun club shooting ranges are among the safest sports in the United States. Shooting at a gun club is many, many times safer than riding a bike or playing a sport like football, baseball, soccer, hockey or others. There are rules that must be obeyed. I want you to have fun and be safe in this sport of shooting and following the rules is not an option or a choice you can make. You must ALWAYS follow the rules.

[Back to the top](#)

## **Accidental Deaths with Guns**

Accidental gun-related deaths involving the mishandling of a loaded gun is one of the most successful stories of all time, especially so in the United States. I find it very strange that this phenomenal success story is not better known. This story must be told, but on the major news networks, you almost never hear anything on this subject unless it is an unfortunate tragedy where a child is accidentally killed.

Let me tell you about three different years. First is the year 1904, next is 1930 and finally I'd like to address the year 2006. In the year 1904, there was an accidental gun related death rate of 3.4 per 100,000 or rather 34 per million. Since there was 82,166,000 Americans in the year 1904, that means that about 2,794 Americans died in the year 1904 due to the mishandling of a loaded gun. That is about 7.65 deaths per day.

Next I would like to address the year 1930. In the year 1930, the accidental death rate involving guns fell to 2.9 per 100,000 or 29 per million. But the United States population rose to 122,775,046. That means that in the year 1930, the number of Americans who died due to the mishandling of a loaded gun rose to an alarming 3,560 (9.75 deaths per day).

Now allow me talk a little bit about the year 2006. By 2006, the accidental death rate involving guns fell to .20 per 100,000 or about 2 per million. The U.S. population rose to 298,362,973. In the year 2006 the actual number of Americans who died due to the mishandling of a loaded gun was 642 and that is 1.75 deaths per day.

If you were to take for a moment, the highest rate of accidental gun-related deaths in 1904 of 34 per million and compare that to the United States population in 2006, we would have seen 10,144 Americans dying as a result of a loaded and mishandled firearm. But instead of 10,144 accidental deaths in 2006, we saw just 642. That is a rate that has fallen ninety four percent (-94%). This phenomenal success however, is not being reported on in the news.

Thus, we have saved 9,502 American lives in 2006, because accidental firearm related death has become so rare. Right now, as I type this in early 2010, the population of the United States just went over 308.7 million. Statistics on accidental gun related death in the United States is maintaining a rate of 2 deaths per million.

This huge drop in accidental death due to the mishandling of a loaded gun of about -94% is a huge success story. This has occurred while both the population has grown tremendously and the number of guns in U.S. homes has risen to about 240 million and Americans add about 4.5 million guns to their homes each year.

What some reasons for this big drop? Some of this success is due to the free market. People have demanded safer firearms and the gun makers have responded. People have demanded gun safes, handgun safes, trigger locks and trigger locking cables and the manufacturing industry has responded. Firearm education in the United States has grown exponentially and there are more than 67,000 NRA Certified Firearm Instructors teaching gun safety courses throughout the country.

The National Rifle Association's Eddie Eagle Gunsafe program created in 1988 by past NRA President Marion Hammer has been a huge success. The Eddie Eagle program has reached 24 million children in all fifty states and the program has been taught in more than 28,000 school systems, civic organizations and gun clubs. Another aspect of this truly successful story that is sometimes overlooked is the medical advances and the quality of care at America's hospitals and the short reaction times of emergency medical technicians.

But one thing you can be absolutely certain of is if you know the child or the adult in the casket, at the funeral home who died due to the mishandling of a loaded gun, this success story will mean absolutely nothing to assuage your grief or console you. I want to reach out to you now and thank you for reading this and paying attention to what I have to say here on this topic.

An important step in keeping kids safe is to get a Junior Membership to the National Rifle Association. To learn more about it, go to [http://www.SaveTheGuns.com/nra\\_membership.htm](http://www.SaveTheGuns.com/nra_membership.htm)

[Back to the top](#)

## **Real Guns or Toy Guns**

Some accidental gun-related deaths each year are due to young children who make the mistake of thinking that a real gun is actually a toy. I do not have statistics available for how common it is for a child to mistake a real gun for a toy gun, but I do know that it does happen.

The parents or grandparents of a child that has been injured or killed by the mishandling of a loaded gun will not care about the success of gun safety training or the unlikelihood of a child mistaking a toy gun for a real gun.

Some firearms today are made specifically for the licensed concealed carry permit holder or those in Vermont and Alaska who can carry a gun without a permit, who wish to carry a small and very concealable gun in a pocket. Yes, some guns can fit in a pocket and weigh less than a pound.

The brand new Ruger LCR is a five shot .38 Special revolver with a polymer (plastic-like) frame that weighs only 13.5 ounces. That is *only* an ounce and a half more than a can of soda.



<http://www.ruger-firearms.com/products/lcr/index.html>

Here is a photo of a handgun that I'd like you to take notice of as well.



<http://www.naaminis.com/lrifle.html>

This is a revolver made by a company called North American Arms. It is a .22 caliber revolver that weighs just four ounces (4.5oz) and is just four inches (4") long. If you think you could very easily tell a real gun from a toy, maybe now I made you think twice about that huh?

Generally speaking there are a few ways to tell whether or not a gun is real or is a toy. All toy guns are required by federal law to have an orange or red plastic tip at the end of the barrel. Also most toy guns are made of plastic and have very little or no metal in them. If a gun that you think is a toy seems heavier and more solid feeling than you think it should be, it could be a real gun.

If you or someone you know is handling a gun and you don't know if it is real or a toy, you should remember what Eddie Eagle says. Let's go over it again shall we?

**STOP:**  
**DON'T TOUCH IT:**  
**LEAVE THE AREA:**  
**TELL AN ADULT WHAT WAS FOUND:**

It may not be as easy to tell a toy gun from a real gun as you might have thought huh? I just want you to be aware that sometimes there is very little difference between toy guns and real guns to young people who are not experienced. Sometimes even police officers cannot immediately tell the difference between them and occasionally kids have been tragically killed by police officers who thought that the gun the child was pointing at them was real, when it was only a toy.

If you are not sure that a gun you have seen or found is a toy gun or a real gun, you are to treat it as if it is a real gun. That message is one of the most important messages that you can take from this free e-book.

[Back to the top](#)

## **Ammunition Knowledge and Safety**

First of all, let's define what a gun is. A gun is a mechanical device that stores, helps to aim and discharges ammunition at the specific direction of the shooter who is using it. A gun that is not loaded with ammunition cannot hurt you. Unless someone hits you with it, throws it at you or you drop it on your toes.

So what is ammunition anyway? Ammunition goes by many different names. Sometimes they are called cartridges, some people call them 'rounds' and sometimes they are called ammo. Other times, they are called bullets, but that is a mistake. Cartridges have bullets in them, but cartridges are not bullets.

Cartridges consist of at least four different items. The parts of a handgun cartridge are the case, the gunpowder, the primer and the bullet. Here is an image that I made up of a .357 Magnum cartridge that is completely taken apart for you to see.



One thing you should know about cartridges is that they are not to be played around with. If you put them in a fire or hit them with a hammer or rock, or if you put them in a vise or squeeze the cartridges with a pair of pliers they can explode and pieces of the cartridge may fly in any direction.

The bullet will likely fly out of the case and hot gunpowder will also fly out in any direction. Any of these things could cause personal injury and I very strongly caution you to treat cartridges with care. Do not mistreat ammunition cartridges. Please hear me on that.

When a cartridge is fired in a gun, the firing pin hits the top of the primer seen in the image above, which is in the hole in the bottom of the case. The primer sends a shower of sparks into the case, which ignites the gunpowder. The gunpowder then burns almost instantly.

The gunpowder generates heat and gases which very quickly expand within the case and then sends the bullet down the barrel and on its way to the target. The energy developed by this process is enormous and it is important that you get a good idea how much energy is developed.

The pressure inside the chamber is huge when the cartridge fires. Chamber pressure is typically measured in pounds per square inch, designated as PSI. The .357 Magnum cartridge pictured above generates about 35,000 PSI. That's right. The chamber pressure of a .357 Magnum is about seventeen and a half (17 ½) tons per square inch!!

The bullet that comes out of the cartridge comes out very, very fast as well. Bullet velocity is measured in feet per second. Feet per second are designated as FPS. That is how many feet the bullet moves in one second. The velocity of .357 Magnum bullets that I have pictured above is typically one thousand four hundred fifty feet per second (1,450 FPS).

If you're traveling along at highway speed in a car, the maximum speed limit is usually 65 miles per hour. The .357 Magnum bullets can move at a whopping nine hundred eighty eight miles per hour (988 MPH). Yes, that is almost a thousand miles per hour. Pretty fast huh?

About the fastest bullets that are currently available are the .30-'06 Accelerator, the .220 Swift and the .17 Remington. They can fire bullets between 4100 and 4200 feet per second. 4200 feet per second is the same as 2,863 miles per hour. The amazing part of the fastest rifle bullets available is that they can fly as fast as 8/10<sup>ths</sup> of a mile in just one second. That's right. The fastest .220 Swift rifle bullet can fly .795 miles per second.

The modern metallic firearm cartridge is an amazing device that can generate many, many tons of pressure and can make a bullet fly more than three quarters of a mile in just a second. Ammunition should be treated with care.

Do not crush an ammunition cartridge in a vise. Do not bang an ammunition cartridge with a hammer or a rock. Do not put an ammunition cartridge in a fire. Do not put live ammunition cartridges in the trash. Ammunition is to be treated with respect and handled only as it is intended.

Now, let me talk just a minute about bullet energy. The speeding bullet has energy associated with it. The speeding bullet will hit a target and knock it over, or put a hole in it, dent it, damage it or even destroy it.

The bullet will hit a target with this energy and the energy is measured in something called a foot-pound. A foot-pound is the energy it would take to pick up a one pound item, one foot off of the ground.

So therefore, if I say that a .38 Special bullet hits a target with 300 foot-pounds of energy that means that the energy in the bullet is enough to lift 300 pounds, a foot off of the ground. A large rifle bullet like the .30-'06 can move very quickly and the bullet can develop about 2,900 foot-pounds.

The energy of such a bullet can lift 2,900 pounds, a whole foot off of the ground. The bullet can fly as far as three and a half (3 ½) miles away too. Ammunition cartridges are not toys and should never be played around with.

[Back to the top](#)

## **Supervised Gun Handling Only**

I would like to take this opportunity to convey to you some of my own personal feelings on the matter of children under age eighteen handling a gun. It is my opinion that children under age eighteen should only handle a firearm under adult supervision. Yes, I know, some of you will disagree with me on this, but I'm going to take the risk of letting my feelings be known on this issue, well, because I can.

The child under age eighteen should be aware that it is NOT OKAY to seek out a gun in the home while unsupervised by an experienced and knowledgeable adult. Handling a gun should only be done while supervised by a trusted adult or parent. If you want to see or handle one of the firearms in the house, ask your parent first. Usually, they will be happy to help you out.



Almost all accidental gun-related deaths involving children under age eighteen occur when the child is unsupervised by an alert and experienced adult. All I am going to say on this subject is that children under age eighteen sometimes think irrationally and I stand in disagreement that it is okay for parents to allow children under age eighteen to handle and shoot real firearms on their own without supervision. This is especially true if the child is not completely and appropriately trained.

Yes, I know that even pre-teen children were out hunting for food many decades ago for the family. This is just an opinion and I'll let it stand right there, without saying another word on the subject.

[Back to the top](#)

## Common Questions and Answers

I have fielded questions from kids for many years on my Web site. Some of the questions are serious matters and some of the questions are interesting ones to answer. I will try to answer a few of the most common questions that kids answer.

### **Who invented the gun and when was it invented?**

This is the most common question I get asked. At times, I've been asked this question three or four times a week. We don't know exactly when the first gun was invented, where it was invented or who invented it.

Gun powder originated in China between the years 850 and 900. But it wasn't yet true gunpowder. It is likely that Chinese alchemists were attempting to make an elixir for the Emperor of China to eat and drink, which would give him eternal life. At some point in this experimentation and formulations a powder was created which burned brightly. Later it was used in fireworks to celebrate military victories and special occasions.

This incendiary powder was likely made of a nitrate such as saltpeter, along with charcoal, sulphur and perhaps a few other ingredients. A powder that approximated the recipe for gunpowder is believed to have been first published in the year 1004, but it was not yet true gunpowder. The first publications of true gunpowder were written and published by Roger Bacon in 1248 and 1268 and Albertus Magnus in Europe around the year 1280, but it was quite clearly being made well before that.

The oldest gun that I have a picture of is the one in the photo below from about the year 1373.



The earliest recorded use of a gun in a battle was likely at the *Siege of Seville* in Spain in the year 1247. But there has been some skepticism among historians as to the validity of that fact, as the document that reported firearm use in 1247 was written

many decades after the battle. However, it is pretty clear than incendiary powders were first used in bamboo poles to fire hardened clay pellets as early as 1259.

Before that, in the year 1132 the *Tê-An Shou Chhêng Lu*, an account of the Siege of De'an records the use of devices called *fire lances*. A fire lance was a tube filled with incendiary powder at the end of a pole, likely bamboo. It was used mostly to scare and intimidate the enemy.

Eventually the percentage of saltpeter was increased to make a bigger bang and a bigger flame on these fire lances. Then projectiles like stones and hardened clays, sticks and arrows were used at the ends of the fire lances to throw projectiles as well as flames. Later, the size of the projectiles were increased to fit the sides of the tubes, which created more pressure and shot the projectiles out more efficiently.

We do not know if the very first gun was invented in China or not for certain, but there has been a sculpture found in China that seems to depict a type of hand-held cannon that was shaped kind of like a vase, called a bombard from the later 1100's, perhaps made in the 1180's. The sculpture depicted flames and a cannonball coming out of it. Nobody knows for certain when it was made. It was the first depiction of the development from fire lances into hand-held cannons as far as I can tell.

Historians disagree considerably on the subject and on who the actual inventor was. The actual first inventor wasn't recorded or the evidence has been lost. Many historians have arrived at the conclusion that firearms were invented in China, at some point after the year 1132 and before the year 1200. When the efficiency and effectiveness of a fire lance officially became a firearm, nobody knows for certain, but it is fairly clear that it was during the late 1100's or early 1200's and in China.

Firearm technology migrated from China, to the Middle East, then to Eastern Europe, Western Europe and finally to America in the 1600's with the arrival of Europeans, at Jamestown and the Pilgrims at Plymouth and the Puritans in the Massachusetts Colony. But keep in mind that when Christopher Columbus discovered the Americas in 1492, he and his crew had guns even then.

### **What do we have guns for?**

We own and use guns for many different reasons. It's likely that the first true guns were used for battles in various wars and conflicts. They were also used many hundreds of years ago for hunting and they are still used for both warfare and for hunting. Self preservation, otherwise known as self defense is a natural right of all human beings. Guns are used for defensive purposes about 6,000 times a day in the United States. Over 90% to 95% of the time, guns used for defensive purposes are not even fired.

Guns are used for defense about 150 to 200 times more than they are used for homicides. A homicide is another word for the killing of a human being. We also collect firearms as a hobby, shoot them for recreation and family fun, target shoot in local, state, federal and international competition among other things.

### **How many Americans are murdered each year with guns?**

There are about 16,000 to 17,000 murders each year in the United States. It varies from year to year, but generally speaking there are between 9,000 and 11,500 murders each year committed by murderers who use guns as a tool. In 1991, there were 24,703 murders which was the highest number ever recorded for the United States, but only perhaps 2/3rds of those involved the illegal use of a firearm.

### **Will you convince my parents to get me a bb gun?**

Yes, it's true. I've actually been asked by kids to e-mail their parents and try to convince them that a bb gun would make a great gift for their child. The answer to the question is no. I will not use my authority as a well-known gun safety and education advocate convincing anyone that bringing any gun into their home is a good idea. That is entirely a decision for the parents to make.

### **What types of guns are there?**

There are generally three types of guns available to buy. There are handguns, rifles and shotguns. The oldest type of firearm was probably most similar to a shotgun. It normally will shoot multiple pellets of lead or steel and is mostly used for hunting purposes.

The rifle normally shoots a single bullet and is intended to shoot mainly at distant targets. A rifle has grooves inside the barrel which spin a bullet as it travels toward its target; much like a quarterback spins a football to make sure it flies straight.

The term "handgun" was first documented in the year 1388, before that, they were known as "hand cannons". The semi-automatic metallic cartridge handgun, just like what we have today was first invented in the year 1892 in Austria.

### **Can you help me with some gun information for my schoolwork?**

I certainly can. I have helped hundreds of children over the last twenty plus years with their homework on the subject of guns. I have helped them get information for classroom projects, presentations and speeches. Actually to tell you the truth, I really enjoy helping young people like that. It's one of the reasons I even have a Web site to begin with.

### **What is gunpowder made of?**

The original gunpowder, called 'black powder' today was made from three ingredients. Black powder was made from saltpeter, sulphur and charcoal. Another name for saltpeter is potassium nitrate. Modern smokeless gunpowder is made from a combination of nitroglycerin and nitrocellulose.

[Back to the top](#)

## **Final Words**

In this final words section, I'm going to sum up the most important parts of this gun safety course for kids.

- The gun was first used in battle according to at least one source, in the year 1247. There is evidence that the Chinese first shot objects out of bamboo tubes

filled with gunpowder attached to poles around the year 1132. There has been a Chinese sculpture found of a soldier firing a vase-shaped hand cannon called a bombard from around the last half of the 1100's. So the point is that guns are nothing new to humanity. The Chinese supposedly first used gunpowder to fire projectiles in the year 1132, which was eight hundred seventy eight (878) years ago at this writing.

- Do not handle a gun like you see in the movies, on television and on cartoons. Most often, guns on television and in the movies are handled incorrectly and dangerously. Obey real gun safety rules and disregard what you see in the movies as reckless and careless gun handling.
- If you find a gun somewhere, you STOP, DON'T TOUCH IT, LEAVE THE AREA AND TELL AN ADULT WHAT YOU FOUND. The gun could be loaded and ready to fire and could have been used in a violent crime. Just walk away from it, remember where you found it and make sure you tell an adult as soon as possible. Then bring a police officer or deputy sheriff to take possession of it properly.
- If your friend, neighbor or young family member brings out his parent's gun, the same rule applies. STOP, DON'T TOUCH IT, LEAVE THE AREA AND TELL AN ADULT WHAT YOU SAW. Do not stay there and argue with him/her. DO NOT try to take the gun away. **This is the most important information I want you to take away from this course. Please pay attention.**
- There are three rules of safe gun handling. When handling a real firearm under adult supervision at a firing range or other safe area, you should ALWAYS point the gun in a safe direction. ALWAYS keep your finger off of the trigger unless you are ready to fire. ALWAYS keep the gun unloaded until you're ready to use it. The 'Golden Rule' of safe gun handling is to always point the barrel in a safe direction.
- Be aware that there are many more gun safety rules and I've come up with about fifty of them. Protect your eyes and ears; be sure of your target and what is behind it. No fooling around, use the correct ammunition; avoid the natural tendency to place your finger on the trigger like you see in the movies and so forth. Stay safe by obeying the rules.  
(see [http://www.SaveTheGuns.com/safety\\_rules.htm](http://www.SaveTheGuns.com/safety_rules.htm) for more info)
- Stay safe while shooting at the gun club or shooting range. Be aware of all of the rules, know and use the range commands and have a safe attitude at all times.
- Be aware that the subject of gun safety and accidental discharges that result in death is one of the most successful stories of all time. Even though there is many more guns in the United States and a huge increase in population, we have about five and half times (5.5X) fewer accidental gun deaths than in 1930, with almost five and a half times (5.5X) more guns. Since the highest rate of accidental gun-related death in 1904, the American population has risen more than 3.74 times, but the number of accidental deaths has fallen tremendously.

The rate of such accidents has fallen -94% since the highest rate in 1904.

- Just be aware that sometimes it's not so easy to tell a real gun from a toy gun. If you think a gun might be a toy, but you're not sure, you know the drill by now. STOP, DON'T TOUCH IT, LEAVE THE AREA AND TELL AN ADULT WHAT YOU FOUND.
- Try to remember what you learned about ammunition and ammunition safety. Treat ammunition carefully. Cartridges are not to be played with or destroyed. Call them cartridges, rounds, ammunition or ammo and not bullets. Bullets are just one of the components of a rifle or handgun cartridge. Do not handle ammunition by yourself. Don't hit the cartridges, don't burn them, don't crush them. Ammunition is not a toy.
- Remember my opinion on gun handling. I don't think children under the age of eighteen should be out shooting real guns on their own without adult supervision.
- Do not hesitate to ask questions. On the subject of guns and gun safety there are no dumb questions. If your parent or teacher does not know the answer to a gun question, seek out the correct answers from knowledgeable adults.
- There are guns in about 45% to 47% of all homes in the United States. Depending upon the study or the people being asked, or the area of the country, the number varies between 40% and 50% of homes that have at least one gun in it. That means that if you don't have a gun in your own home, the chances are good that both of your neighbors do.

Gun safety is a huge success story in the United States. The year 2006 saw the fewest number of accidental gun related deaths ever recorded. Accidental gun related death is down about -94% from its highest rate in 1904. But none of that success will matter one bit if you personally know the child in the casket at the funeral home. I hope you hear my passion on this issue.

As I have said previously, I have been contacted by parents whose children have died as a result of an accident with a gun and they've thanked me for my efforts in this regard. I have done the work to promote this information. All I ask is that you read it fully obey as much of it as you possibly can, take what I have to say seriously and pass it on to others.

[Back to the top](#)

## **NRA Junior Membership**

To get an NRA Junior Membership for your child now, you should visit this [website](#).

Membership in the National Rifle Association isn't just for gun owners. There are thousands of members of the NRA who do not even own, use or carry firearms. Just like Membership in the NRA isn't just for gun owners, it's not just for adults either.

I think it is important for a child to get involved in the largest and most effective gun safety and firearm education organization in the world and that is the NRA by far.

Learning about the important aspects of the issue, real gun safety information and how to stay active and involved in the shooting sports is essential for any child who lives in a home with gun owning adults or who may eventually want to buy their own firearms.

**There is nothing more important in my opinion than teaching them gun safety rules correctly and getting them involved in the National Rifle Association as early as possible.**

Without the children of today being involved, getting trained, getting properly educated, learning the truth about guns, gun owners, hunting and the real history behind America's right to keep and bear arms, our freedoms will suffer as a result. Today's children who get involved in the National Rifle Association as a Junior NRA Member are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment protectors and defenders of tomorrow.

I personally can trace my ancestral roots to not one or two, but three separate families who came to America on the *Mayflower* in the year 1620 as the Pilgrims. Members of my family have seen every moment of American history. I take my freedom seriously.

The freedoms and liberties that pre-existed our country, the liberties that were fought for and won, the freedoms that are natural rights of all human beings and the freedoms embodied in the Constitution of the United States have been preserved and protected all of these years by past generations of Americans. Now it's our turn.

It is essential and indeed fundamental to the future of human freedom in the United States, for the children of today to learn the truth about our rights and the inherent liberties of a free citizenry. Without a sound and truthful knowledge of these freedoms, they will certainly fade away and future generations of Americans will not even realize that these freedoms have been lost.

The best way, in my opinion, to start any youngster out on the right track concerning guns, gun safety and our 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment rights is to get them involved in the National Rifle Association when young and teach them properly.

**"To preserve liberty it is essential that the whole body of the people always possess arms, and be taught alike, especially when young, how to use them..."**

***Richard Henry Lee (1732-1794), Additional Letters From The Federal Farmer, 1788***

With an NRA Junior Membership kids will get a subscription to *Insights* magazine. It is NRA's monthly magazine for junior members and it caters to all ages and skill levels among them. From the youngster eager to learn gun safety and shoot his first BB gun,

to the high school smallbore competitor on her way to Olympic Gold, young people turn to *Insights* for its fun-filled, action-packed coverage of safety, achievement and excellence in the shooting sports.

To learn more about *Insights* magazine, you can visit the [website](#).

To get an NRA Junior Membership now, you should visit this [website](#).

Okay, you might say, but how much does it cost to get a kid started in the NRA? Here's the good news. It is just fifteen dollars (\$15.00) a year. Children who are under age fifteen (15) get *Insights* magazine only. Children, who are fifteen, sixteen or seventeen years old, get the privilege of choosing their own regular NRA Publication.

To learn more about any type of membership in the National Rifle Association and the fees and benefits, please click here:

[http://www.savetheguns.com/nra\\_membership.htm](http://www.savetheguns.com/nra_membership.htm)

If you really want to make a difference, you can give a Lifetime Junior NRA Membership for just \$550.00. When the child turns 18, it automatically becomes a regular lifetime NRA Membership. A regular NRA Life Membership now costs \$1000.00. So you can save \$450.00 by getting a child an NRA Life Membership.

To get any NRA Membership, you should visit this [website](#).

**"Let us contemplate our forefathers and posterity and resolve to maintain the rights bequeathed to us from the former, for the sake of the latter. The necessity of the times, more than ever, calls for our utmost circumspection, deliberation, fortitude, and perseverance. Let us remember that 'if we suffer tamely a lawless attack upon our liberty, we encourage it, and involve others in our doom.' It is a very serious consideration that millions yet unborn may be the miserable sharers of the event."**

***Samuel Adams speech, 1771***

[Back to the top](#)

## **Disclaimer**

I think it actually gives me physical pain to have to include a disclaimer with this potentially life-saving information, but legally speaking, it is the best thing to do. The tendency of supposedly intelligent people to file lawsuits for some kind of wrongdoing or negligence prompts me to include a disclaimer statement. If a woman can win a lawsuit against McDonald's for serving her hot coffee which she proceeded to negligently spill on herself, God knows what is next.

### **DISCLAIMER**

Choosing to bring a handgun or any firearm into your home for that matter is a very personal decision that should be weighed very carefully and not taken lightly and without deliberative thought.

The images used in this e-book are the property of their owners and are used here solely to demonstrate to children how inappropriately firearms are handled in the entertainment industry.

Fair Use Under Title 17 Section 107 of the U.S. Code

Section 107 contains a list of the various purposes for which the reproduction of a particular work may be considered fair, such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, and research. Section 107 also sets out four factors to be considered in determining whether or not a particular use is fair:

- 1.) The purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes
- 2.) The nature of the copyrighted work
- 3.) The amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole
- 4.) The effect of the use upon the potential market for, or value of, the copyrighted work

<http://www.copyright.gov/fls/fl102.html>

Because of the fact that the images in this e-book are strictly of a critical nature, the images constitute an infinitesimal aspect of this work and this e-book is completely free of charge, we are well within the traditional boundaries of Fair Use doctrine in using those images.

Because of the fact that I cannot give complete, individual and hands-on instruction to the reader, I will not accept any responsibility whatsoever for any use, unintentional omission or misuse of the text, pictures or any information contained on [www.SaveTheGuns.com](http://www.SaveTheGuns.com) or contained within this e-course.

The reader, on behalf of himself/herself and spouse, children, heirs, executors and administrators hereby release and forever discharge any claim that we or they might now or in the future have either in law or equity against Marc H. Richardson, [SaveTheGuns.com](http://SaveTheGuns.com), [ClickBank.com](http://ClickBank.com), [HostCentric.com](http://HostCentric.com) or Commission Junction, [LinkShare](http://LinkShare.com), [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com), Performics or any of their agents, servants or employees in any way relating to or arising out of either or both of us participating in any of the information or instruction or omission thereof contained on this Web site or e-courses, no matter how said claim is designated. I have carefully read and understood this waiver and its terms. I understand that I am assuming full and complete responsibility for any injury or loss occurring to either of us (spouse included) or any of us arising in any way out of the above mentioned activities. I/We have executed this waiver voluntarily and with full knowledge of its significance.


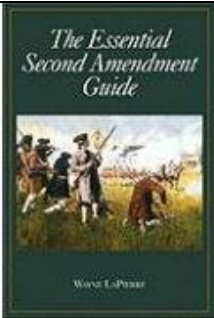
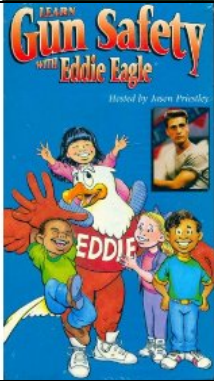
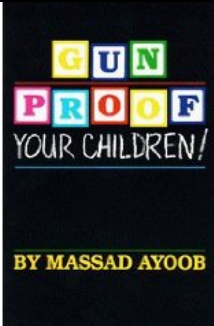
© Copyright 2000-2010 by Marc H. Richardson All Rights Reserved  
No part of this e-course may be reproduced or transmitted in any form, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any by any information storage and retrieval system, without the expressed and written consent of Marc H. Richardson, owner of [www.SaveTheGuns.com](http://www.SaveTheGuns.com). If you'd like to use it for anything, just [e-mail me](mailto:) and ask first.

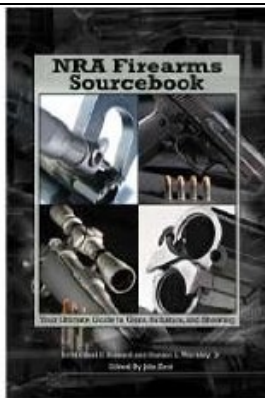


[Back to the top](#)

## More Information

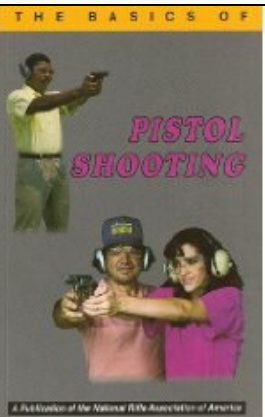
If you'd like more information on the subject of gun safety and kids, I can suggest some books and videos for you to purchase to learn more about gun safety, firearm education and the truth about the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment's right to keep and bear arms.

	<p><i>In Search of the Second Amendment</i> from David T. Hardy. This is to date the best and most accurate documentary ever put onto the small screen on the subject. (111 minutes.)</p>	<p><a href="#">Click</a> here for more info</p>
	<p><i>The Essential Second Amendment Guide</i> from Wayne LaPierre, Executive Vice President of the National Rifle Association. (157 pages)</p>	<p><a href="#">Click</a> here for more info</p>
	<p><i>Gun Safety with Eddie Eagle</i> from the NRA. This is the videotape that is shown at the Eddie Eagle Gunsafe courses for children Pre-K through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. (7 minutes)</p>	<p><a href="#">Click</a> here for more info</p>
	<p><i>Gun Proof Your Children/Handgun Primer</i> from Massad Ayoob. Mas Ayoob is one of the top names in the country in the firearm training industry. (47 pages)</p>	<p><a href="#">Click</a> here for more info</p>



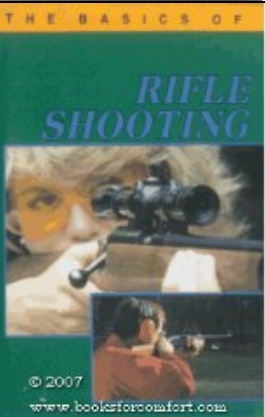
*NRA Firearms Sourcebook* from the NRA. This is the best source I have found for just about everything you ever wanted to know about firearms. (534 pages)

[Click](#) here for more info



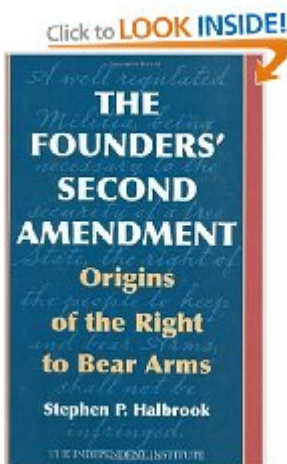
*The Basics of Pistol Shooting* from the NRA. This is the textbook of NRA's Basic Pistol Course. (129 pages)

[Click](#) here for more info



*The Basics of Rifle Shooting* from the NRA. This is the textbook of NRA's Basic Rifle Course. (163 pages)

[Click](#) here for more info



*The Founder's Second Amendment* from Stephen P. Halbrook. Mr. Halbrook is one of the top minds in the country on the subject of our right to keep and bear arms. (448 pages)

[Click](#) here for more info

Please pass this e-book onto a friend or family member. If you have any comments on this e-book, things you think I should include in it or anything that you'd like to see done differently, just send me an e-mail with the subject line 'A Gun Safety Course for Kids'. I'm usually able to read and respond to e-mails within a couple of days. Send me an e-mail at [info@savetheguns.com](mailto:info@savetheguns.com).

Thanks for reading.