Keep Kids Safe

A Firearm Safety Guide for Oregon Parents and Caregivers

No single action can prevent every tragedy, but there are meaningful steps every parent and caregiver can take.

THE 1-2-3s OF FIREARM SAFETY

1 Store firearms securely
Make sure children cannot access the keys or combinations

2 Talk with your kids
Help children understand that firearms can cause serious harm

3 Speak up
Report threats and safety concerns to a trusted adult or SafeOregon

1 Your family's secure firearm storage checklist

Can you check every box?

- ☐ My firearms are stored **unloaded** in a locked, hard-sided safe or vault, or with a trigger or cable lock engaged.
- ☐ **Ammunition is locked up separately** from my firearms.
- ☐ **Keys, combinations**, and other ways to open firearm storage **are inaccessible to children and teens.**
- ☐ My **firearms are locked up any time** they are not under my direct control, including in my car.
- ☐ **Everyone in my household** knows and follows these safe firearm storage practices.
- ☐ **I regularly review** how firearms are stored in my home.
- ☐ Before my child visits another home, **I ask whether firearms are securely stored**.

A hidden firearm is not a secure firearm

What Oregon law says

Oregon law (ORS 166.395) requires firearm owners to secure their firearms with a trigger or cable lock, in a locked, hard-sided container, or vault whenever the firearm is not carried by or under the control of an authorized person. Lost or stolen firearms must be reported to law enforcement within 72 hours (ORS 166.397). This is a civil law, and violations are enforced in Oregon.

Firearm Safety Education & Resources:
Project ChildSafe
projectchildsafe.org

Need a lock? Many are free.

There are many safe storage options that still allow quick access to a firearm. Check with your county to find out if they provide resources or free cable locks and safes.

- **Types of secure firearm storage**
  - Be SMART for Kids – compare options and find what fits your home | **besmartforkids.org**
- **Free locks and safes**
  - Multnomah County | **multco.us/info/prevent-gun-injuries-and-violence**
- **Free cable locks**
  - U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs | **va.gov/reach/lethal-means/cable-firearm-lock**
- **Free firearm locks**
  - Central Oregon Gun Safety Advocates | **centraloregongunsafetyadvocates.org/free-firearm-locks**



Remember: Teaching kids about firearm safety never replaces an adult's responsibility to securely store firearms.

2 Talking with your kids about firearm safety

Keep conversations calm, direct, and reassuring. The goal isn't to scare kids. It's to help them recognize danger, make safe choices, and know when to ask for help.



Don't touch it

Never pick it up, move it, or handle it, even if you think it's a toy or unloaded.



Move away

Leave the area if it's safe to do so. Never approach or confront someone holding a firearm.



Tell a trusted adult

Right away. A parent, teacher, coach, or an adult you trust.

WHAT TO SAY TO YOUNGER CHILDREN

"If you ever see a firearm, don't touch it. Move away and tell a grown-up right away. Even if you think it's a toy or not loaded, don't pick it up."

FOR OLDER KIDS AND TEENS

Talk about what to do if someone shows them a firearm or threatens to hurt someone or talks about bringing a firearm to school. Explain that threats should always be taken seriously, even if someone says they're joking. They should never feel like they have to handle a dangerous situation themselves or keep a threat secret.

3 Speak up about safety concerns

If your child shares something concerning, take it seriously. You don't have to decide whether a threat is real. Reporting allows trained adults to assess the situation and take appropriate action.

- Report threats involving firearms, whether made in person, through text, or online.
- Encourage children to tell a trusted adult if someone talks about bringing a firearm to school or hurting themselves or others.
- Remind children that they should never keep secrets about threats or plans to hurt someone.
- Report concerns right away so trained adults can assess and respond.

Speaking up is about keeping people safe, not getting someone in trouble.

Know where to turn for help

- **SafeOregon Tip Line** — Oregon's statewide school safety tip line. It's anonymous, and staffed 24/7 every day of the year.
  - Call or text **844-472-3367**
  - tip@safeoregon.com
  - **SafeOregon.com**
- **911** in immediate danger.
- **988** for a mental health or suicide crisis — call or text.

LEARN MORE

- Oregon Health Authority: Firearm Safety | **oregon.gov/oha/firearm-safety**
- Safe Life Oregon | **safelifeoregon.org**
- CDC: Preventing Firearm Injury and Death | **cdc.gov/firearm-violence**