

FIREARM SAFETY

Nearly half of all Veterans own a firearm, and most Veteran firearm owners are dedicated to firearm safety. This can be attributed to the firearm training that they learned during their military service.

Safe firearm storage practices can save a life by increasing the amount of time and space between the suicidal impulse and access to a firearm.



PROSPECTIVE FIREARM OWNERS

Prospective firearm owners and shooters must be fully aware of their responsibilities to:



THEMSELVES



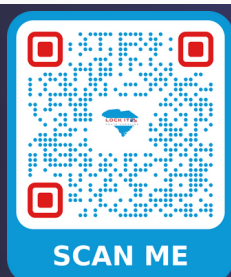
THEIR FAMILIES



EVERYONE ELSE

Therefore, basic firearm safety must be known and applied at all times when using and storing firearms.

- Keep firearms unloaded and locked when not in use to prevent children and/or unauthorized adults from accessing them
- Store ammunition separately from firearms and out of the reach of children and unauthorized adults
- If a member of your family is going through a challenging time and is at increased risk of suicide, the safest option for any household firearms is to store them away from home until the person has recovered



PRACTICE FIREARM SAFETY

Request a gun lock from the SC Department of Veterans' Affairs, your local County Veterans' Affairs Office, police department, or your local U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs Suicide Prevention Program