



BURLINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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FIREARM SAFETY

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The Burlington Police Department has developed this short list of important firearm safety rules from information available through the National Rifle Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics. This is a non-exhaustive list of ways to keep you and your family safe if firearms are present in your home. We ask that you also remember that discharging any firearm in the City of Burlington, including BB or pellet guns, is prohibited.

ALWAYS keep the gun pointed in a safe direction

This is the primary rule of gun safety. A safe direction means that the gun is pointed so that even if it were to go off it would not cause injury or damage. The key to this rule is to control where the muzzle or front end of the barrel is pointed at all times. Common sense dictates the safest direction, depending on different circumstances.

ALWAYS handle a firearm as if it were loaded

Watch the muzzle/barrel of the weapon at all times and never point it at a person or in a direction where people may be (i.e. behind walls, outside etc.)

ALWAYS keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot

When holding a gun, rest your finger on the trigger guard or along the side of the gun. Until you are actually ready to fire, which should not occur in the City, do not touch the trigger.

ALWAYS keep the gun unloaded until ready to use

Whenever you pick up a gun, ensure the safety is in the on position and the weapon is unloaded. If you do not know how to do these things you should not touch the gun and seek the assistance of someone who does.

Ammunition should always be stored in a separate location from the weapon.

ALWAYS store guns so they are not accessible to children or unauthorized persons Many factors must be considered when deciding where and how to store guns. A person's particular situation will be a major part of the consideration. Dozens of gun storage devices, as well as locking devices that attach directly to the gun, are available. Guns should always be stored in a locked location where children, or others not meant to have access to such guns, cannot access them.

Also consider

Removing all firearms from your home if you have a family member who is depressed or suicidal.

Asking family and friends to use these safety rules.

Important information to teach children regarding firearm safety:

If they come across a firearm of any kind -

Stop! - Don't Touch - Leave the Area - Tell an Adult

Additional information on firearm/gun safety is available at these, and a host of other, websites:

<http://www.projectchildsafe.org/tours.cfm>

<http://www.nssf.org/safety/index.cfm?AoI=safety>

Gun safety locks are available in our lobby through the Project Child Safe Program.