Handling Guns Safely

OCJS · Office of Criminal Justice Services

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY · SAFETY · SERVICE · PROTECTION

Before handling any gun, understand how it operates and familiarize yourself with its mechanical features. Always treat every gun as if it is loaded.

Use

- Keep your gun unloaded until ready to use, and only use the proper ammunition for your gun.
- Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.
- Do not place your finger inside the trigger guard unless you intend to fire.
- Know your target and what is beyond. Never fire in a direction in which there are people or any other potential for mishap.
- Never use alcohol or drugs before or while shooting. Do not use guns if you are on any medication which impairs, even slightly, your mental or physical ability.

Storage

- Safe and secure storage is one of the most important responsibilities of gun ownership.
- Guns should be stored unloaded and separate from ammunition.
- Secure guns and ammunition so they are not accessible to curious children or other unauthorized persons. Gun locks can provide additional security.

Maintenance

- Regular cleaning is important for your gun to operate correctly and safely. Your gun should be cleaned every time it is used.
- Before cleaning, make absolutely sure the gun is unloaded.
- A gun brought out of prolonged storage should be cleaned before shooting.

Consider engraving your gun with an identifying number such as your driver license number or concealed carry license number to deter theft and facilitate return of stolen guns which may happen to be recovered.

For more information, please contact:

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