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## The Ten Commandments of Safe Gun Handling

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Many are keenly aware that crime is steadily increasing. Crimes such as home invasions, kidnapping, and petty theft are making their way into the so-called "safer neighborhoods," thus causing individuals to grow more concerned. Many believe this is due to a failing economy. Some adults are seriously contemplating purchasing a firearm as a solution to ensure their safety. Having a gun is a person's personal choice and right. However, safety measures should be taken into consideration and be emphasized. If a person has never been around a gun, they should understand a few guidelines.

### Ten Commandments of Gun Safety

1. Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
2. Treat every firearm as if it were loaded.
3. Always keep the action open except when actually hunting or preparing to shoot. Always wear approved shooting safety glasses and hearing protection.
4. Be sure the barrel and action are clear of obstructions and that the ammunition is appropriate for the firearm.
5. Always be sure of your target and beyond prior to firing.
6. Avoid all horseplay with a firearm and never point at anything you don't want to shoot.
7. Never climb a fence, tree, or jump a ditch with a loaded firearm.
8. Never shoot at a flat hard surface or water.
9. Firearms and ammunition should be stored and locked separately.
10. Do not use alcohol and/or drugs at any time while handling a loaded firearm.

These guidelines are to ensure the safety of yourself and those around you. If a person is inexperienced with handling a firearm, there are classes available through local gun ranges on assisting a person understand their firearm and how to use it. Additionally, the [National Rifle Association](#)<sup>[1]</sup> is also a good source of knowledge to fun information pertaining to firearms and safety.

A firearm should be used as a last resort when all other means of diffusing the situation has been exhausted.

Gun safety should be taken very seriously when children are present in the home. Children are very curious and typically live in their world's of make believe. Follow certain [safety guidelines when children are concerned](#)<sup>[1]</sup>.

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URLs in this post:

[1] National Rifle Association: <http://www.nra.org/home.aspx>

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