



Suicide accounts for nearly two-thirds of all firearm deaths in the U.S., more than 23,000 annually. In Washington, 76% of all firearms related deaths, are suicides. We ask that you use these documents at your business to help protect our community, your employees' safety and business liability, from suicide.

Firearms Industry Suicide Prevention Best Practices

*The **best practices** list is to help you prevent suicides and manage the aftermath of an attempt or death.*

Training:

Education is the key to our success in reducing misuse of firearms. Make it a point to train your employees about the facts of firearms suicide and the role firearms distributors, retailers, and ranges play (or can play) to impact those numbers in a positive way.

- ⇒ Add suicide prevention and safe storage to your employee's annual mandatory training.
- ⇒ Although it adds time to your required training, it shows that your company comprehends the significance of this training for your staff. A majority of firearms negligence are due to suicides.
- ⇒ Additional training for **range staff** is available from NRA, USPSA, and IDPA, and is crucial in helping your staff comprehend potential safety issues and suicide prevention.

Communication:

Utilize a combination of communication methods to ensure comprehension, consistency and safety.

- ⇒ Post materials regarding suicide prevention in your store (restrooms, point of sale positions, cleaning rooms)
- ⇒ Remind sales staff to suggest safe storage options. This will help them feel comfortable talking about safe storage in relation to suicide prevention. Place a sample of storage options near check out; this will help remind employees to talk about safe storage in relation to suicide prevention and have options handy.
"We have a number of options available for you to keep your firearms safe from those who should not have access. They prevent children from access, but also allow you to keep your firearm from anyone in your household experiencing depression, stress, dementia, and/or excessive alcohol or substance abuse."
- ⇒ Encourage your employees to engage a supervisor or additional staff member if they are uncomfortable with the behavior or conversation of a customer.

Planning:

If you encounter someone who is potentially suicidal or exhibiting unusual behavior (nervous, uninformed, in too much of a rush), there needs to be a plan of action. Review that plan and make sure employees understand the importance (that person's safety and the safety of people they interact with, reputation of the facility, etc.).

- ⇒ Separate the person in question to a more secluded area for a private conversation, ask them who you can call to help them; e.g., a family member, friend, co-worker, etc. Call law enforcement if you feel like you cannot control the situation.
- ⇒ Ensure you have local community-related resources (e.g. police non-emergency line, mental health services, substance abuse facilities, poison control) to put the person in contact with. The goal is to block suicide (and other potential misuse of a firearm), and to help the individual access resources instead.
- ⇒ Our community is concerned with misuse of firearms and understands that sometimes people have issues they need help with. Connecting customers with resources helps everyone keep their rights.



Lastly, practice self-care. Check in with co-workers and be aware of any issues they are facing. The firearms industry is a small community. We all need to take care of each other. Being responsible gun owners helps us all.

Firearms Industry Suicide Prevention Standard Operating Policies & Procedures

*These recommended **standard operating procedures** are for internal use to track your practices and procedures*

Organization: _____

Date: _____

RECOMMEND POLICIES	Are you doing this today Yes/ No/ NA	If yes, what are you doing?	If no, why not?
Require or provide annual staff training in suicide prevention			
Provide or display information about suicide prevention (post cards, stickers, Suicide Prevention Lifeline number)			
Train staff to discuss safe firearm storage and suicide prevention with customers			
Stock a range of high-quality locking devices to store firearms			
Offer rentable lockers or a secure storage facility to store firearms during emergency temporary transfers			
RANGE-SPECIFIC POLICIES			
Require that range safety officers are NRA certified, in addition to CPR and first aid certified			
Ensure a range safety officer is always present when shooters are on the range			
Customers <u>who are alone</u> may not rent firearms unless they have brought their own firearm(s) with them			

PROCEDURES IN THE AFTERMATH OR ATTEMPT ON-SITE **	Are you doing this today Yes/ No/ NA	If yes, what are you doing?	If no, why not?
Immediately following the incident			
Notify law enforcement			
If qualified, attempt to render first aid			
Secure facility			
Contact biohazard cleanup company, number _____			
Meet with staff members present at the time of the incident or firearms sale to gather information and debrief			
Determine if the deceased was known to the facility			
Notify insurer of incident Notify _____ on site and make plans for staff meeting			
Decide if mental health professional is needed for staff meeting and if so, schedule time for the person to attend			
Decide who will be primary contact for outside inquires			
Notify legal counsel and media counsel			
Within 24-48 hours of the incident			
Call staff meeting to share information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share facts known about the death to staff and allow time for staff to share their reactions. • Share support resources related to mental health. • Instruct staff not to share information publicly about the incident 			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call staff unable to attend staff meeting to make sure they are informed. 			
Stress the importance of safe firearm storage among staff			
Inform staff of contact person for customer/ media inquiries about the incident _____			
Inform staff of procedures if family of deceased contacts facility			
Decide if there is a need to notify customers/ members that were present at the incident			
Consider drafting broader notification of incident to customers/ members			
Within 1-2 weeks after the incident			
Follow-up with staff to check in, answer questions, provide more information/ resources			
Review facility policies and procedures to determine if revisions are needed			
Monitor reactions of staff and meet one-on-one with anyone who shows signs of distress, and provide resources			
If you had planned to notify your customers and/ or members make sure notification has occurred			
Decide if additional/ ongoing consultation (legal, insurer, mental health) is needed			

**CREDIT DUE TO NSSF/ AFSP Collaboration on document After a Suicide: A Guide for Firearms Retailers and Range Owners