

GUN STORAGE



“MAKE SURE ITS SECURE”—LAW ENFORCEMENT STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF SECURE FIREARM STORAGE DURING GUN STORAGE CHECK WEEK

[Mountain View, Arkansas], [September 1, 2024] – *Mountain View Police* today announced its participation in Gun Storage Check Week (September 1-7), the observance convened by NSSF® – The Firearm Industry Trade Association—to coincide with National Suicide Prevention Month. NSSF encourages all gun owners to check their firearm storage practices and, if necessary, make adjustments to prevent unwanted access.

NSSF, a respected advocate for responsible firearm ownership, promotes **Gun Storage Check Week** to remind gun owners and their families to “Make Sure It’s Secure” and learn how to help prevent suicide, accidents and thefts of firearms. “Our focus during National Suicide Prevention Month is to continue our work to promote education about suicide prevention, including knowing the warning signs of suicide, reaching out to help someone who’s struggling and storing guns securely when not in use to prevent access by someone in crisis.” With a little knowledge, anyone can help someone who is struggling. We can save lives,” said Joe Bartozzi, NSSF President and CEO.

More than half of all firearm fatalities are suicides, not homicides or accidents. Law enforcement and gun owners have a role to play in helping #PreventSuicide. Securely storing firearms creates time and space between a person in crisis and a firearm, allowing time for the period of acute risk to subside and to get connected to care. This pause can save lives. There are secure storage options available to all gun owners, such as cable locks, lock boxes and full-size safes, to securely store firearms when not in use.

“Keeping our community and residents safe is a top priority, especially in educating gun owners on secure storage,” Chief George Bethell, Mountain View Police “NSSF’s Gun Storage Check Week is a key part of our education efforts to prevent firearm-related accidents and suicides. We’re proud to partner with NSSF and its Project ChildSafe program to promote the importance of firearm storage and taking the steps to help prevent suicide.”

Added Bartozzi, “It’s more important than ever that parents know how to talk to teens about mental health and preventing access to firearms and other methods of self-harm in their homes. These two steps combined can help save lives.”

During Gun Storage Check Week and throughout the month of September, visitors to gunstoragecheck.org have a chance to win a free gun safe.

NSSF and **Project ChildSafe** offer a variety of resources designed specifically for parents and guardians to approach children and teens struggling with mental health or thoughts of suicide, including **a parents**

guide on approaching the conversation about mental health with a child and **peer-to-peer resources** for teens to help their friends.

Free firearm safety kits can be picked up at Mountain View Police Department 203 South Peabody Avenue Mountain View, Ar 72560, while supplies last.

If you or someone you know is struggling, call 988, the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. For more resources, visit **Project ChildSafe** or NSSF's **BraveConversation.org**.

###

About Mountain View Police Department

About Project ChildSafe: NSSF, The Firearm Industry Trade Association, launched Project ChildSafe in 1999 (originally as Project HomeSafe). Since 1999, the program has provided more than 41 million free firearm safety kits and gun locks to firearm owners in all 50 states through partnerships with thousands of law enforcement agencies across the country. That's in addition to the more than 70 million free locking devices manufacturers have included, and continue to include, with new firearms sold since 1998. While helping to prevent accidents among children is a focus, Project ChildSafe is intended to help adults practice greater firearm safety in the home. More information is available at **projectchildsafe.org**.

About NSSF: NSSF is the trade association for the firearm industry. Its mission is to promote, protect and preserve hunting and the shooting sports. Formed in 1961, NSSF has a membership of thousands of manufacturers, distributors, firearm retailers, shooting ranges, sportsmen's organizations and publishers nationwide. For more information, visit **nssf.org**.