

# HOW TO BE A RESPONSIBLE FIREARMS OWNER

Owning a firearm is a serious responsibility that demands unwavering commitment to safety and ethical conduct. As a responsible firearms owner, it's crucial to prioritize safety training, comply with all laws and regulations, and ensure secure storage. Being accountable for your firearms, promoting responsible use, and knowing how to handle unwanted guns are all essential aspects of responsible ownership.



The Alberta Gun Wise Safety First Program is a program created by the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association (AHEIA). AHEIA is a non-profit, registered charity that coordinates Conservation Education throughout Alberta. AHEIA works in cooperation with several Alberta Government departments to deliver these quality programs to you and your family.

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE GUN WISE PROGRAM

Contact the Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association

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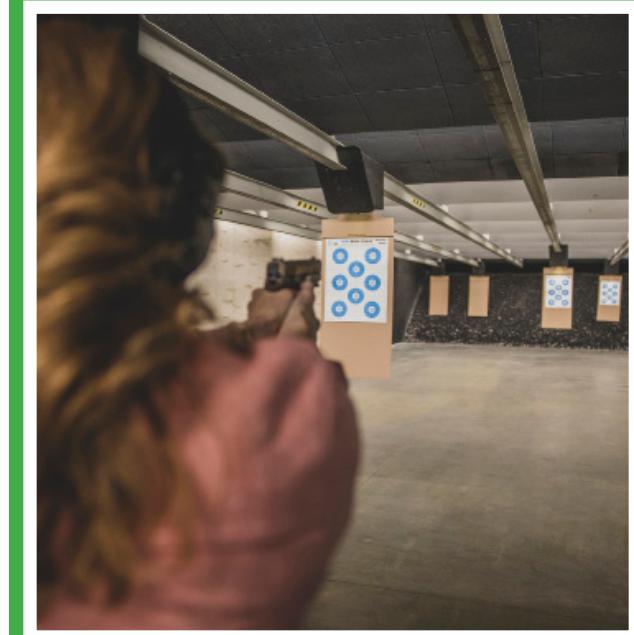
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## WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF FIREARMS OWNERSHIP?



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## SAFETY TRAINING AND EDUCATION

The responsible firearm owner understands the importance of safety training and continuous education. They seek out formal courses or training from certified instructors to learn proper firearm handling, storage, and shooting techniques. They regularly refresh their knowledge to ensure safe and responsible firearm ownership.

*The Alberta Hunter Education Instructors' Association offers Canadian Firearms Safety Courses in Calgary and Edmonton.*

*For more information visit [www.aheiia.com](http://www.aheiia.com).*

## COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Firearms owners must comply with all federal, provincial, and local laws and regulations regarding firearm ownership, possession, storage and transportation. Staying informed about changes in the laws is essential to ensure legal compliance. Remember it's your responsibility to stay informed on all new and existing firearms legislation.

*To learn more about firearms in Alberta visit [alberta.ca/firearms-safety](http://alberta.ca/firearms-safety).*

## SAFE STORAGE

Responsible gun owners securely store their firearms in a manner that prevents unauthorized access, especially by children or individuals who should not have access to firearms. That includes using gun safes, trigger locks and making sure firearms are unloaded when not in use.

For non-restricted firearms, as a best practice, take all these precautions:

- Attach a secure locking device, such as a trigger lock, or cable lock,
- Remove the bolt, AND
- Lock the firearms a cabinet, container or safe room that is out of sight.

# WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF FIREARMS OWNERSHIP?

For restricted and prohibited firearms:

- Attach a secure locking device, such as a trigger lock or cable lock, so they cannot be fired
- Lock the firearms in a vault, safe or room that was built to store firearms safely.

## PREVENTING ACCESS BY UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS

Owners must take all reasonable measures to prevent unauthorized access to their firearms by individuals who are legally prohibited from accessing them, such as minors, convicted felons, or those or those suffering from mental health issues. Keeping firearms properly secured is crucial to avoid potential misuse.

## TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

When transporting firearms, they must be transported in a secure and unloaded manner preferably locked in a dedicated case or container.

Non-restricted firearms must be unloaded during transportation.

Best practices for restricted and prohibited firearms:

- Must be unloaded.
- Attach secure locking device.
- Lock them in a strong, non-transparent container.
- Obtain an Authorization to Transport (ATT).

Do not leave your firearm in an unattended vehicle, but if you must:

- Lock them in the trunk or in a similar lockable compartment were possible.
- Place secured firearms and firearm containers out of sight and your vehicle must be locked.

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Authorization to Transport (ATT)

- You do not need an Authorization to Transport (ATT) a non-restricted firearm.
- You need an Authorization to Transport (ATT) whenever you wish to transport restricted or prohibited firearms anywhere other than to:
- An approved shooting club or shooting range within your province of residence.
- Pick up newly acquired firearms from the seller's place that is within your province of residence.

## AMMUNITION MANAGEMENT

Responsible gun owners manage their ammunition in a safe manner by storing it separately from the firearms and in a secure location and controlled environment. They also follow the guidelines for ammunition types suitable for the targets

## REGULAR MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION

Proper maintenance of your firearms ensures their safe and reliable functioning. Owners should regularly inspect their guns, clean them, and address any issues promptly to avoid potential incidents.

## ACCOUNTABILITY FOR FIREARMS USE

Owners are legally responsible for any use of their firearms, whether by themselves or others they may lend or have lent the firearm to. They should use these firearms responsibly and ethically, understanding the potential consequences of their actions.