

SECURE FIREARM STORAGE FOR FAMILIES OF VETERANS

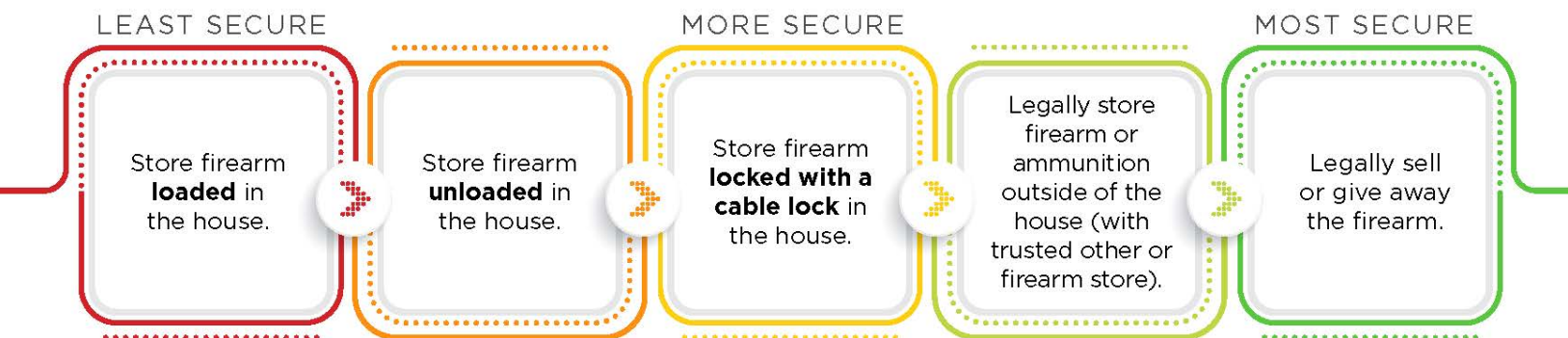


VA | U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Firearms, Families and Suicide

- Household firearms are most commonly used for suicide.
- The rate of suicide in teenagers (as young as middle school) is at an all-time high.
 - » Access to firearms increases this risk of suicide more than 4 times.
- Suicide by firearm is 1.5 times more common for Veterans than non-Veterans.
- Spouses and other family members are also at risk for suicide or unintentional injury when firearms are accessible in the home.
- Self-harm by firearm is almost always fatal.
- Suicide by firearm has been shown to be impulsive, with the decision often made only minutes before the act.
- Secure firearm storage increases the time and effort to access a firearm which gives the person time to rethink acting on their thoughts of suicide.

Options for Secure Firearm Storage



Concerned About A Family Member?

Always ask questions 1 and 2.	Past month
1. Have you wished you were dead or wished you could go to sleep and not wake up?	Talk to a healthcare professional
2. Have you actually had any thoughts about killing yourself?	Talk to a healthcare professional
If YES to 2, ask questions 3, 4, 5 and 6. If NO to 2, skip to question 6.	
3. Have you been thinking about how you might do this?	Dial 988 and press 1
4. Have you had these thoughts and had some intention of acting on them?	Call 911*
5. Have you started to work out or worked out the details of how to kill yourself? Did you intend to carry out this plan?	Call 911*
Always Ask Question 6	Lifetime Past 3 months
6. Have you done anything, started to do anything, or prepared to do anything to end your life? <i>Examples: Took pills, tried to shoot yourself, cut yourself, tried to hang yourself, took out pills but didn't swallow any, held a gun but changed your mind or it was grabbed from your hand, went to the roof but didn't jump, collected pills, obtained a gun, gave away valuables, wrote a will or suicide note, etc.</i> If yes, was this within the past 3 months?	Dial 988 and press 1 Call 911*

***STAY WITH THEM UNTIL THEY CAN BE EVALUATED.**

