



## Jackson County Department of Public Health

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### SAFE KIDS JACKSON COUNTY REMINDS PARENTS: FIREARMS IN THE HOME ARE SAFE WHEN KEPT LOCKED, UNLOADED, AND OUT OF SIGHT

Safe Kids Jackson County seeks to partner with families which have firearms in the home, to ensure they are stored safely to prevent them from injuring or killing a child. "Safe Kids Jackson County respects the decisions of parents and caregivers who choose to keep a firearm in the home," said Martha Thomasson, Safe Kids Jackson County Coordinator. "And we want to help them with simple, common sense tips so that they are kept safely. Children are by their very nature always looking for something new to play with, and a firearm can be attractive." "We are happy to work with Safe Kids Jackson County on this firearm safety effort," said Sheriff Chip Hall. "Being trained and familiar with the safe handling and storage of a firearm is part of being a responsible gun owner. I encourage anyone who keeps guns in their home to take the time to learn about safety rules and laws designed to prevent accidents. I am grateful for Safe Kids Jackson County's educational outreach in this area."

Safe Kids and its safety partners are encouraging parents and caregivers to take the following precautions to prevent similar incidents from occurring in the future:

- Keep guns out of the reach and out of sight of children by storing them securely. Leaving guns unsecured – on a nightstand, table, or other place where a child can gain access – can lead to injuries and fatalities.
- Store guns unloaded and secured with effective, child-resistant gun locks in a locked container out of the reach and sight of children.
- When a gun is not being stored, keep it in your immediate possession and control at all times. Otherwise, store the gun unloaded, locked and separate from ammunition.
- Talk to the grandparents and parents of your children's friends about guns in the home and how to safely store and secure them.
- If you decide that you no longer need a gun in your home, dispose of it in a safe way. Consult with local law enforcement on the best way to do so.

See more at: <https://www.safekids.org/tip/gun-safety-tips>

For more information on firearm safety, please call Safe Kids Jackson County at 828-587-8257 or visit [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org).

Safe Kids Jackson County works to prevent unintentional childhood injury, the leading cause of death and disability to children ages 0 up to 19. Safe Kids Jackson County is a member of Safe Kids Worldwide, a global network of organizations dedicated to preventing unintentional injury.



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Safe Kids Jackson County was founded in 2013 and is led by the Jackson County Department of Public Health.

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