

# SAFE STORAGE

Proper Storage Practices for Handguns  
With an Emphasis on Storage Practices  
That Eliminate the Possibility of  
Accidental Injury to a Child

Referenced as: Safe Storage

Course Outline: Module 4

Allotted Instruction Time: 45 minutes to 1 hour

# OBJECTIVES

- Identify the importance of safe storage of a handgun
- Identify types of storage options available
- Know and understand the penalties for making a firearm accessible to a child
- Know and understand the responsibilities and consequences when handguns are made available to anyone other than those who should have access

# WHAT IS SAFE STORAGE?

- Locking the handgun in a
  - gun safe
  - gun cabinet
- Keeping the handgun separate from the ammunition
- Restricting access
- Goes further, it is a 24/7 responsibility

# DEFINING SAFE STORAGE

- goes beyond keeping the handgun locked in your house
- is more than just a storage device
- applies anytime, anywhere
- is not hiding your handgun
- is a learned behavior
- is a constant responsibility
- can be the difference between life and death

# ACCESSIBILITY vs. SAFEKEEPING

- Considerations
  - Location
    - Workplace
    - Public places
    - Home
    - Vehicle
  - Who has access to your home, car, or office

# ACCESSIBILITY vs. SAFEKEEPING

- Who has access to your home, car, or office
  - Immediate family
  - Extended family
  - Friends of family
  - Contractors
  - Child care providers
  - Unintended persons

# WORKPLACE

- Physical
  - Desk, office, locking drawer, gun safe, gun lock
  - Job sites
  - Company vehicle
- Type of employment
  - Work attire
  - Job duties
- Who do you work with / has access to you or your belongings
  - Co-workers
  - General public
  - Children

# PUBLIC PLACES

- Physical
  - Facility storage options
  - Vehicle / Parking
- Type of location
  - Recreational – may have lockers
  - Restaurant – unattended purses/bags
  - Hotel – safes, valets, luggage services
- Who has access to you or your belongings
  - Friends / family
  - General public
  - Children



# HOME

- Physical
  - Location
  - Single family dwelling
  - Multi-family dwelling
  - Storage Options
    - Locking drawer, gun safe, gun locks
- Who has access to your home
  - Friends / family
  - Children and/or their friends
  - Maintenance workers
  - Uninvited persons

# VEHICLE

- Physical
  - Car / Truck / RV / Motorcycle
    - Locking drawer, box, safe
    - Trunk, engine compartment, hidden compartment
    - Parking location
- Who has access to your vehicle
  - Friends / family
  - Children
  - Repair person
- Travel

# SECURING HANDGUNS

- Handguns should be secured from:
  - Children
  - Visitors
  - Friends
  - Relatives
  - Maintenance workers
  - Persons we expect, and those we don't
  - In short, "EVERYONE, but you!"

# SAFES AND LOCKS

Accessible  
to  
you

Secured  
from  
others

The Texas Department of Public Safety does not endorse any type or manufacturer of gun safes or locks.

# TYPES OF GUN SAFES AND LOCKS

- Most guns sold now are sold with this type of lock



# TYPES OF GUN SAFES AND LOCKS



Uses a code to unlock the safe

Code(s) can be changed



Has a physical key;  
battery operated

# TYPES OF GUN SAFES AND LOCKS

## Biometric

Uses you 'fingerprints' to unlock the safe

Can be coded for multiple persons

Has a physical key also  
battery operated



# TYPES OF GUN SAFES AND LOCKS

Trigger locks



Keys

Codes





# TYPES OF GUN SAFES AND LOCKS

## Barrel Locks



Typically locked  
with a key

# TYPES OF GUN SAFES AND LOCKS



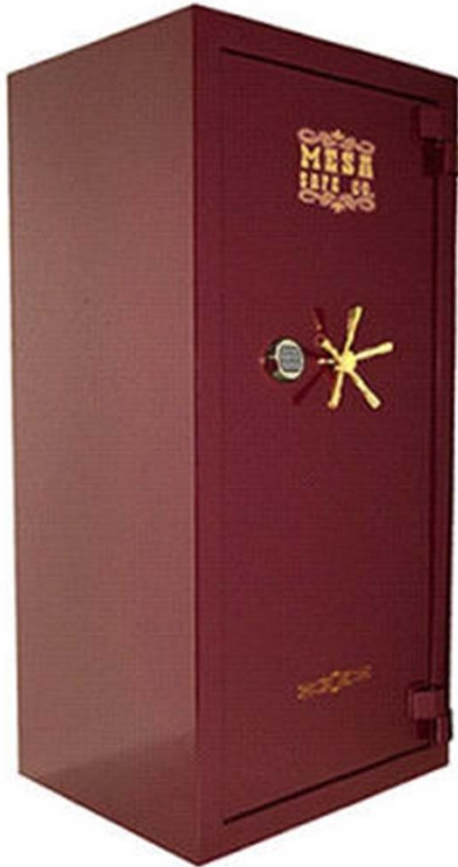
Custom

Key lock

Made specific for  
different type of  
handguns

# TYPES OF GUN SAFES AND LOCKS

## Safes



Can be bolted secure

Keys, codes,  
combinations,  
biometric...

# TYPES OF GUN SAFES AND LOCKS









This can be mounted most anywhere you have the space

It can also be detached from mounting bracket

# **PENAL CODE § 46.13(a) - MAKING A FIREARM ACCESSIBLE TO A CHILD**

- (1) "Child" means a person younger than 17 years of age.
- (2) "Readily dischargeable firearm" means a firearm that is loaded with ammunition, whether or not a round is in the chamber.
- (3) "Secure" means to take steps that a reasonable person would take to prevent the access to a readily dischargeable firearm by a child, including but not limited to placing a firearm in a locked container or temporarily rendering the firearm inoperable by a trigger lock or other means.



# **PENAL CODE §46.13(b) MAKING A FIREARM ACCESSIBLE TO A CHILD**

- (b) A person commits an offense if a child gains access to a readily dischargeable firearm and the person with criminal negligence:
- (1) failed to secure the firearm; or
  - (2) left the firearm in a place to which the person knew or should have known the child would gain access

# **PENAL CODE §46.13(c) MAKING A FIREARM ACCESSIBLE TO A CHILD.**

- (c) It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under this section that the child's access to the firearm:
- (1) was supervised by a person older than 18 years of age and was for hunting, sporting, or other lawful purposes;
  - (2) consisted of lawful defense by the child of people or property;
  - (3) was gained by entering property in violation of this code; or
  - (4) occurred during a time when the actor was engaged in an agricultural enterprise

**PENAL CODE §46.13(d)(e)**  
**MAKING A FIREARM ACCESSIBLE**  
**TO A CHILD**

- (d) Except as provided by Subsection (e),  
an offense under this section is a Class C  
misdemeanor.
- (e) An offense under this section is a Class A  
misdemeanor if the child discharges the firearm and  
causes death or serious bodily injury to himself or  
another person.

# **PENAL CODE §46.13(f) MAKING A FIREARM ACCESSIBLE TO A CHILD**

- (f) A peace officer or other person may not arrest the actor before the seventh day after the date on which the offense is committed if:
- (1) the actor is a member of the family, as defined by Section 71.003, Family Code, of the child who discharged the firearm; and
  - (2) the child in discharging the firearm caused the death of or serious injury to the child.