

FIREARM SAFETY

Fall means hunting time for many North Dakotans. Guns become far more visible in homes, the back of pick up trucks and on people in the fields. Many people become gun owners for the first time with little or no experience with them. From 2010-2015, there were six accidental firearm deaths in ND. The responsibility for gun safety belongs to every adult in the home. Children often don't recognize the difference between real guns and toy guns. Many children come from homes that have no knowledge or access to guns and when visiting have a curiosity for them.

Hunter Education Requirements for North Dakota:

By law, who must take a certified hunter education course prior to obtaining a firearm or bow hunting license? Persons born after 1961

Exceptions:

Persons younger than 12 years of age (By state law youth under the age of 12 may hunt only under direct supervision of a parent, guardian or adult authorized by their parent or guardian. The youth must also have the appropriate license(s) for the species they are hunting.)

Persons who hunt exclusively on land of which they are the record title owner or operator. Persons who obtain an apprentice hunting license

NOTE: Proof of hunter education certification must be presented when buying or applying for a hunting licenses (official courses offered by other states and Canadian provinces meet these requirements).

Visit: <https://gf.nd.gov/education/hunter> for more information on Hunter Education Courses in North Dakota.

Here are a few tips to help remember the basics of gun safety in and around the home.

- Completely unload sporting firearms outside before entering the home.
- Store firearms in a secure location which is inaccessible to children.
- Store ammunition in a separate secure location.
- Place firearms in their proper storage location immediately upon return from a hunting trip or shooting range.
- Recheck firearms carefully and completely to confirm that they are “still” unloaded when you remove them from storage.

