

Eastern Idaho Gun Retailers:

Stay vigilant; it could mean saving a life!

According to data from the Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics (August 2023), firearms were used in more than 60% of the 441 suicides recorded among Idaho residents in 2022. While it might not be possible to prevent every suicide, you have the chance to decrease the likelihood of a suicide involving a gun purchased at your store today.

SIGNS THAT A POTENTIAL BUYER COULD BE SUICIDAL

Note: While none of these signs definitively signal that someone is suicidal, exercising additional caution in determining whether to proceed with the sale, especially if multiple signs are present, is advisable.

- No knowledge about guns AND no interest in learning; asks no questions.
- Does not care which gun is purchased or seems unresponsive to your questions about the purchase.
- Gives an unconvincing response when asked what is intended for its use.
- No interest in firearm maintenance or safety.
- Mentions recent crises, such as a divorce, job loss, or other setbacks.
- Makes comments that could suggest suicidality (e.g. “I don’t need much ammunition, I won’t have the gun for long.”).
- Looks anxious, and avoids eye contact. Appears distraught (shaking, fighting back tears).

OPTIONS FOR RESPONDING TO A POTENTIALLY SUICIDAL BUYER

- Notify the store owner or manager (if applicable) if at all uncomfortable with a prospective sale.
- Urge customers with little firearm experience to seek training before buying.
- Ask the customer why the firearm is wanted and how and where they plan to use it.
- Suggest the customer take some more time to think it over before buying. If s/he claims to be buying for self-defense, offer to sell pepper spray instead.
- Ask the person directly if s/he is suicidal; if yes, offer the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline number 988 or 988lifeline.org.
- Notify nearby dealers that someone you denied a sale to may go to their store; notify police.
- Trust your instincts; you are under no obligation to sell a gun to anyone.

“WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?”

- Display a suicide prevention hotline poster in your store.
- Distribute firearm safety brochures to buyers that include information about recognizing suicide warning signs and keeping firearms away from suicidal or depressed family members.
- Spread the word!
- Ask other dealers you know to visit our website to request our materials.
- If you or someone you know needs help now, call or text **988** or chat at **988lifeline.org**.