

Tips for Gun Ranges

Over fifty-five percent of suicide deaths by Nevada residents are completed with a firearm. While there is no guaranteed way to prevent suicides, please be aware and take action when necessary.

Signs to watch for

Note: These signs may indicate a person has thoughts of suicide. If one or more are present, use extra caution in deciding whether to proceed. Be aware when the customer:

- Has no knowledge about guns nor any interest in learning; asks no questions
- Doesn't care which gun they rent/use; or asks questions about which are most deadly or cause the most damage.
- Provides unconvincing responses to questions in an effort to "just get to it"
- Has no interest in firearm instruction or safety
- Mentions recent crisis, such as a divorce, job loss, or other significant setback
- Makes comments that could suggest suicidality, such as "I don't need a lot of ammunition, I won't have the gun for long.")
- Looks anxious, avoids eye contact
- Appears distraught (shaking, fighting back tears)
- Exhibits odd range behavior; lines up bullets as a way to "countdown" or constantly looks around to see where range staff and other shooters are.

When an individual is observed to have possible thoughts of suicide

- Notify range owner or manager (if applicable) if at all uncomfortable with a prospective customer
- Urge the customer with little firearm experience to seek training before renting
- Ask person directly if they are suicidal. If yes, connect the individual to a resource to such as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-TALK [8255])
- Notify nearby dealers/range owners that you denied a rental to someone who may go to their store/range
- Trust your instincts; you are under no obligation to provide service to anyone.

What more can I do?

- Display Suicide Prevention Lifeline posters at your range
- Distribute firearm safety brochures that include information about recognizing suicide warning signs and keeping firearms away from suicidal or depressed family members
- For more information on suicide prevention in Nevada visit www.suicideprevention.nv.gov
- Spread the word! Ask other dealers you know to visit our website or call our office to request materials

