



CURTIS W. McCOY
MAYOR

Mansfield Police Department

P.O. Drawer 565
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318-872-0520



GARY HOBBS
CHIEF OF POLICE

February 18, 2016

Police Chief Gary Hobbs has announced that the Mansfield Police Department has partnered with the National Shooting Sports Foundation: Project ChildSafe, in an effort to promote firearms safety among children. The project is primarily geared towards providing FREE gun locks to the community, but also provides brochures on safe storage practices as well as messages geared to kids about firearms responsibility. Chief Hobbs comments that “if you are a firearms owner, it is your responsibility to know how to properly handle your firearms and how to secure your firearms in a safe manner in your home. Most firearms accidents in the home can be prevented simply by making sure that firearms are kept unloaded and safely stored or locked, with ammunition secured in a separate location. Remember, you are responsible for making certain the firearms in your home are not casually accessible to anyone- especially curious young people”. More than 40 million Americans enjoy using rifles, shotguns and handguns for hunting and target shooting. When these firearms are not being used, they must be safely and securely stored. This is where firearms responsibility in the home begins and ends. Options to help safely store your firearms include a lock-box, gun safe, or cable lock. This partnership will provide free cable locks to anyone interested, but Chief Hobbs comments that a locking device is intended only to “deter access” to a firearm by unauthorized persons, particularly children.

To Protect and Serve



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A firearms locking device is not intended to withstand forced entry by someone determined to defeat the lock by using tools or other aggressive means. A firearm locking device should be considered as only one element of a safe storage program for firearms.

In addition to the firearms that are used in hunting and sport shooting, the decision to maintain a firearm in the home for self-protection is a serious, personal matter. Any added safety benefit gained from owning a firearm depends in large measure on the owner's having appropriate training and clear understanding of safe handling and storage rules. Factors such as individual temperament, reaction to emergency situations, specific family circumstances and support for your having a firearm in the home from other adults in the household must be considered. If you feel the need for quick access to a loaded firearm in your home, you must take special safety measures. Keeping a firearm to defend your family makes no sense if that same firearm puts family members or visitors to your home at risk. In keeping a firearm for home security, your objective should be to have the firearm readily available to you, yet not accessible to others. Special lockable cases that can be quickly opened by only authorized individuals are options to consider. Fatal home accidents can occur when children discover firearms that adults thought were safely hidden or out of reach.

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In addition to the gun locks and brochures with safety tips, Project Childsafe also provides parents with messages about firearms safety they can discuss with their children and a Firearms Responsibility Contract that children can sign which serves as a reminder to never handle guns without permission from a grown-up that they know, to never play with guns, to never go snooping or allow their friends to go snooping for guns in the house, to obey the rules for safe gun handling, and if they find a gun, even if it looks like a toy, they will not touch it and will tell a grown-up right away.

Chief Hobbs added that he is proud to offer this free service to the community and urges anyone wanting a cable lock or safety information to visit the Mansfield Police Department located at 700 Franklin Street or our local business partner, R-P Outdoors located at 505 Polk Street. Also, anyone wanting a police officer to speak to their group about personal safety tips or firearm storage should call the police department at 318-872-0520. For more information about firearms ownership and storage visit: projectchildsafe.org

Gary Hobbs

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**STORE YOUR FIREARMS
RESPONSIBLY**



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