

TIP SHEET

Colorado Range Owners: Your vigilance could save a life!

Firearms account for close to half of all suicides in Colorado. While not all suicides are preventable, you could reduce the odds that a gun rented or sold at your range is used in a suicide.

Signs that a customer could be suicidal

Note: None of these signs clearly indicate someone is suicidal, but if any are present (especially if more than one is present), use extra caution in deciding whether to proceed.

-  No knowledge about guns AND no interest in learning; asks no questions
-  Doesn't care which gun s/he rents or seem responsive to your questions about the rental
-  Gives unconvincing response when asked about prior shooting experience/training
-  No interest in firearm instruction or safety
-  Mentions recent crisis, such as a divorce, job loss, or other setback
-  Makes comments that could suggest suicidality (e.g. "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)

Options for responding to a potentially suicidal customer

-  Notify range owner or manager (if applicable) if at all uncomfortable with a prospective rental
-  Urge customer with little firearm experience to seek training before renting
-  Ask person directly if s/he is suicidal; if yes, offer National Suicide Prevention Lifeline number (1-800-273-TALK [8255])
-  Notify nearby dealers/range owners that someone you denied a rental may go to their store/range; notify police
-  Trust your instincts; you are under no obligation to rent a gun to anyone

"What else can I do?"

-  Display a suicide prevention hotline poster in your range
-  Give customers firearm safety brochures that include information about recognizing suicide warning signs and keeping firearms away from suicidal or depressed family members
-  Spread the word! Ask other dealers/range owners you know to request our materials

Adapted from:

