



## WHAT IS FAMILY FIRE?

Family fire is a shooting involving an improperly stored or misused gun found in the home that results in death or injury. Unintentional shootings, suicides, and intentional shootings are all forms of family fire.

## WHY IS FAMILY FIRE AN ISSUE?

Every year in the United States, 35,000 people are killed and 90,000 people are injured by gun violence. Family fire accounts for a majority of these terrible tragedies.

- Every day, 8 children and teens are unintentionally injured or killed due to family fire.
- 4.6 million children live in homes with access to an unlocked or unsupervised gun.
- 75% of kids know where a gun is stored in their home.
- 1 in 5 kids has handled a gun when an adult wasn't around.
- 51% of all suicides are by firearm and 60% of all gun deaths are by suicide.
- Access to a gun increases the risk of death by suicide by 300%.
- 75% of school shootings are facilitated by kids having access to unsecured and/or unsupervised guns at home.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP PREVENT FAMILY FIRE?

There are easy, everyday steps that each of us can take to prevent family fire tragedies. Our solutions are focused around four key pillars: Ask, Act, Talk, and Learn.

**ACT**

**ACT** responsibly and always store your own guns locked, unloaded, and out of reach from children and those who should not have access to firearms. From gun locks to gun safes, there are a variety of safety options best suited for both gun and home.

**ASK**

**ASK** family, friends, and community members about access to unlocked and/or loaded guns in the home.

**TALK**

**TALK** with your family, friends, and community about responsible gun ownership. Having regular conversations about gun safety with those close to you reduces the chance of family fire incidents.

**LEARN**

**LEARN** about safe storage and policy options, such as extreme risk laws, available in your area which help reduce the risk of family fire.



## ASK TO END FAMILY FIRE

Parents and guardians ask all sorts of questions before they allow their children to visit other homes. They ask about pets in the house, discuss allergies and internet access, and ask questions about supervision. As a way to End Family Fire we encourage parents and guardians to add one more question to this conversation: "Is there an unlocked gun in your home?" It's a simple question, but ASKing it has the power to save a life.

As life events change, there may be more circumstances where one needs to ASK this question, such as:

- Teenagers taking their first babysitting job.
- Older teens and young adults moving into their first shared home with roommates.
- A family taking in and caring for an elderly family member, especially those who may suffer from a form of dementia and/or memory loss.

We encourage you to use these conversation starters for situations where you have the opportunity to ASK to End Family Fire.

## CONVERSATION STARTERS

### PARENT TO PARENT

Hi Sarah! Sam is so excited to come over to your house for a playdate with Oliver. I wanted to let you know that Sam has a peanut allergy so I've packed a snack for him. Also, he isn't yet a confident swimmer, do you have a pool? And, given the recent campaigns around family fire, we always ask if there are any unlocked guns in the home.

### BABYSITTER TO PARENT

Hi Mrs. Hunter, this is Kelsey. I'm looking forward to babysitting Mark and Dylan tonight! I wanted to ask a few safety questions in preparation. Do the kids have any allergies? Who is the best person to contact in case of emergency? And given the recent campaigns around ending family fire, I always ask if there are any unlocked guns in your home which I should be aware of.

### ROOMMATE TO ROOMMATE

Hey guys! It's Steph, your soon to be new roomie. Before we move in, there are a few things I'd like to discuss safety-wise. 😊 What are your rules about allowing visitors to stay over? How about having my young niece and nephew over? Also, does anyone own a gun and plan on storing it at our place? If so, can we discuss how the gun will be safely stored?

### ADULT DAUGHTER TO FATHER

Hi Dad, we're setting up your room and looking forward to having you move in with us. Before you get here we'll need to discuss some things, specifically around safety. I know you've owned guns in the past, do you currently? If so, we'll need to discuss how we can safely store these so the kids cannot gain access.