

VOLUNTEER GUIDE FOR DISTRIBUTING CABLE GUN LOCKS

Partnership with the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, who supply cable gun locks at **no cost** as a strategy to promote firearm safety.



Who can receive a cable gun lock?

Anyone. Any person who asks for a gun lock may be given a gun lock. The goal is to provide locks to as many homes as possible. .

How many locks can a person have?

People can take several locks, if requested. They may need several or want to share with others. We don't ask questions. However, if they would like a large quantity, please have them email us at DPH.Safety@illinois.gov.

Questions you may receive:

What is this? Is it a bike lock?

It is a cable gun lock to safely store firearms.

How does it work?

- The purpose of the lock is to keep the gun from being loaded and fired. Cable gun locks runs through action of single weapon to prevent firing.
- Ammunition must be removed for lock use and should be stored away from the firearm for further safety.
- Explain there are instructions included with the lock. It shows you, depending on the type of firearm, how to loop the lock through the firearm and install it.

Guidance distributing the locks and engaging with the public.

We want our encounters with the public to be an educational opportunity.

- Have a couple of locks on the table for display but have 1-2 in your hand to pass out to them as you talk about the importance of cable gun locks.
- Open a package, have a lock on display and open the instruction to have on display.
- Provide educational material with each lock.
- Point out there are instructions on the inside for more information on how to they work.

Sample messages to share when distributing the locks:

- We are providing free cable gun locks to those who own firearms or to pass onto someone you know who has a firearm. Locks are one option for safe storage.
- Our goal is to prevent firearm-related injuries or deaths. In addition to limiting access to children, they also limit access to those who may be thinking of harming themselves or others. So, for suicide prevention, and preventing homicide or assault.
- Also, if the firearm is stolen, the lock may prevent it from being used unlawfully. Our goal is to get the locks into homes so they can be used.
- There are instructions in the lock. It shows you, depending on the type of firearm, how to loop the lock through the firearm and install it.

Comments you may hear from the public:

- I don't have firearms.
 - Do you know anyone who has a firearm you can pass a lock onto? Our goal is to have locks available in homes so they can be used. Here is a lock with instructions on the inside for show them how to install the lock.
- You don't have enough locks for my guns.
 - Feel free to take as many as you need.

DO'S and DON'TS

- DON'T ask if they have a firearm. This could be a barrier for someone asking for a safety device. The goal is to get the devices in their hands so it can be used in the home.
 - DO - instead say *"If you know anyone with a gun, please share this safety tool with them as a way to promote firearm safety."*
- DON'T ask if they have FOID card.
 - As mentioned above, we are not asking questions about their firearms.

Any question, refer people to contact the IDPH/VIPS shared email at DPH.Safety@illinois.gov.

Thank you for helping us work Together for a Safer Illinois.