

Harrisonburg
VIRGINIA



POLICE DEPARTMENT
101 North Main Street
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22802
Emergency 911
Non-Emergency 540-434-4436
Chief Stephen P. Monticelli

For Immediate Release
August 16, 2017

Contact: Sergeant Rachel C. Hammer, HPD Public Information Officer
540-434-2314
hpd-pio@harrisonburgva.gov

HPD Reminds Residents the Importance of Firearms Safety

Harrisonburg, Va. – The Harrisonburg Police Department (HPD) continues investigating an accidental shooting that took place last week.

On Friday, August 11, a 15-year-old victim was involved in an accidental shooting and received treatment from the University of Virginia (UVA) Medical Center, and remains in stable condition.

This incident involved another juvenile and an unsecured firearm. Detectives continue investigating this case and charges are pending.

HPD would like to remind all residents, especially parents and guardians of children, of the importance of firearms safety while in the home. Most firearms accidents can be prevented with owner precautions and proper storage of equipment and ammunition.

Additional resources are available through [Safe Kids Worldwide](#) and [Project Child Safe](#), both provide tips and best practices for when firearms are present in the home.

Gun locks are also available from HPD and other local law enforcement agencies.

-MORE-

The National Shooting Sports Foundations Top Ten Safety Tips include:

- Firearms should be unloaded when not actually in use.
- Be sure you know how your firearm operates: read the manual on your firearm, know how to safely open and close the action of the firearm and know how to safely remove any ammunition from the firearm and its magazine.
- Store your firearms in a locked cabinet, safe, gun vault or storage case when not in use, ensuring they are in a location inaccessible by children and cannot be handled by anyone without your permission.
- Store your ammunition in a locked location separate from firearms.
- Use a gun locking device that renders the firearm inoperable when not in use. A gun lock should be used as an additional safety precaution and not as a substitute for secure storage.
- Make sure young people in your home are aware of and understand the safety guidelines concerning firearms.
- Educate everyone in your family about firearms safety.

For more information about firearms safety contact the Community Services Unit of the Harrisonburg Police Department at 540-437-2635.

###