

Casa Grande gun-range accident serves as safety reminder

Natalie Tarangioli, The Republic | azcentral.com Published 12:54 p.m. MT Dec. 1, 2015 | Updated 12:57 p.m. MT Dec. 1, 2015



(Photo: azcentral.com)

Safety rules are important to remember at any business, but even more so at a gun range.

A 13-year-old girl was shot in the torso after a family friend's 9mm handgun accidentally discharged at a Casa Grande shooting range over this past weekend. The girl was hospitalized and is expected to survive.

The accident serves as a reminder to observe gun safety when at a range or anywhere else, according to firearms experts.

Jesse Hanson, the general manager of Shooter's World in Phoenix, said Tuesday that incidents like the one in Casa Grande could be avoided if five basic safety rules are always followed.

According to the Shooter's World website, the rules are:

1. All firearms are considered loaded at all times.
2. Always point firearms in a safe direction (downrange, the ground, etc.) until on target and ready to fire.
3. Always keep your trigger finger straight along the weapon's frame until on target and ready to fire.
4. Always know your target and what is behind it.
5. Always maintain control of your firearm.

"Safety checks create a safe environment," Hanson said.

Saturday's incident took place at the Elzy Pearson Shooting Range about 5:30 p.m., authorities said.

A friend of the girl's family was attempting to holster his handgun when it accidentally discharged, striking the 13-year-old, who was sitting about 20 feet away. The bullet hit her in the upper torso and exited her back.

The girl, whose name was not released, was treated at the scene and flown to a Phoenix-area hospital.

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