

## Teen Dies After Accidental Shooting

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By [KOMO Staff & News Services](#)

SPANAWAY - A 14-year-old boy who joined another teen in playing with a .22-caliber rifle at a friend's home has died at a Seattle hospital of a gunshot wound to the head.

Nathon Young was a Spanaway Junior High School student. He died Wednesday at Harborview Medical Center.

"This could have easily been avoided," Pierce County sheriff's spokesman Ed Troyer said. "It is dangerous when you have kids, guns, ammunition and no parental supervision all in one spot."

No adult was home at the time of Tuesday's shooting.

Sheriff's officers said that two rifles and 500 rounds of ammunition were kept in a Spanaway teen's bedroom in the house where Young was fatally wounded.

Young's family declined to talk about his death Wednesday.

The boy and another teen were playing with the rifle at a friend's home.

"The kid pointed the gun at his friend's head and pulled the trigger, thinking the gun was empty and the safety was on," Troyer said.

When detectives finish their investigation they will forward the case to prosecutors, who will decide whether to file charges. Investigators briefed state Child Protective Services on the shooting because children aged 3, 5, 6 and 8 live in the home, Troyer said. Detectives took both rifles from the home Tuesday night for evidence and safekeeping.

The 14-year-old who lived at the house kept the rifles on the floor of his bedroom and the ammunition on a nearby shelf, Troyer said. The guns, which were legally owned, had belonged to a relative who didn't want them anymore, he said.

Young was the second Pierce County boy to die in an accidental shooting in two weeks. Matthew Wilson, 11, was killed Nov. 20 when a bullet struck him in the head as he and a friend played with a handgun.