

FIREARM HANDLING SAFETY RULES

Primary Rules

1. Always Assume the firearm is LOADED and ready to fire. – This is a matter of mindset to create safe habits. Many firearm accidents result from the handler believing a firearm is emptied, on “safety” or otherwise disabled when in fact it is ready to be discharged.

PROVE STATUS TO OTHERS BY KEEPING CHAMBER OPEN

2. Never point at anything unless you intend to DESTROY it. – The first rule teaches that a firearm must be assumed to be ready to be discharged at all times. This rule goes beyond that and says "Since the firearm might fire, *assume that it will* and make sure no harm occurs when it does".

POINT WEAPON AT THE GROUND OR AT THE SKY

3. Keep finger OFF the trigger. – This rule is intended to prevent an undesired discharge. A handler's finger may involuntarily move for any of several reasons: being startled; not keeping full attention on body movements; physiological reasons beyond conscious control such as a spasm; stumbling or falling. Keep finger off the trigger until pointed at target and ready to fire.

POINT FINGER STRAIGHT ALONGSIDE THE WEAPON UNTIL READY

4. Be sure of your target—and WHAT IS BEYOND IT and AROUND IT. – This rule is intended to eliminate or minimize damage to non-targets when a firearm is intentionally discharged. The bullet may miss, penetrate or ricochet off the target and hit a non-target around or beyond the target. No target is so important that you ignore this rule.

UNDERSTAND THE RISKS OF DESTROYING NON-TARGETS

Other Rules

Impairment – Never handle a firearm while under the influence or exhausted;

Familiarity – Understand the firearm operation before shooting to prevent injury and damage;

Ammunition – Incorrect or damaged ammunition can destroy a gun and cause serious injury;

Clean Barrel – Anything obstructing the barrel (mud, snow, excess oil) can cause damage;

Loud Noise – Wear ear plugs with shotguns, wear ear muffs with rifles & pistols due to db levels;

Hot Gasses & Debris – Wear shooting glasses unless you want to be blinded by hot debris;

Toxins & Pollutants – Good ventilation and washing hands and clothing minimizes toxic exposure;

Misfires – USE EXTREME CAUTION! Wait several minutes & minimize exposure to cartridge.

**Don't be timid when it comes to gun safety.
If you observe anyone violating any safety precautions,
you have an obligation to insist on safer handling practices.**