

SAFETY IN SHOOTING





THE THREE LAWS OF GUN SAFETY

- **1st LAW:**
 - **The gun is always loaded**

- **2nd LAW:**
 - **Never point the gun at anything you are not prepared to shoot.**

- **3rd LAW:**
 - **Always be sure of your target and what is behind it.**

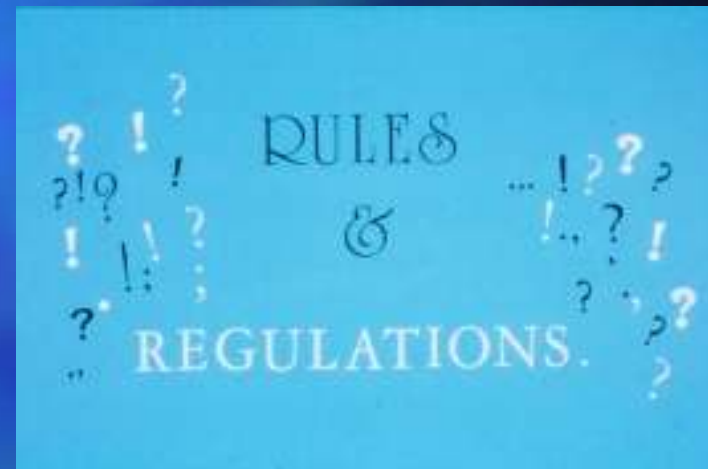




FIREARM SAFETY

Areas for Discussion

- RANGE
- HOME
- TRAVELLING
- PERSONAL





SAFETY AT THE RANGE





SAFETY AT THE RANGE

Shooting on a SSAA range is conducted under the watchful eye of a Range Officer (RO). The “**CEASE FIRE**” command means that you are to **stop firing** and **lower** your firearm, render it **safe** and **put it down** in plain view on the firing bench..

Other rules for shooting at a range are:

- Always wear both **eye and ear protection**
- All Range Officer **commands** must be **obeyed immediately**
- Firearms (on the line) must remain **pointed down range** at all times
- At all times whilst not engaging a target the finger is **off the trigger**.
- Always aim the firearm in a direction which will not let a round **exit the range area** or **clear the backstop**.



SAFETY AT THE RANGE (cont.)

- Be aware of the **muzzle direction** in relation to your feet and ground surface
- If not on the firing line firearms should only be handled in **designated safety areas**.
- Load firearms only whilst under the control of a Range Officer.
- Do not leave any firearms **unattended** at any time.
- If in **doubt** at any time as to what to do, holster/lay down the firearm or point it in a safe direction and **seek RO assistance**.



SAFETY AT THE RANGE (cont.)

- When laying a firearm down the **action** must be **open** and magazine removed (if applicable)
- Whilst clearing malfunctions the **muzzle** must remain **pointed** down range in **a safe direction**.
- **BECOME FAMILIAR WITH THE LOCAL RANGE RULES - AND OBEY THEM!**





SAFETY AT HOME

- All firearms stored at home should be stored in accord with **current legislative requirements**.
- Firearms must be stored in an approved (steel) safe.
- Ammunition must be stored in a **separately locked container**.
- Children must not have access to the firearms or access to the safe at any time.
- Firearms should **never** be loaded with **live ammunition** at home.
- On every occasion that a firearm is removed from the safe it should be **proved and made safe** (as discussed later).
- At no time should firearms be handled whilst under the influence of **alcohol** or any other **drug**.



TRAVELLING TO AND FROM THE RANGE

- When **transporting** a firearm it should be stored in either a **box**, **bag** or **case**
- When transporting the firearm you should travel **as directly to and from the range as possible** - avoid having to stop off to do some shopping on the way. (KEEP IN MIND that in the event that the car is stolen, your firearms also be stolen)
- Whilst travelling the **boot** of your vehicle is the **most secure area**
- If you must stop en-route for fuel or refreshments ensure that the **vehicle is locked** and remains **in sight at all times**.



SAFETY IN THE CLASS ROOM

- ◆ For reasons of safety, no student or instructor is to have **any live ammunition whatsoever** in their possession.
- ◆ All students and instructors must check their **pockets, bags** and any other **potential repositories** where ammunition may be stored.
- ◆ If anyone has any live ammunition with them I must now ask them to **declare** the presence of this ammunition and **produce** it for safe keeping.



BASIC FUNCTIONS OF FIREARMS

Generally there are Seven Basic Functions:

- **FEED** : Inserts a live round into the chamber.
- **COCK** : Compresses main spring and engages hammer/firing pin with the trigger mechanism.
- **LOCK** : Closes and locks the breech in readiness for firing.
- **FIRE** : Initiates/discharges a round by striking the primer.
- **UNLOCK** : Unlocks and allows opening of the breech.
- **EXTRACT** : Removes the fired (empty) case from the chamber.
- **EJECT** : Throws the case clear of the firearm.



TYPES OF ACTION

Most Common Types of Action:

- **BREAK ACTION - Single Shot** : Carried with chamber empty & action 'broken' at all times.
- **BOLT/LEVER ACTION - Single Shot** : Carried with chamber empty & action open. Bolt removed if possible.
- **BOLT/PUMP/LEVER ACTION - Repeater** : Most variability in these types. Difficult to clear and carry in a visibly 'safe' condition.
- **BREAK ACTION - Multishot** : Commonly double-barrelled shotguns. Carried with the chambers empty & action 'broken'.
- **SEMI-AUTOMATIC** or **SELF-LOADING ACTION** : Carried with magazine removed and action locked or 'blocked' open.



TYPES OF MAGAZINE

Most Common Types of Magazine:

- **BOX - Removable** : May be removed from the firearm for easy unloading and clearing.
- **BOX - Fixed** : May require cartridges to be cycled through the action.
- **TUBULAR** : Most difficult to unload. May require cycling the cartridges through the action to unload. Rounds may be inadvertently retained (and unseen) in a damaged magazine.

Care must be taken when clearing and checking all firearms to ensure that they are in a safe condition for removal from the line.



PROVING AND MAKING SAFE

Revolver

- Hold revolver with master hand, ensuring that finger is outside the trigger guard.
- Release cylinder catch and swing out cylinder.
- Inspect cylinder chambers to ensure they are clear of rounds. If rounds are present continue.
- Transfer revolver to weak hand, point muzzle straight up and strike the ejector rod with the palm of the master hand.
- Inspect cylinder chambers to ensure they are clear of rounds.



PROVING AND MAKING SAFE (cont.)

Semi-automatic pistol

- Hold pistol in master hand, trigger figure outside trigger guard
- Ensure safety catch is in 'safe' position
- Remove the magazine (inspect for live rounds)
- Muzzle pointing in a safe direction 'rack' the slide
- Visually inspect chamber to ensure no round is present
- Allow the slide to travel forward
- For disconnectors, insert an empty magazine
- Muzzle pointed in a safe direction - fire the action



NOTE: Dry firing rimfire pistols may cause damage to the firing pin or hammer nose.



PERSONAL SAFETY

Hearing and sight organs are delicate and may be irreversibly damaged:

- **Always** wear eye and ear protection when on the range





PERSONAL SAFETY (cont.)

Wear appropriate apparel:

■ shirts and tops

- not too loose
- not too restrictive for movement and control of firearm
- not open-necked (especially women)
- adequate cover for the type of shooting/weather exposure

■ lower body/legs

- for adequate cover and protection for legs
- not too restrictive for getting into shooting position(s)

■ footwear

- 'closed' footwear to provide protection
- firm enough to provide required stability



PERSONAL SAFETY (cont.)

- Dealing with **malfunctions**

- **Hygiene** - lead contamination

Lead ingestion is a serious health risk and shooting involves the handling of lead and the generation of lead contamination:

- hand washing after shooting
- no consumption of food and drink at the line

- **Solvents and Oils**

- may be toxic or cause allergic reaction

- **Alcohol and drugs**

- cause impairment of mental function
- act as a depressant
- anaesthetic-style effects





PERSONAL SAFETY (cont.)



Examples of specialised shooting apparel



for performance





RELOADING





RELOADING

- Reloading reverses the process of firing a cartridge:
 - The case is resized.
 - The spent primer is removed and replaced with a new primer.
 - A fresh powder charge is loaded. A new projectile is seated and crimped.

- The selection of propellant powder type and weight is critical - use information from reloading manuals or manufacturers handbooks.

- At no time must propellant powders be blended or used in excess of manufacturers data.



RELOADING (cont.)

When reloading the following basic rules should be followed:

- Have a **full understanding** of the reloading process before you commence.
- Always wear **eye protection** when reloading.
- Do not smoke whilst reloading.
- **Store** powder & primers **out of the reach** of minors.
- Develop a set **routine** and do not rush.



RELOADING (cont.)

- Do not use propellant **powder** unless its **identity** is known.
- Do not exceed maximum recommended loads.
- Keep the reloading area neat and tidy, promptly **clean up** any spilled powder or primers.
- **Pay attention to detail** when setting scales, powder throwers and seating depths.



FIN



THAT'S ALL FOLKS!