

Firearm Safety Tips

- **Treat every firearm as if it was loaded.**

You can **never** guarantee that the gun is unloaded just by looking at it. Give an unloaded firearm the same respect you would give a loaded firearm.

- **Watch where you point the firearm muzzle.**

Never point the muzzle of your firearm at yourself or anyone else, even if it is unloaded. Be aware of what is on the other side of walls, floors and ceilings.

- **Keep your finger off the trigger.**

Do not put your finger on the trigger until you are ready to shoot. Hunters should always walk with the fingers off the trigger. Sympathetic muscle reactions may cause you to accidentally pull the trigger, and discharge the firearm.

- **Know your firearm and its ammunition.**

Before you're loading, be sure your firearm is in safe operating condition and the barrel is free of obstructions. Double-check the specifications of your ammunition to be sure it fits your firearm. There are several types of ammunition many appear very similar and may have a similar name.

- **Always keep your firearm unloaded until your ready to use it.**

Why take chances? When traveling to and from your hunting ground or firing range, always carry your firearms unloaded in their cases, until you're ready to use them.

- **Be sure of your target-and beyond-before squeezing the trigger.**

Be sure that you have carefully identified your target and then look past it to be sure it is safe to shoot. Hunters need to keep track of buildings, roadways, and other hunters.

- **Beware of fatigue when hunting.**

When you've been out in the woods a long time, fatigue can cause accidents. A loaded firearm can accidentally fire with a single, unexpected jar-so watch your step.

- **Don't take chances with a loaded firearm.**

Never step over fences, jump ditches, or make other awkward or unbalanced moves while holding a loaded firearm.

- **Use care when practicing.**

When shooting for practice, make sure your backstop will prevent ricochets and protect bystanders. Bullets can ricochet off water, rocks, trees, metal and other hard surfaces. Always use the proper eye and hearing protection when discharging a firearm.

- **Store your firearms safely.**

When not in use, always store firearms unloaded and locked , away from ammunition and out of the reach of children and inexperienced users. Ammunition should also be stored in a safe location. Strict laws govern how and where a firearm should be stored.

- **Remember: Alcohol, drugs and firearms don't mix.**

Never consume alcohol or other mood-altering drugs before or during target shooting or hunting. If you carry a LTC then there is zero tolerance for carrying a concealed firearm while intoxicated.

- **Keep your firearm clean.**

Proper maintenance of your firearm to include cleaning and lubrication will help eliminate the possibility of malfunctions. In addition you should only fire ammunition that is clean and undamaged.