

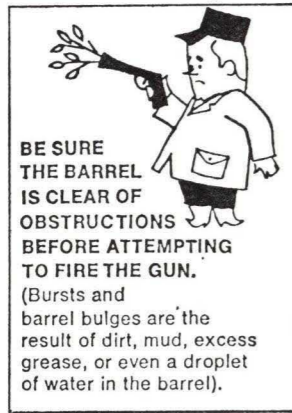
In the field . . . Safety and Courtesy Prevail

It takes only a moment's observation to tell how much another shooter knows about safety. Like the weakest link in a chain, one member of your shooting party can be a liability to everyone else. If you have never shot with a group before, the best policy is to let everyone know that you are new to the game. Ask, if you are not sure, about safety precautions and the courtesies you will be expected to extend.

At a range, familiarize yourself with the range rules. When hunting with a group, stay abreast of the other shooters and keep continuously aware of their relative positions. Above all, avoid blind excitement which may cause you to swing the gun wildly and jeopardize the lives of others. Remember, it's far better to pass up a shot than to flirt with danger.



TREAT EVERY GUN WITH THE RESPECT DUE A LOADED GUN.



BE SURE THE BARREL IS CLEAR OF OBSTRUCTIONS BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO FIRE THE GUN.

(Bursts and barrel bulges are the result of dirt, mud, excess grease, or even a droplet of water in the barrel).



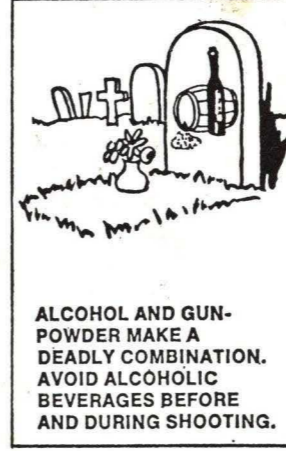
AVOID FIRING A HANDGUN UNTIL ALL OBSERVERS ARE BEHIND THE FIRING LINE TO PROTECT THEM FROM EJECTED SHELL CASINGS OR POSSIBLE BULLET SHAVING.



BE SURE OF THE TARGET BEFORE DECIDING TO PULL THE TRIGGER; KNOW THE IDENTIFYING FEATURES OF THE GAME YOU HUNT.



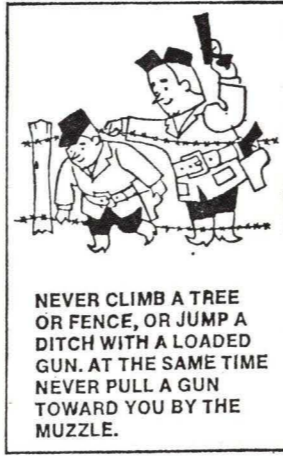
NEVER SHOOT AT A HARD FLAT SURFACE OR WATER WHEN TARGET SHOOTING; ALWAYS BE SURE YOUR BACKSTOP IS ADEQUATE.



ALCOHOL AND GUN-POWDER MAKE A DEADLY COMBINATION. AVOID ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES BEFORE AND DURING SHOOTING.



AVOID ALL HORSEPLAY WHILE HANDLING A GUN. NEVER POINT A FIREARM AT ANYTHING YOU DO NOT INTEND TO SHOOT.

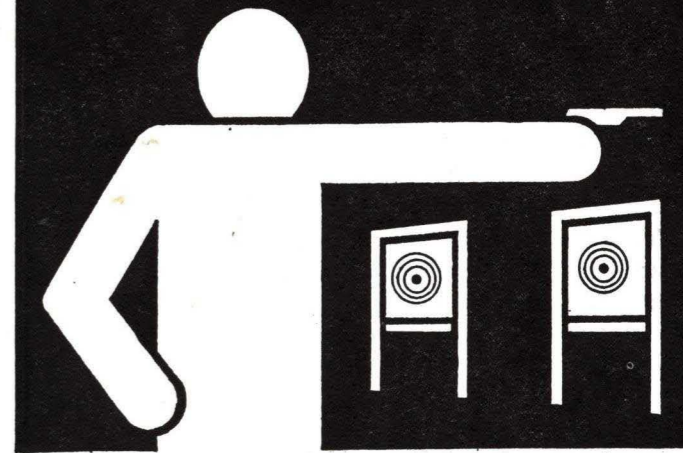


NEVER CLIMB A TREE OR FENCE, OR JUMP A DITCH WITH A LOADED GUN. AT THE SAME TIME NEVER PULL A GUN TOWARD YOU BY THE MUZZLE.

Here are some additional points of safety which should become second nature every time you pick up and carry a gun in the field.

For your comfort and protection, include a pair of shooting glasses and earplugs in your equipment. Although ear plugs are uncommon in the field, they are a great relief on a range where continuous shooting is going on. In fact, continued use of any firearm without earplugs may result in hearing loss. Good shooting glasses will cut down on glare and help protect your eyes from twigs, branches, or even a possible powder blowback from the gun.

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STAR

wants you to know about the **responsibilities of handgun ownership**

Read this book carefully before handling your new sporting arm.

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Learn basic safety

The simplest approach to the matter of safety is pure, old-fashioned common sense. It is imperative that the shooter realize a gun is not a toy and has the potential to kill. Yet, in the hands of one who understands and practices safety precautions, a handgun can be perfectly safe. An accident is rarely the fault of the gun itself, but rather due to a momentary lapse in correct handling techniques.

Safety isn't limited to the beginner, either. It is the responsibility of each and every individual who picks up a firearm. Perhaps the two cardinal rules of gun safety should be:



If this is your first gun, take the time to attend a preliminary firearm safety course in your area. It will help you become familiar with the role and proper use of firearms. Remember, **YOU** are responsible for the gun in your hands. No firearm need be fearsome; however, ownership does dictate respect.



Storing a gun at home

Unfortunately, far too many owners of handguns find it convenient to throw the pistol in an unlocked drawer when it isn't being used. Sure, it's out of sight, but is it safe from the curious wanderings of household youngsters? If a drawer is your only storage area, make sure it is unloaded. Replace the gun in the original box to protect the finish.

The best and safest method of storage is to lock the gun in a rack or cabinet. Although the craftsmanship which has gone into your new handgun is worthy of proud display, it is best to store the arm out of sight to discourage possible theft and misuse. When storing any gun, be sure air circulates freely around it. Stored in an air-tight location the metal will tend to sweat and begin to rust when exposed to normal conditions.



UNATTENDED GUNS MUST BE UNLOADED GUNS. STORE GUNS AND AMMUNITION SEPARATELY AND OUT OF SIGHT AND REACH OF CHILDREN.



A GUN NOT IN USE SHOULD BE SECURED WITH A TRIGGER LOCK (available in most gun shops) OR HAVE THE ACTION OPENED (clip removed or chamber empty). AT ALL TIMES, THE GUN SHOULD BE UNLOADED WHEN IN THE HOME.

Store ammunition in an area separate from the gun for maximum safety. Kept in a cool, dry location, it will remain in good condition for years. If you own ammunition of more than one caliber, keep them separated—in storage and in the field.

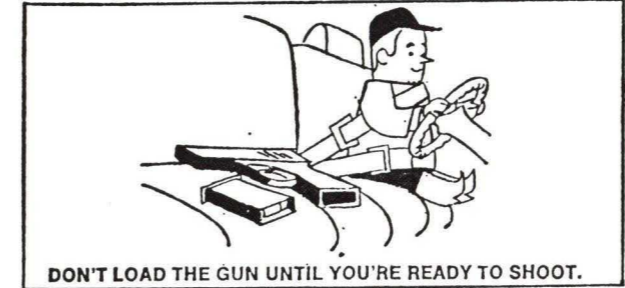


Safety while transporting a gun

You would probably think this is the safest part of gun handling, yet alarming statistics show that many accidents occur during this time.

The first priority is that a gun should be unloaded whenever it is transported from one place to another. There is never a place in a car or truck for a loaded firearm—no matter what the circumstances. In addition, the gun should be boxed or in a case.

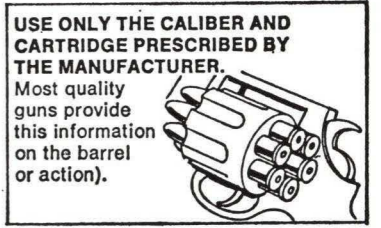
After a day of range or field shooting and you are returning to the car, open the action (and remove the



clip of an autoloader); check that the chamber is empty. Carrying it with the action open will serve as a sign to other shooters that safety is an essential prerequisite to sportsmanship.

Know your ammunition

The quickest way to become an unfortunate statistic is to ignore the first and last rule a shooter must know about cartridges:



The caution we noted earlier of "storing ammunition in its original box . . ." is essential in positively identifying cartridges you intend to shoot; especially if you own more than one caliber gun and cartridge.

