

CARNALISMO, NUEVO MEXICO

Firearm Safety

There are a few simple but important rules to keep in mind when handling a firearm. If you adhere to these rules, the chances of an accidental shooting are dramatically reduced.

- Never point a gun at anything you do not intend to kill or destroy.
 - The gun is ALWAYS loaded. Operate under this assumption. Too many people are killed with “unloaded” firearms.
 - Keep your finger away from the trigger (outside of the trigger-guard). Keep the safety switch (if so equipped) in the “Safe” position until you are ready to fire.
 - Always assert control of your firearm. When in your possession, it should always be pointed in a safe direction. The ground is usually the safest.
 - When in storage, keep your firearm be under lock and key, unloaded and separate from the ammunition. Prevent your weapon from falling into the wrong hands (inexperienced, immature, or criminal).
 - Your gun should remain unloaded and stored properly/securely during transportation.
 - Abide by the instruction manual for your particular firearm. Learn exactly how to operate and care for it. Pay attention to the manufacturers’ safety features.
 - Never handle your firearm while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
 - Always know what is behind or beyond your target. Misses and over-penetration happen. It’s possible to hit an unintended target as far away as 3 miles.
- Field Safety.**
In the field, you will encounter different situations than on a range or tightly regulated environment. These brief rules should help you stay safer in hunting/outdoor situations.
- Always know what is behind or beyond your intended target. (even a .22 round can travel 1.5 miles.) A more powerful weapon can penetrate a heavy target, or even ricochet, and still travel farther than the .22 round.
 - Keep your firearm unloaded and properly stored when travelling to and from the field. Avoid accidental discharge inside automobiles.
 - Never cross a fence/ditch/obstacle with a loaded weapon. Slide it under/over/around the obstacle, while navigating the obstacle.
 - Always be aware of who else is in the area, and their whereabouts.
 - Never shoot what you can’t see. Too many deaths occur because some idiot shot at a sound or a movement. Mere noises are no excuse to pull the trigger.
 - Always unload your gun when getting in and out of a deer-stand, boat, or blind. A loaded gun does not belong in a potential slip-and-fall situation.
 - Do not hunt or shoot with others who ignore basic gun safety.
- Additional precautions.**
There are other issues, apart from ordinary gun-handling that are serious nonetheless. These should be adhered to as well for your safety and the safety of those around you.
- Safety equipment is vital. Eye and ear protection are essential on the range and for any sustained shooting.
 - Make sure you are using the correct ammo. Certain rounds will fit in weapons for which they are not intended. The results are almost always disastrous. A 16ga. or 20ga. shell can slip in a 12ga. or 10ga. barrel. A 9mm parabellum will fit in a .38 short weapon. You firearm manufacturer will also have certain ammo specs you should abide by.
 - Ensure that your weapon is clean and functioning properly. Safeties can fail. Triggers can be set too lightly. Cartridges can “hide” in certain magazines. Know your weapon and make sure it is properly maintained.
 - Ensure the barrel is free from obstructions. Mud, debris, or a projectile lodged in the barrel can be deadly.
 - Practice with the weapon you intend to use. Become very familiar with your firearm.
 - Leave all functional modifications to gunsmiths. A gun is not a toy, and is designed to function under specific circumstances. A malfunction can be deadly.
 - Remember, most weapons may still fire even when the clip/magazine is removed.

Common Sense Gun Safety:

There is a saying, “common sense is not so common.” here are some tips for the “common sense” deficient.

1. Don’t look down the barrel of an assembled gun.
2. Don’t point it at people or pets for fun.
3. A gun does not make you tough or cool.
4. Don’t hand your gun to a moron.
5. Don’t testfire your gun in the house.
5. A telephone book will not stop a bullet.
6. If it’s not your firearm, leave it alone.
7. Tell your family about your firearms.
8. Abide by local, state and federal laws.
9. Don’t play with your ammunition.
10. Don’t modify your gun with a hacksaw.
11. Don’t carry a gun into a school, courthouse, bank, bar, or liquor store.