

Event Safety Regulations

French and Indian War

This safety manual provides all the necessary safety regulations regarding the safe loading and firing of all firearms having a flintlock ignition as well as the safe use of swords, knives, axes and war clubs carried by participants.

Effective January 1st, 2012

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THE USE OF PISTOLS AND BLUNDERBUSS OR ANY ORIGINAL FIREARMS FROM THE PERIOD (ANTIQUE) ARE NOT PERMITTED FOR BATTLES OR SKIRMISHES.

THE PRIMING, LOADING OR FIRING OF ANY FIREARM MUST BE DONE IN A DESIGNATED AREA AND NOT WITHIN THE CAMP PROPER.

Flash Guards

A well fitted flash guard made of steel, iron or brass must be properly attached to the lock of the firearm for all events. This flash guard must be locked in a tight position across the face of the flash pan using a screw or nut to insure a proper function.

Frizzen Stalls

A well made frizzen cover made of sturdy leather; being thick enough to prevent the flint from creating a spark must be placed upon the frizzen. This stall must fit the frizzen snugly and be secured (TIED) to the firearm with a leather thong or strong cord to prevent loss.

Firearm Condition

All firearms used for the purpose of firing black powder at any program, battle, skirmish or demonstration must be in a sound, solid and safe condition. There should be no unrepaired cracks or breaks in the stock of the firearm. The inside of the barrel and breech must be solid and clean of rust. The lock and trigger assemblies must work smoothly without hanging up or failing to hold in the "Half Cock" and "Full Cock" positions. All barrel pins, lugs and all screws and bolts are to be present and tight on the firearm as well.

Cartridges

All paper cartridges for any battle, skirmish or demonstration must be pre-rolled off site. All paper cartridges must be rolled without the use of staples, glue or tape. Cartridges must be carried in a leather cartridge box having a wooden block with separate holes drilled to carry cartridges. The cartridge box must be made of sturdy leather with an ample size flap to cover the box to prevent loss of the cartridges. Further, there should be a button or leather tab to close the flap to help prevent loss of these cartridges. Spare cartridges carried in a pack or haversack should be carried in a tin canister with a tight fitting lid. Cartridges may also be carried in a shooting pouch with an ample flap to prevent loss of the cartridges. All pouches and boxes should be sewn together, not laced.

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Maximum Smoothbore Loading Standards

Up to 54 caliber maximum charge 70 grains of Black Powder

58 to 62 caliber maximum charge 80 grains of Black Powder

69 to 79 caliber maximum charge 100 grains of Black Powder

Maximum Rifle Loading Standards

All rifles regardless of caliber are to be loaded using no more than 1 and ½ grains of 2F or 3F black powder per caliber.

32 caliber rifle Maximum charge----48 grains

36 caliber rifle Maximum charge----54 grains

40 caliber rifle Maximum charge----60 grains

45 caliber rifle Maximum charge----67 grains

50 caliber rifle Maximum charge----75 grains

54 caliber rifle Maximum charge----81 grains

58 caliber rifle Maximum charge----87 grains

60 caliber rifle Maximum charge----90 grains

62 caliber rifle Maximum charge----93 grains

Special Notations

At no time is any firearm to be surrendered to a member of the public. A visitor may feel the heft of the firearm while the reenactor keeps hold of the sling or keeps one hand upon the firearm to maintain control.

There will be no wadding of any firearm or the removal and use of any ram rod without the specific approval of the site and all officers in charge while being involved in any battle, skirmish or firing programs.

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Edged Weapons and Clubs

All fixed blade knives and axes, hatchets or tomahawks should be kept in a sturdy, well made leather sheath. The cutting edge of these tools must be covered completely. A sturdy leather gusset must be sewn into the construction of the sheath to prevent the cutting edge of the blade from cutting open the stitching of the sheath. All sheath knives, axes, hatchets and tomahawks should be attached to a sturdy leather belt or woven sash to prevent loss, or tucked in to keep them from being misplaced.

All folding blade knives should have a properly working locking mechanism to prevent the user from getting cut or pinched.

War clubs may be carried by participants but may not be used to make any body contact with opposing forces during any battle or skirmish.

Swords

The carrying of a sword should only be in a well made leather scabbard properly secured to the body by a sturdy belt or shoulder strap.

Special Notations

No edged weapons are to be surrendered to, or handled by the public.

The brandishing of any knives, axes, hatchets or tomahawks in any battle, skirmish or program is prohibited without the prior consent of the site through the commanding officer.

Swords may be carried onto the battlefield by officers but may only be used to direct troops in formation and on the march; but may not be used as a weapon.

No hand to hand combat may be demonstrated without the prior approval of the site officials and all officers in charge.