

Rifle Range Safety Briefing

The Range Safety Officer (RSO) is in charge at all times!

Issue copies of the shooting range rules to all range users. A short briefing will be administered prior to range use. The rules, demonstrations, and explanations of range equipment will be posted in plain sight and explained in the briefing room. All range users need to read the rules posted on the posters and handouts. Only RSO are allowed to use firearms during the briefing, RSO must follow the NRA Gun Safety Rules.

1. PURPOSE OF THE SHOOTING EVENT

- Recreational shooting for Scouts participating in the Blackland Prairie District Shoot-o-ree. We will be shooting at all ranges all day.

Range Personnel

- A Range Safety Officer (RSO) and one or more certified instructor will be located at each range.
- The range personnel's role is to ensure safety.
- RSO will be identified by orange or yellow caps. All range personnel will be identified by orange or yellow vests.

2. RANGE LAYOUT AND LIMITS

- Conduct: Rules will be posted in plain sight and must be followed.
- Main areas for the range:
 - Spectator Area: Located behind the ready line where visitors and range users may wait and observe activities. Everyone must have eye and ear protection.
 - Ready Area: This is the area behind the firing line where shooters may store and prepare their firearms.
 - Firing Point: Shooters may occupy their firing points at the fire line when authorized to do so. Points are numbered or clearly marked corresponding to their target number. **Shooters should only handle firearms when authorized to do so.**
 - Backstop: Located downrange behind the target line. Guns should point down range at the backstop at all times. All firing should be directed forward from the shooters' firing points so projections impact with designated impact areas.

3. RANGE SAFETY RULES

- BSA/NRA Gun Safety Rules- And the three Fundamental Rules for Gun Safety:
 - ALWAYS keep the gun pointed in a safe direction. The gun is pointed so that even if the gun were to go off, it would not cause injury or damage.
 - ALWAYS keep the gun unloaded until ready to use. SAFETIES can fail. Safe gun handling rules should be followed at all times!
 - ALWAYS keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot. The finger should rest alongside the gun, i.e., on the frame, receiver, or trigger guard.

Rules for Safe Use

- **Know your target and what is beyond.** The shooter must know that projectiles will safely impact the backstop.
- **Be sure the gun is safe to operate.** Make sure the Empty Chamber Indicator (ECI) is in place.
- **Know how to use the gun safely.** Shooters need to know how the gun operates, its basic parts, how to safely open and close the action, and how to remove the ammunition or projectiles.
- **Use only the correct ammunition for your gun.** Only the ammunition designed for a particular gun can be safely fired in that gun. Shooters should ensure that the caliber marked on the barrel, ammo box, and cartridge cases match. This is especially true for antique guns.
- **Wear eye and ear protection as appropriate.** Many guns are loud and the noise can cause hearing damage. Guns can also emit debris, hot gas, and cartridge cases that could cause eye injuries.
- **All users and guests need to wear eye and ear protection.**
- **Never use drugs or alcohol before or while shooting.** Any substance that may impair normal mental or physical bodily functions. Examples include prescription and non-prescription drugs, e.g., cold medicines that may cause drowsiness nervousness, balance problems, etc. Anyone taking any medication or substance that may impair normal mental or physical bodily functions is not allowed on the range. **NO EXEPTIONS. SCOUT LEADERS MUST ENSURE THAT ANY MEDICATION WILL NOT IMPARE THE SHOOTER.**

General Range Safety Rules

- Know and obey all range commands.
- Know where others are at all times.
- Shoot only at authorized targets.
- Do NOT handle a firearm or stand at the firing line where firearms are present while others are downrange.
- **Stop shooting immediately upon the command of “Cease Fire.”** In the case of a “Cease Fire” you should, stop shooting immediately and wait for further instructions from your RSO.
- Stoppages and the safe way to handle them.
 - A misfire is when a cartridge does not fire after the primer has been struck by the firing pin.
 - Hangfire is when a perceptible delay in the ignition of the cartridge after the primer has been struck by the firing pin.
 - A squib load is when there is less than normal pressure or bullet velocity after ignition of the cartridge. The bullet may or may not exit the barrel. Squib loads are identified by difference in recoil or noise.
 - The normal procedure for handling misfires, hangfires, and squibs is to:
 - Keep the gun pointed down range (safe direction).
 - Continue holding the firearm pointed down range, raise your hand, and wait until someone gets to you.

BSA/NRA Hygiene Guidelines

The BSA/NRA hygiene guidelines are intended to minimize exposure to airborne particulate lead and cleaning products residues. Everyone exposed to the range - even if he or she did not participate in the shooting session - should follow these guidelines.

- Refrain from eating, drinking, and smoking, applying makeup, or otherwise placing hands in proximity to the mouth or nose while on the range or cleaning a gun.
- Wash your hands and face with soap and water after leaving the range or cleaning area before eating or drinking.

- Change and wash clothing after a shooting or gun cleaning session to minimize exposure to airborne particulate lead or solvent and cleaning product residues.

Site-Specific range Rules

Please read the rules posted and observe the range posters to refer to handouts.

- Targets must be placed to ensure bullets hit the impact area.
- Leave dropped ammunition on the floor until the stage of fire is completed and guns are benched. This policy prevents shooters from unintentionally pointing the gun at others while retrieving dropped ammunition, or inadvertently moving in front of the firing line.
- Notify the RSO when there is a gun stoppage or malfunction. Notification is critical for safety.
- All guns must remain unloaded with actions open and the ECI in place except when on the firing line and authorized to be loaded.
- When guns are benched, keep the actions open and ejection ports facing upward so the ECI is visible.
- NO loose ammunition is allowed outside the range.

4. FIRING LINE COMMANDS

- **“Range is hot”** means no one goes past the firing line.
- **“Shooters to the line”** means shooters may move to into position **but must not handle the firearm until instructed to do so.**
- **“The preparation period starts now”** means shooters may handle the firearm to get comfortable with the shooting position and the site picture. **Shooters may not load the firearm and must keep their finger off the trigger.**
- **“The preparation period has ended”** means shooters must stop preparation activities. Shooters should raise their hand if they need more time..
- **“You may load and fire”** means shooters are given permission to load and fire the allotted number of rounds.
- **“Cease Fire!”** means all shooters must stop firing immediately, keep their firearm pointed in a safe direction, keep their finger off the trigger, and await further instructions. **This command may be given by anyone. Once this command is given, only the RSO may give the command to resume firing!**
- **“Exit Range”** means shooters move away from their shooting position and exit the range.

5. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

- Take charge of the situation. (Determine seriousness of injury and assigned duties)
- Render aid. First-aid kit should be centrally located in the range office.
- Call for help via radio or telephone. Emergency phone number and information list should be centrally located.
- Direct help to location.
- Take notes. Emergency report sheet should be located in the range office files.