

## **VII. Safety Rules**

- A. The weapons we use are real and are always potentially dangerous. The discharge of only powder can produce severe burns at close range. Always assume a firearm is loaded and handle it as such.
  
- B. Members understand that intentional violation of these rules, or any safety rules posted by an event, may make me subject to being removed **from the** field and subject to unit discipline, including expulsion from the unit.
  
- C. All members agree to abide by the following:
  - 1. Firearms will only be discharged under command in company formation or in proper formation. Firearms are not to be discharged in camp or in the field without the authorization of an NCO, officer or the designated safety officer.
  - 2. Unless otherwise directed, we will use only powder when firing. (Wadding and ramming may be used only on a directed basis). We will **never** use my ramrod in battle.
  - 3. We will practice safe muzzle placement and ensure that the muzzle is not endangering a **file** mate or other comrade.
  - 4. When firing from the rear rank, members will make certain that their musket is positioned so that the middle and rear bands are equally spaced over their front **file** mate's right shoulder. This is to ensure the muzzle and hammer are not too close to the file mate's ear when the musket is discharged.
  - 5. We will maintain muzzle control at all times. We will never place a hand at any time over the muzzle of the musket, especially when at "Rest".
  - 6. We will not fix bayonets unless ordered to do so. We will **never fix** bayonets in a battle.
  - 7. We will **never** discharge a firearm directly at an opposing re-enactor. We will practice elevated firing at all times. At distances of less than 10 - 15 yards, we will discharge our muskets vertically in the air or not fire at all.
  - 8. We will **never** engage in hand-to-hand combat unless it has been approved by an officer.
  - 9. We will **never** attempt to capture an opposing unit's colors.

10. We will not carry on our person or accouterments any form of firearm projectile unless as part of a formal historical presentation or a live **fire** demonstration under the proper safety procedures.
11. We will use no more than 60 grains of black powder cartridges except in a parade and then shall use no more than 80 grains.
12. We will not smoke when making cartridges or be near any source of flame.
13. We will never staple the ends of cartridges.
14. We will keep our muskets cleaned and maintained in good working order. Members understand that it is their job to clean their firearms.
15. Members will keep their firearms in good mechanical condition and have an effective half cock position that will prevent releasing the hammer when the trigger is pulled.
16. Members will ensure their muskets are in proper working order before arriving at an event. They understand that if their musket does not pass inspection it will not be allowed to be **fired** during the event.
17. We will never take a hit with a loaded weapon.
18. We will never take a hit in front of artillery, even if the unit is inactive at that time. It may become active later.
19. Members may use cotton for the ears as protection when firing is recommended and has historical precedent. Officers and NCO's will inform the company when firing is expected so individuals may take necessary steps if they so desire.
20. Members will **never** allow spectators to handle a weapon or a bayonet.
21. Members will not use drugs nor abuse alcohol at an event.
22. If they observe something that they feel is potentially unsafe, members will make an officer or NCO aware of this immediately.
23. Members will inform an officer or NCO of any medical problem during an event. A buddy will be appointed to anyone with medical concerns.
24. If in doubt **of any safety** concern **STOP** and ask the safety officer, an NCO or an officer first.
25. We will not draw a **saber**, a sword or a knife on the **field** when confrontation is near or in any manner that could put any one in danger.
26. I understand that the treatment of pistols as to inspection, cleanliness and other safety concerns are the same as muskets.

27. Rifles will be inspected prior to each engagement and before leaving the field.
28. No weapon will be brought onto the field other than those approved for re-enacting and those will be set up for reenacting purposes.
29. Members will not get black powder from anyone other than a company NCO or officer or someone they so designate.