

Brief Introduction to Range Safety and Etiquette

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Objectives of Presentation

- Introduce basic concepts of range safety and etiquette
- Clarify material in the range rules and regulations (<u>mandatory reading</u> for all members)
- Provide opportunity for your questions to be answered
- Help Red Brush Rifle Range continue to be "A Safe Place to Shoot"

Multiple Shooting Areas

- The range is segmented into bays
- Each bay can safely operate independent of the others



Bay Layout

- All bays are set up in a similar manner
- Back berm keeps rounds in range
- Side Berms capture ricochets to the side
- Target Area is where targets are placed (not on berms!)
- Firing Line is where shooting takes place



Bays Must Be Shared!

- It is the responsibility of members to share the bays with each other
- To facilitate this there are guidelines all members and guests must follow:
 - Proper operation of their firearms
 - Three rules of gun safety
 - Line commands
 - Safety equipment
 - Types of targets and ammunition
 - Common courtesies

Understand How Your Firearm Operates



- Firearms vary by type and manufacturer
- Read your owners manual!

- 1. <u>Always</u> keep your muzzle pointed in a safe direction
- 2. <u>Always</u> keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot
- 3. <u>Always</u> keep the firearm unloaded until you are ready to shoot

- 1. Always keep your muzzle pointed in a safe direction
- Even if a firearm is unloaded, never let the muzzle point towards someone
- When transporting firearms to the line keep the muzzle pointed straight up (towards sky) or down (towards ground)
- When on the firing line, keep the muzzle pointed toward the back berm (side berms are not a safe direction)

- 2. Always keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot
- Best practice is to put finger on trigger only when sights are on your target
- Be especially careful when holstering pistols, the majority of self shootings occur when attempting to holster with finger on the trigger

- 3. Always keep the firearm unloaded until you are ready to shoot
- Firearms should be unloaded when transporting to/from firing line and any time the bay is not "hot"
- Personal carry arms can be transported loaded if
 - they are secured on the body
 - in a holster which covers trigger
 - mechanical safeties are engaged

What Does "Unloaded" Mean?

- A firearm is treated as unloaded only when it can be visually verified as such
- As an example, best practice for a typical semi-auto is:
 - Magazine out
 - Bolt/action back
 - Safety on
 - Chamber empty
 - "Grounded"- laying flat, no-one touching

Line Commands

- Standardized language to communicate with other shooters on a bay
- Determines status of bay that is, when it is safe to shoot and when it is safe to go down range to change targets
- Visual and verbal confirmation from every shooter on a line is necessary to change status of bay
 - Best practice make eye contact!

Line Commands

- "RANGE IS HOT" shooting can commence with confirmation of all other shooters
- "CLEAR" requests that shooting stops so shooters can safely go down range
- "NO, NOT CLEAR, WAIT" response to "CLEAR" command to indicate it is not yet safe
- "CEASE FIRING" calls for all shooters to <u>immediately</u> stop firing as there is a potential safety issue...it is a RED LIGHT



 "COLD" - range status that means all shooting has stopped and no one is expecting to fire a round but it is not safe to go down range

Demonstration of Line Commands in Action

Safety Equipment - Personal

 Always wear safety glasses when at a bay <u>even if you are not shooting</u>

- minimum ANSI Z87.1/3



 Always wear hearing protection when shooting or near others shooting

Many Good Options Available





Safety Equipment - Club

- The club maintains items in the members room
 - Drinking water avoid dehydration!
 (do not drink water in restrooms)
 - Fire extinguisher
 - First aid supplies/AED
 - Heat / Air Conditioner



 If you use fire extinguisher or first aid supplies <u>please notify a board member</u> so that they can be replenished

Types of Targets & Setup

- Not all targets are acceptable
 - No glass, concrete, electronics, junk
- Do <u>not</u> use barrels
- Use provided target stands correctly

Wrong



Correct



Correct



Types of Targets & Setup cont.

- Shoot steel targets from proper distance
 - 100+ yards rifle & from line for falling plates



Types of Ammunition

- Be aware of ammunition restrictions
 - Certain very powerful cartridges (50 BMG and similar) are restricted on entire range
 - Pistol caliber cartridges only on pistol bays
 - No bottle necked cartridges on marked bays
 - Avoid armor piercing rounds on steel targets
 - Be aware of fire hazards from tracers and incendiary rounds
- Before shooting read the signs at the bay for additional restrictions

Types of Ammunition



bottleneck cartridge

straight wall





Common Courtesies

- Point out unsafe practices immediately
- Be polite and respectful (not defensive)
- Restrict equipment in shooting area to what is immediately being used
 - especially extra, unchecked firearms
- If you have very loud, heavy muzzle blast, or brass flinging firearms increase space from other shooters
- Clean up brass and bring in target stands
- Monitor your guests, especially youths

Next Steps

- On www.redbrush.org
 - Regularly review Range Rules and Regulations

RSS - Red Brush Classifieds

- Sign up for newsletter and <u>emergency alerts</u>
- Take short, fun safety quiz



The range consists of a 500 yard rifle bay, a 375 yard rifle bay, a 100 yard rifle/pistol bay, and 4 additional pistol bays (with ranges of 50-100 yards). <u>View range photos here</u>.

Next Steps cont.

- Consider training to improve your safety and shooting skills
- If you ever have a question regarding safety, contact our range safety officer



Enjoy the Range and Be Safe!