

# Daniel Boone Gun Club - Range Safety Briefing

Safety on the firing range is the sole responsibility of the shooter, he or she needs to have the knowledge, skills and the attitude to make a visit to the range a safe and enjoyable pastime for themselves and or their guests. In addition, everyone needs to be familiar with the NRA rules for safe firearm use and handling, any range specific rules, the limit of the range grounds and impact zone, and a basic knowledge of common range commands. In the unlikely event that an accident occurs everyone present at the range needs to know how to respond in an emergency. **This Range Safety Briefing is provided as a reminder to members, and as a tool for members to use in educating guests and family members they may bring to the range.**

## 1. PURPOSE OF THE SHOOTING RANGE VISIT

- **State** the purpose of being at the range. For many, this will be “recreational shooting”.
- **Provide** an overview of the shooting planned.
- **State** the total numbers of rounds and time available.
- **State** where range personnel will be located. (Range Personnel will normally be present only at scheduled events.)
  - **Introduce** range personnel.
  - **Explain** that their role is to ensure safety.
  - **Indicate** how they may be identified, e.g., orange vest and hat.

## 2. RANGE LAYOUT AND LIMITS

- **Conduct** a range orientation on, or within view of, the range.
- **Point out** key areas of the range and briefly describe actions that occur within each. (Long-range targets, 25, 50, 100-yard target lines, clay thrower.)
- **Explain the Range Layout.** The west boundary is defined by the white posts with the orange tops, the east boundary is defined by the large concrete blocks, and the north boundary is defined by the berm and the rifle butts. All bullets are to remain within these boundaries.
  - **Ready area**--Located behind the firing line where shooters may store and prepare their equipment. The ready area extends to the south edge of the concrete, where the parking area begins.
  - **Firing point**-- The north edge of the concrete is the “firing line”. Shooters may occupy their firing points at the firing line when authorized to do so. Firing points are numbered and correspond to the target numbers. Shooters may only dry fire at the firing line and should only handle firearms when authorized to do so. Carry firearms with action open and muzzle pointed up when moving between firing points.
  - **Backstop**--Located downrange behind the target line. Firearms must always point toward the backstop. All firing should be directed forward from the shooters’ firing points so projectiles impact within designated impact areas.

## 3. RANGE SAFETY RULES

### Three Fundamental NRA Rules for Safe Gun Handling

- *Always* keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.
- *Always* keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
- *Always* keep the gun unloaded until ready to use. Safeties can fail. Safe gun handling rules must be followed all the times.

### Eight Rules for Safe Use of Firearms

- Know your target and what is beyond.
  - The shooter must assure that projectiles will safely impact into the backstop. This means no targets may be placed on the top of the berm or the rifle butts, and no shots are to be fired over the top of the berm or butts.
  - Firing must take place at targets straight ahead to keep all impacts within the range. If you don’t see a berm or backstop directly behind your target you are firing across the range in violation of club rules and putting the safety of others outside the range at risk.
- Be sure the gun is safe to operate.
- 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 ammunition.
- Use only the correct ammunition for your gun.
  - Only 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 case match. This is especially true for antique firearms.
- Wear eye and ear protection as appropriate.
  - 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.

- Users of air guns, including spectators, need eye protection to prevent injuries from ricochets.
- Everyone in the ready area or on the firing line needs eye and hearing protection.
- Never use alcohol or drugs before or while shooting.
  - Never shoot while under the influence of 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.
- Be aware that certain types of guns and many shooting activities may require additional safety precautions.
- Store guns so they are not accessible to unauthorized persons.

### General Range Safety Rules

- Know and obey all range commands.
- Know where others are at all times.
  - When going downrange to set up or change targets communicate your intentions to other shooters on the line before you activate the strobe lights.
- Shoot only at authorized targets.
  - Shooting at different targets, e.g., steel targets, at different distances or angles may result in hazardous conditions. Use of targets which may fragment (such as glass or concrete) or could pose a hazard for mowing is *not permitted*.
  - Exploding targets are *not permitted* on the range.
- Do not handle a firearm while others are downrange.
  - This means do not touch or even move a firearm even from your auto when personnel are down range even if it is unloaded.
- Stop shooting immediately upon the command of “**Cease Firing.**”
  - Anyone on the range can issue the “cease firing” command in an emergency.

### Hygiene Guidelines

- Refrain from eating, drinking, 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 cold 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

- Armor-piercing ammunition and 50 BMG caliber firearms are *not allowed*.
- Exploding targets and exploding or incendiary ammunition are not allowed.
- Rifles, pistols, and shotguns firing conventional ammunition not prohibited by club rules are allowed.
- Muzzle loading firearms, machine guns, and sub-machine guns are allowed.
- All firearms must remain unloaded with actions open except when on the firing line.
- When firearms are benched or grounded, keep the actions open and ejection ports facing upward so chambers are visible with empty chamber indicators in place (ECI’s). ECI’s are provided and are located at either end of the range).
- Leave dropped ammunition and fired brass on the floor until the stage of fire is completed and firearms are benched or grounded.
- Duds or faulty ammunition are to be placed in dud boxes located at various locations on the range, *not* in the trash cans.
- When all firing is complete, and shooters are ready to leave the range dispose of trash in the proper receptacles. If you brought it and it can’t be burned, TAKE IT HOME.

## 4. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

- Take charge of the situation.
- Render aid, (first aid kit is on wall).
- Call for help via cell phone if necessary (call 911).
- Direct help to location.
- Take notes and pictures if applicable (it records who was there as witnesses).
  - No person who is present at the range when an accident occurs should leave the range without first leaving contact information and a brief description of what was observed before, during, and after the accident.