

The Fundamental NRA Rules for Safe Gun Handling

1. **ALWAYS keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.** This is the primary rule of gun safety. A *safe direction* means that the gun is pointed so that even if it were to go off it would not cause injury or damage. The key to this rule is to control where the muzzle or front end of the barrel is pointed at all times. Common sense dictates the safest direction, depending on different circumstances.
2. **ALWAYS keep your finger off the trigger, and outside the trigger guard, until ready to shoot.** When holding a gun, rest your finger above the trigger guard pointing toward the muzzle of the gun. Do not touch the trigger, until you are actually ready to fire.
3. **ALWAYS keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.** Whenever you pick up a gun, immediately engage the mechanical safety if possible. Then, remove the ammunition source (magazine or ammunition from the magazine tube), open the action, visually and physically inspect the chamber(s) and magazine area which should be clear of ammunition, and leave the action open with the mechanical safety engaged. If you do not know how to open the action or inspect the chamber(s), leave the gun alone and get help from someone who does.



The purpose of this guide is to provide a basic understanding of fundamental gun safety rules, range operation, and range command vocabulary for all members.

Keep this guide with you and use it every time you are on the range. You can download additional copies of this brochure from our website.

For complete set of range rules and procedures, refer to the "Range Rules and Procedures Handbook" on our website. A hardcopy of the handbook is available on request.

Thank you,

Board of Directors
Izaak Walton League of Lincoln, Nebraska



Izaak Walton Shooting Range
10801 S. 134th St.
Bennet, NE 68317

(Do not mail correspondence to this address)

Copyright 2011 Izaak Walton League of Lincoln, Nebraska

4/2011

Rifle/Pistol Range Guide



Izaak Walton League of Lincoln, Nebraska



Keep and use this guide while on the range.

www.lincolnikes.org

Arriving At The Range

Spectators: Must remain behind the firing line at all times.

Shooters: Newly arrived shooters may uncase their firearms **only when the firing line is hot and then, only at the firing line.** If the firing line is cold, the shooter must wait to enter the firing line.

Firing Line Commands

Listed below are the firing line commands and the expected shooter's actions, that all members must use and obey on the Pistol and Rifle ranges. In the absence of a Range Safety Officer (RSO), any member issuing the "Cease Fire" command becomes the acting RSO and is responsible for issuing the remaining commands to bring the firing line back to a "Hot" condition.

Under no circumstances shall firing commence or continue on a range where an unsafe condition exists.

The commands in the order that they should be issued are:

1. CEASE FIRING.

Upon hearing this command, **all shooters must immediately cease firing;** keeping muzzles pointed down range while awaiting further instructions or commands from the acting RSO. After waiting approximately 3 seconds, the acting RSO can issue the next command.

2. MAKE THE RANGE SAFE—REMOVE YOUR MAGAZINES, OPEN YOUR ACTIONS, CLEAR YOUR CHAMBERS, AND STEP BEHIND THE FIRING LINE.

Upon hearing these commands the shooter must **render their firearm safe by keeping the muzzle pointed down range, opening the action, engaging the firearm's safety, removing the firearm's ammunition and ammunition source, physically and visually ensuring the firearm's chamber is empty, and inserting an Empty Chamber Indicator (ECI).** With the firearms remaining at the firing line and muzzles pointed down range, shooters must move behind the firing line. Once all range participants have moved behind the firing line, the acting RSO will check the chambers of all uncased firearms. When the acting RSO is satisfied that all firearms and the firing line have been rendered safe, the acting RSO can issue the next command.

3. THE FIRING LINE IS COLD. YOU MAY GO DOWNRANGE AND PLACE, CHECK AND PASTE, OR RETRIEVE YOUR TARGETS. IF NOT DOWNRANGE YOU MUST STAY BEHIND THE FIRING LINE. DO NOT HANDLE FIREARMS WHILE THE LINE IS COLD.

Upon hearing these commands the shooters, as applicable, will quickly move downrange to place, check and paste, or retrieve their targets. **At no time will shooters be permitted at the firing points or anywhere on the firing line while the firing line is cold. At no time can any firearm be handled while the line is cold.** Any shooters not going downrange must remain behind the firing line.

Once the acting RSO is satisfied that all shooters have returned from down range the acting RSO can issue the next command.

4. THE FIRING LINE IS HOT. EYE AND EAR PROTECTION IS REQUIRED. PUT YOUR EYE AND EAR PROTECTION ON NOW. YOU MAY APPROACH THE FIRING LINE AND COMMENCE FIRING.

Upon hearing these commands the **shooters may return to their firing positions, load their firearms and commence firing at their targets** until commanded to cease fire. Everyone on the firing line, whether shooting or not, must use eye and ear protection. Firearms may only be handled at the firing line when the firing line is hot.

Leaving From The Range

Shooters must police their firing point and sweep the area of empty casings or other debris if necessary, and remove their targets before leaving. **The shooter's firearm may only be cased when the line is hot and the firearm's actions, chambers, and magazines are empty.**

Range Availability

In general, all ranges are available Monday-Sunday from sunrise, to sunset. However, one or more ranges may be closed during this period for specific shooting events. Please refer to the "Calendar of Events" on our website and in our newsletter for availability of specific ranges, dates, and times, etc., before you leave for the range.

While your right to own a firearm may be protected by the Bill Of Rights, the privilege of having a safe place to shoot is not.

Printing Instructions

Your printer's "Properties" settings should be set to:

- Page orientation = Landscape
- Print quality = Highest possible

Note: Use the highest quality setting for your printer to ensure maximum readability in the field.

Adobe Reader's "Print" dialog box should be, check and set the following settings:

- Page scaling = None
- Print range = pages 1-2

NOTE: There is no need to print page 3 which contains these instructions.

Folding Instructions

Creating the first page of the brochure:

1. Locate the black vertical fold mark (|) which is positioned near the top edge of the brochure, above and to the left of the brochure's title.
2. Make the first crease on the fold mark and align the top edges with one another.
3. Place the brochure on a table
4. Hold the aligned edges tightly together by pressing down on the brochure and continue the crease down to the bottom edge of the brochure.

Completing the brochure:

5. Open the first page you just folded.
6. Take the right edge of the brochure and place it into the crease, making sure the top and bottom edges of the brochure are even with one another, and hold with your fingers by pressing the brochure against the table.
7. While continuing to hold the page with your fingers, use your thumbs to smooth out the page creating the second crease.
8. You should now have a three-panel brochure.

Place the brochure in your range bag so you will have it with you the next time you go to the range.