

Longarms



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Firearm Safety Course

Revised with the assistance of the
Firearm Safety Foundation (Victoria) Inc.

Instructors



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Please be aware that your instructors are volunteers.

The instructors are firearm users and handlers with vast years of experience.

You may approach the instructors at the end of the course and seek further advice as to clubs and contacts.



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Please turn off all mobile phones for the duration of the course.

YOUR CONCENTRATION during the course may save the life of another person when you are using firearms.

Objectives



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- Firearm Information
- Firearm Safety Rules
- Firearm Video
- Law – Firearms Act 1996
- Exam – Firearms Safety Rules
- Exam - Law

Firearm Accidents



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Prospective firearm owners and shooters must be fully aware of their responsibilities to:

- THEMSELVES
- THEIR FAMILIES
- AND TO EVERYONE ELSE

Therefore basic firearm safety must be known and applied at all times when using and storing firearms .



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Are firearms dangerous?



Firearm Safety Rules



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1. Treat every firearm as being loaded
2. Always point firearms in a safe direction
3. Load a firearm only when ready to fire
4. Identify your target beyond all doubt
5. Check your firing zone
6. Store firearms and ammunition safely
7. Avoid alcohol or drugs when handling firearms
8. Never have loaded firearms in the car, camp or home.
9. Never fire at hard surfaces or water
10. Do not climb fences or obstacles with loaded firearms.

OBSERVE THE CODE

**INSIST OTHERS DO THE SAME LEARN, PRACTICE,
TEACH AND PROMOTE THE FIREARM SAFETY RULES**

Firearm Types and Actions



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A Category Firearms

Air Rifles



Single Barrel Shotguns



Rimfire Rifles



Double Barrel Shotguns



Firearm Types and Actions



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B Category Firearms

Lever Action Centre
Fire Rifle



Pump Action Centre
Fire Rifle



Firearm Types and Actions



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Category C Semi-Automatic Firearms



Firearm Safety Rule - 1



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Treat every firearm as being loaded

- Point the muzzle in a safe direction
- Open the action
- Inspect the chamber/magazine
- Finger off the trigger
- Don't take anyone's word
- Don't know how to open it?



LEAVE IT ALONE ? ASK

**Always point Firearms in a Safe Direction, be aware of the presence of other
hunters in your group**





Always point firearms in a safe direction

- Always point the muzzle in a safe direction
- “A safe direction” will depend on where you are
- Don’ t point a firearm at anyone else or yourself
- Don’ t allow careless habits to form
- Concentrate

Safe Direction:-

Is a direction that, should the firearm discharge, there would be no loss of life, no injury to another person, or yourself and/or minimal damage to property

Load a Firearm ONLY when ready to fire





Load a firearm only when ready to fire

Only load in an area where it can be safely and legally discharged.

Only load your ammunition into the magazine when you have reached your shooting area.

DO NOT load the chamber until you are ready to shoot.

Unload the chamber when not firing a shot.

Unload completely with no rounds in the chamber or magazine before leaving a shooting area or entering a hut or camp.

Identify your target beyond all doubt





Identify your target beyond all doubt

NEVER FIRE until you are absolutely certain. Your target must be positively identified before firing; if in doubt

DO NOT SHOOT

Do not fire at –

MOVEMENT ONLY

COLOUR ONLY

SOUND ONLY

SHAPE ONLY

SIZE and **LOCATION** are also helpful in assisting you to

Identify your target

Firearm Safety Rule - 4



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Identify your target beyond all doubt, cont.

Before you shoot! Ask Yourself “is this a person”?

This will focus your mind towards expecting to see a person, rather than assuming it is an animal.

Keep your finger away from the trigger until you are **ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN** it is safe to fire.

Remember it is always the responsibility of the shooter to clearly identify the target.

This is regardless of whatever strategies other hunters may or may not use to be seen.

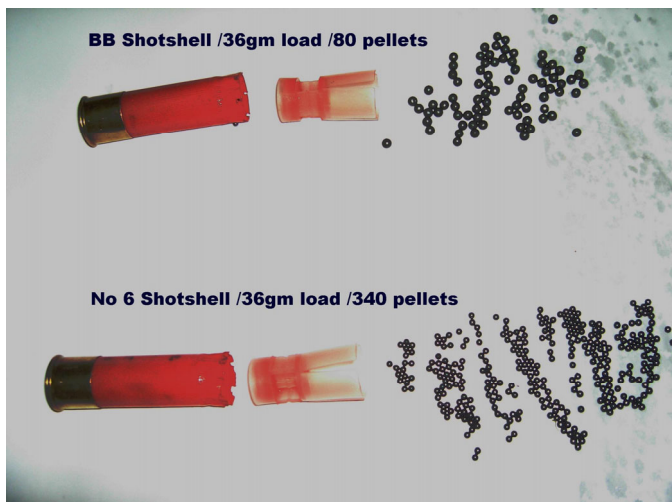
Firearm Safety Rule - 5



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Check you firing zone

The firing zone of shotguns requires special attention because the shot pattern becomes wider at longer distances .



Firearm Safety Rule - 5



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Check Your Firing Zone

Special care is required when using spotlights or telescopic sights as they limit your field of view.

What is to the left or right of your target?

What is behind your target?

What is between you and your target?



Check your firing zone make sure there is nothing between you and your target



Firearm Safety Rule - 5



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Check Your Firing Zone cont.

Danger ranges –

22Rimfire

Approx. 1500 metres

303 /30-06Centrefire

Approx. 4000 metres

12Gauge Shotguns

Approx. 300 metres

Air rifle

Approx. 150 metres

Firearm Safety Rule - 6



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Store firearms and ammunition separately

Store firearms and ammunition separately in locked containers

This is now law and will be covered in more detail in the law section.



Avoid alcohol or drugs when handling firearms

Alcohol, drugs and firearms don't mix

Good judgement is the key to the safe handling and use of firearms

Alcohol and drugs can dull and slow your mental and physical reactions

This is now law and will be covered in more detail in the law section.

Never have loaded firearms in the home, car or camp.



Firearm Safety Rule - 8



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Never have loaded firearms in the home, car or camp

Before entering the home, a car or camp –

- Point the muzzle in a safe direction
- Ensure that the action of every firearm is open
- That there are no rounds in the chamber or magazine

ONLY EVER LOAD IN YOUR SHOOTING AREA

Firearm Safety Rule - 9



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Never fire at hard surfaces or water

A ricochet will almost certainly result from shooting at hard, smooth, flat surfaces, water or rocks.



Do not climb fences or other obstacles with loaded firearms



Firearm Safety Rule - 10



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Do not climb fences or obstacles with loaded firearms

Before attempting to climb through a fence or negotiate any obstacle, make sure that your firearm is unloaded

An obstacle is any situation that **MAY** cause you to lose
Control of the muzzle

Firearm Safety Rules



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Personal Safety in the Field



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When going on hunting trip it is advised to:

- **Tell somebody where you are going.**
- Carry your own personal safety equipment in your day pack in case of an emergency. Items such as Mobile phone, First Aid kit, Knife, Lighter, Compass, GPS, wet weather jacket, torch or headlamp, spare batteries and an EPIRB should be considered.
- Deer hunters travelling in remote areas should consider purchasing/hiring an EPIRB



Ditches and Streams

Beware of slippery rocks, submerged logs or rocks.



Handling firearms in the field



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- **Ditches and streams**
- **Muzzle conscious, if not in control, unload**
- **Margin of safety**
- **Stumbling and falling**
- **Safety catches, aid to safe handling**



- **Zeroing Sights**
- **Identify Target**
- **Telescopic Sights Looking for Game**
- **Semi Auto Firearms,**
- **Have to Use Safety Catch, Test Safety Catch**

Handling in the field

Use binoculars to identify your target and not the rifle scope



Handling firearms in the field



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- **Half open bolt or semi-readiness**
- **Only load in shooting / hunting area**
- **Dawn/dusk**
- **Back stop**
- **Checking barrel of lever / pump action firearm**

- **Handling firearms in the field.
Half open bolt or a state of semi readiness**



Handling firearms in the field



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- **Correct ammunition**
- **Strange noises**
- **Barrel obstruction**
- **Hammer firearms**
- **Damascus twist barrels**



Handling in the field Exposed hammer firearms



Handling firearms in the field



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Demonstrate

- Break open firearm
- Bolt action firearm
- Lever action firearm
- Pump action firearm
- Hammer Firearms
- Pay special attention to tubular magazines



Possible ways of carrying firearms safely

Cradle carry



Handling firearms in the field



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Possible ways of carrying firearms safely

Side carry



Handling firearms in the field



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Possible ways of carrying firearms safely

Two handed
carry



Handling firearms in the field



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Possible ways of carrying firearms safely

Sling carry





The law relating to firearms

There are four main sources of official information

- Firearms Act
- Firearms Regulations
- Wildlife Act
- Wildlife Regulations



Firearm Categories

With the introduction of the Firearms Act 1996, firearm licences were classified by category. The licences are:

- Category A, B, C, D, E (longarms)
- Junior (longarm and handgun)
- General category and E category handgun
- Category 1 & 2 firearm collector
- Antique handgun
- Ammunition collector
- Heirloom
- Dealer
- Paintball marker



Category A Licence

With a category A licence, you may possess, carry or use:

- Airgun / Air Rifles
- Rimfire rifle (not a semi-automatic)
- Shotgun (not a pump action or semi-automatic)
- Combination of a shotgun and a rimfire rifle



Category B Licence

With a Category B licence, you may possess, carry or use:

- Muzzle loading firearm
- Centre fire rifle (not an automatic or semi-automatic)
- Combination of a shotgun and centre fire rifle (not an automatic or semi-automatic shotgun or rifle or pump action shotgun)
- Black powder, ball firing cannon

Category B licence allows you to possess, carry or use category A firearms



Junior Licence

Junior licence is issued to:

- Person of or over 12 years and under 18 years of age
- To carry or use Category A or B longarms, Category C longarms (being shotguns) or General Category handguns
- For the purpose of receiving instruction in the use of such firearms or engaging in sport or target shooting competitions
- Must be under the immediate supervision of an adult licence holder at all times when using or carrying a firearm



Other category licences

Contact the Divisional Firearms Officer

- Licence applications
- Data cards
- Licence
- Full birth certificate



Carrying Firearms

The carriage of loaded firearms in any type of transport or public place is an extremely dangerous practice and is against the law



Travelling in a vehicle

Your firearm should be stored out of sight, preferably in a lockable gun case when travelling.

Must be unloaded at all times.

Ammunition stored in a locked container, preferably separate from the firearm.

Must take reasonable precautions to ensure that the firearm and ammunition are not lost or stolen

When removing a firearm from a vehicle, it should be removed butt first

NEVER MUZZLE FIRST

Remove Firearms butt first from a vehicle





Camping - Backpacking or Hiking

You must either leave a licensed person in camp to look after any firearms, or

Take your firearms with you.

You must take reasonable precautions to ensure that firearms and ammunition are not lost or stolen.



Lost firearms during transportation

Person carrying or using a firearm must –

Ensure that the firearm is carried and used in a manner that is secure and is not dangerous, and

Must take reasonable precautions to ensure that firearms and ammunition are not lost or stolen



Firearm Lost, Destroyed or Stolen

What do you do?

You must notify the police if your firearms are lost, destroyed, or stolen **within 24 hours after becoming aware of that loss, destruction or theft.**



Moving Address

When moving address, changing storage or postal address

You must notify police of a change of address, in writing, **within 14 days** of moving.

This applies to a change of storage, postal or residential address.

A [change of details form](#) can be found on the Victoria Police website www.police.vic.gov.au.



Permit to Acquire

A firearm licence holder must obtain a permit to acquire before purchasing or taking ownership of a firearm

There is a mandatory 28 day waiting period before the issue of your first permit.

Applications available online, through firearm dealers and at police stations.

PERMITS TO ACQUIRE ARE ONLY ISSUED BY THE LICENSING AND REGULATION DIVISION



Firearm Registration

All firearms owned, possessed or carried by a firearm licence holder must be registered.

Unwanted firearms can be surrendered or disposed of to:

- Licensed Firearms Dealers, or
- Local police stations



Category A & B firearm storage

When not in use where must Category A & B firearms be stored?

The firearm must be stored in a purpose-built steel storage receptacle that—

- (a) is of a thickness of at least 1.6 mm that complies with Australian/New Zealand Standard 1594:2002 (as amended from time to time), and
- (b) if the receptacle weighs less than 150 kilograms when it is empty, must be bolted to the structure of the premises where the firearm is authorised to be kept, and
- (c) is locked with a lock of sturdy construction when the firearm is stored in it.





Ammunition storage

Where must ammunition be stored?

Ammunition must be stored in a locked container **separate** from the receptacle in which the firearm must be stored.





Firearms and ammunition being carried or used

Obligations when carrying/using firearms and ammunitions

A person who is carrying or using cartridge ammunition must ensure that the cartridge ammunition is carried and used in a manner that is secure and is not dangerous; and must take all reasonable precautions to ensure that the cartridge ammunition is not lost or stolen.



Private Property

Does a firearm licence entitle you to shoot on private property?

You may only shoot on private property with the owners permission - the permission may be either written or verbal



Authority to demand licence

Who has this Authority?

Any member of the police force; or

An **Authorised Officer** under Section 83 of the Conservation Forest and Lands Act 1987 has the authority to demand that you produce your firearms licence when you are in possession of a firearm.

It is an offence to fail to produce your licence.



Firearm / Ammunition Possession

What does the licence allow you to possess/carry and own?

- You are only allowed to possess, carry or use the category of firearm specified on your licence.
- You may only possess ammunition for the category of licence that you possess.
- You may not possess firearms or ammunition unless you are the holder of a licence.

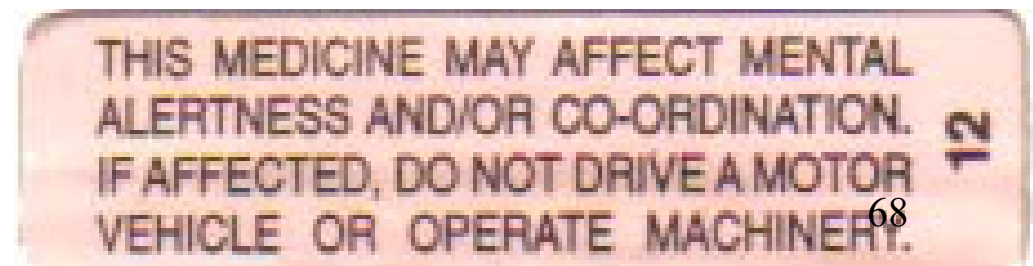
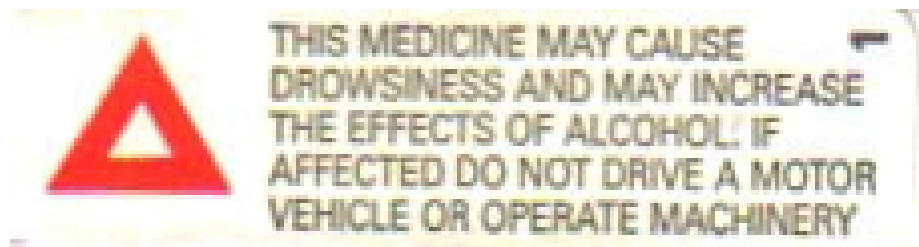


Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs

Can you use/carry firearms when under the influence of alcohol or drugs?

It is an offence to carry or use a firearm while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Includes legal and prescription drugs, any medication that warns about driving or using equipment after use.





Game Licence

A firearm licence holder must be in possession of a Game Licence to hunt:

- DUCK
- QUAIL
- DEER

Any member of the police force; or

An **Authorised Officer** under Section 83 of the Conservation Forest and Lands Act 1987 has the authority to demand that you produce your Game Licence when you are hunting

The END

Any Questions?

