

**The General Regulations of
Captain John Alexander's Company of
The Seventh Regiment of The Pennsylvania Continental Line:
Appendix C,
Firearms Safety**

General:

Firearms safety is an important consideration in a group such as ours, which demonstrates before the public the use of firearms in 18th century warfare. The following items are pertinent to our use of muzzle loading weapons and must be adhered to by everyone.

- a.* Absolutely no smoking when handling black powder.
- b.* Do not point a weapon at anyone.
- c.* Fire only when commanded or approved.
- d.* Keep hands, face, and any other body parts away from the muzzle at all times.
- e.* All blanks to be loaded with 80 grains, and must be prepared authentically.
- f.* Watch those around you for mistakes and inform an NCO of mistakes immediately.
- g.* Remember to always remove your ramrod before firing.
- h.* Ramrods are not to be used when "skirmishing" against other troops.
- i.* Do not fire blanks at other troops when within 50 feet. NCO's must enforce this.
- j.* All firearms weapons must be fitted with a properly fitted hammerstall and flashguard in good condition before being used in any demonstration, drill, or "skirmish". The hammerstall is to be kept on the hammer (the steel) at all times except just before being given the command to fire. It is to be placed back upon the hammer immediately after firing or attempting to fire.
- k.* All men in the ranks under 16 years of age will use a wooden snapper instead of a flint.
- l.* All "recruits" or guests of the Company in the ranks will be required to use a wooden snapper until given approval of the ranking NCO to use a flint.
- m.* All Active-military members are required to possess and carry a wooden snapper. This is to be used in drill when blank rounds are not to be fired. All NCO's will carry at least one extra wooden snapper.
- n.* Make sure that your flint is properly mounted and is sparking appropriately. A poor flint will lead to more misfires.
- o.* Clean your weapon after each use, immediately if possible, inside and out, and carry the equipment and supplies to do so. Running hot water down the bore until it comes out clean is a start. A clean weapon reduces the risk of a misfire, which is an unsafe condition.
- p.* Report all misfires immediately to a NCO for proper and safe clearing procedures.
- q.* Ramrods are to be "sprung" after firing ammunition.
- r.* Be aware that flints are razor sharp. Prime safely, no matter what the urgency.
- s.* When you have an opportunity to do "live firing" at a range, do so. The experience may enhance your understanding of the need for firearms safety and vigilance at all times, even when firing blanks. It will definitely increase your understanding of the actual capabilities of a Brown Bess.
- t.* **PAY ATTENTION AT ALL TIMES.**