# Safety Manual

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES

## Historic Weapons, Black Powder, Living History Exhibits, Demonstrations, and Reenactments

## 2026

Historic Sites Division

This manual was prepared by the Historic Weapons & Black Powder Committee of the Texas Historical Commission – Historic Sites Division at the direction of Historic Sites Division Leadership. Questions, comments, concerns, and clarifications regarding the contents of this manual, historic weapons, black powder, or closely associated subjects should be directed to the Committee at historicweapons@thc.texas.gov.

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# Introduction

The Historic Sites Division (HSD) of the Texas Historical Commission (THC) is committed to the safe demonstration of historic weapons and/or propellants, living history, and other associated historical activities. This Safety Manual is a set of minimum standards designed to ensure safe practice of those activities. Site Managers and/or Safety Officers are empowered to implement additional safety measures that better suit their site, event operations or other specific circumstances. **However**, **no site may relax the standards outlined in this document.** The Site Manager has the right to remove any individual or group from state property due to unsafe activity or if any of these standards or additional site-specific safety standards are not met.

Site Managers will designate a Safety Officer. Additional Safety Officer(s) may be appointed for events where many participants and public are present. The Site Manager may serve as or appoint a Safety Officer to supervise the coordination of Safety Officers at each event. Safety Officers must be familiar with the standards set forth in this manual and are responsible for maintaining the minimum standards of this manual and any additional standards imposed during an event or demonstration.

**All participants in living history demonstrations must fill out the Release of Liability Waiver prior to their participation in the event**. This form is valid for up to one year at each specific site. Participants under the age of 18 must have a waiver signed by a parent or guardian to participate in any event at a THC Site.

**No person under the age of 18 may participate in living history demonstrations without adult supervision.**

**No individual will be allowed to participate in living history or reenacting events if they are found to be under the influence of a controlled substance or are intoxicated.**

# Glossary

- **Adult Supervision:** the direct observation of a legal minor (<18 years old) by a legal adult (>18 years old). The legal adult does not have to be the legal minor's parent or legal guardian, but written permission for said adult's supervision MUST be given by said minor's parent or legal guardian.
- **Ammunition:** Blank cartridges, black powder, or any propellant charge that will be used in any demonstrations.
- **Ammunition Container:** Cartridge box, shot bag, hunting pouch, crate or other kind of container that is being used to store ammunition used in Demonstrations or Opposing Lines/Tactical Demonstrations.
- **Artillery Piece:** Any form of cannon, gun, howitzer, mortar, or other non-handheld firearm where the bore is greater than 1.5 inches. Any large-bore, carriage-mounted weapon.
- **Artillery Battery**: A group of more than one Artillery Piece used in a demonstration, overseen by a Battery Commander.
- **Automatic Weapon**: Any weapon that has the capacity for fully automatic fire, or consistent rapid fire attained by the continuous holding down of the trigger mechanism. Firearms that only discharge a single round per trigger pull are considered semi-automatic and are covered under guidelines used for Cartridge Weapons.
- **Battery Commander**: A Participant who has been placed in authority of an artillery battery.
- **Black Powder Weapon**: Any weapon that uses loose black powder, either from a powder container (i.e. powder flask) or from rolled paper cartridges. Weapons that fire black powder packed in metallic cartridges are considered Cartridge Weapons.
- **Cartridge Weapon**: Any weapon that uses a metallic-cased cartridge for ammunition.
- **Cease-Fire**: An order called to immediately end all weapons discharges by all participants in a given demonstration area. Any participant is able to call a Cease-Fire, but only a Site Manager or Safety Officer may end a Cease-Fire once called.
- **Chief of the Piece**: A Participant placed in authority over a single Artillery Piece and its crew. In most historic drill practice, this person is referred to as "gun captain" or "gunner".
- **Demonstration**: Any performance/activity that involves the full use of any inherently unsafe element of living history including, but not limited to, firearms, artillery, edged and/or blunt weapons, camp/cooking fires, livestock, etc.
- **Domesticate(s)**: A commonly domesticated animal that is typically understood to be a "house pet" including, but not limited to dogs and cats.
- **Dummy Round**: An inert representation of live ordnance. Dummy rounds may include accurate projectiles but may NOT include ANY propellant or active ignition components. Expended shells (with spent primers), sand/salt filled paper cartridges, sawdust/sand filled artillery charges with projectile ordnance are all acceptable.
- **Edged Weapon**: any purpose-built weapon that has a nominally sharp edge(s) that could inflict cuts, punctures, slashes, etc. including, but not limited to, knives, swords, sabers, axes, hatchets, poleaxes, bayonets, spears, lances, etc. It must be

noted that edged weapons differ from edged tools in that "weapons" are purpose-built to inflict wounds by design. "Tools" are bladed objects that can inflict wounds but are not intended to in their construction or design.

- **Edged Tools**: any purpose-built tool that has a nominally sharp edge(s) that could inflict cuts, punctures, slashes, etc. including, but not limited to, knives, axes, hatchets, saws, chisels, blades, cutters, scissors, shears, scythes, farm equipment, etc. It must be noted that edged tools differ from edged weapons in that "tools" categorize bladed objects that can inflict wounds but are not intended to in their construction or design. "Weapons" are purpose-built to inflict wounds by design.
- **Equine(s)**: Horses, donkeys, mules, or any other animal that falls into the horse family.
- **Equine Owner/Rider**: The person primarily responsible for a given Equine animal while at a Site or Event. A Rider might not be the Owner of said Equine, documentation proving the legal use/possession of said Equine must be provided to the Site Manager/Site Safety Personnel during pre-registration/event check-in in these cases.
- **Event**: Any program where multiple demonstrations and/or opposing lines/tactical demonstrations are being conducted. Any single or multi-day program that involves the erection of encampments, setting of campfires, corralling/picketing of livestock, or other temporary addition to normal site operations/functions.
- **Firearm**: Any handheld weapon that involves the combustion of propellant/fuel and/or the discharge of a projectile including, but not limited to, black powder weapons, cartridge weapons, automatic weapons, facsimile weapons, etc.
- **Historic Sites (HS) Safety Officer**: The individual responsible for the development and implementation of the Historic Sites safety program. Acts as a resource and reviewer for general safety procedures.
- **Live Ammunition**: Any ammunition that contains a projectile including, but not limited to: lead balls, conical bullets, bird/buck shot, lead slugs, wooden plugs, or any other non-combustible item that would become a projectile object upon weapon discharge.
- **Livestock**: Any animal that is not defined as an equine or domesticate including, but not limited to cattle, oxen, bison/buffalo, poultry, sheep, goats, rodents etc.
- **Misfire**: When a weapon fails to discharge as intended at the moment of ignition/triggering.
- **Opposing Lines/Tactical Demonstration**: a Demonstration/Event that involves two or more opposing forces portraying combat or other tactical situation/action. Any Demonstration that involves the discharge of firearms in the rough direction of other Participants, the public, and other personnel at a THC Site.
- **Participant:** Any person, whether a volunteer, Agency Staff, or non-Agency Staff, who is taking part in an event, demonstration, or opposing lines/tactical demonstration at a THC Site.
- **Public:** Individuals who are attending an Event at a THC Site that are not actively involved in living history Demonstrations, Event Management, or Site Operations. This includes, but is not limited to, site visitors, vendors, stakeholders, off-duty Agency Staff, etc.
- **Safety Officer**: A THC staff member designated by the Site Manager to ensure

adherence to this safety manual during demonstrations and opposing line/tactical demonstrations.

- **Scaled artillery:** Any reproduction artillery piece that is reduced in size from its original model(s) in casting, manufacture, post-manufacture modification, or mounting. This includes artillery pieces that have post-manufacture bore sleeves designed to reduce bore size, are mounted on reduced-sized carriages, or are generally proportionally smaller than the weapon they purport to represent.
- **Site:** Any THC-managed property that is classified as a State Historic Site or any property where THC personnel are placed in charge of the safe management/coordination of an event.
- **Site Manager**: The THC employee in charge of, and responsible for, a THC State Historic Site or THC-managed property.
- **Zone of Fire**: The safety area to be marked out for the proper and safe firing of weapons and artillery pieces.

# Section I: General Safety Guidelines

Site Managers, Safety Officers, Site Staff, and Volunteers should always act with safety in mind and with constant vigilance toward mitigating risk as practically as possible. While quality interpretation/education are essential to the mission of the THC and HS, safety must be prioritized to protect all involved including Agency Staff, Support Staff, Volunteers, and the Public.

The following subsections outline general guidelines which are applicable in all situations regarding the various aspects of living history.

1. *Firearms (i.e. muskets, rifles, pistols, cartridge weapons, automatic weapons, black powder ammunition, blank cartridges, artillery, carriage-mounted weapons, etc.)*:
    a. The safe operation of firearms is the responsibility of the individual(s) using the piece. Site Managers, Site Safety Officer(s) and Agency Staff reserve the right to prohibit any individual from using any specific or general weapons at any time for any reason.
    b. All firearms operators are to abide by fundamental gun safety rules: **1)** treat every weapon as though it were loaded; **2)** keep weapon muzzles always pointed in a safe direction away from people and animals; **3)** keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to fire.
    c. Live ammunition is **NEVER ALLOWED** on THC-managed property during living history demonstrations/events.
    d. No one under the age of 16 may handle or demonstrate weapons in demonstrations or opposing lines/tactical demonstrations. Any volunteer under the age of 18 must have direct adult supervision. Any legal minor must have written permission from a parent or legal guardian to participate in any demonstrations and/or opposing lines/tactical demonstrations. Demonstrations and opposing lines/tactical demonstrations involving weapons of any kind are restricted to volunteers age 14 and above.
    e. A zone of fire must be established by the Site Manager or Safety Officer prior to any demonstration or opposing lines/tactical demonstration.
    f. Firearms may not be fired inside buildings, historic structures, or vehicles.
    g. Demonstrations and opposing lines/tactical demonstrations must be scheduled and approved by the Site Manager and announced to the visiting public prior to their commencement.
    h. All weapons must arrive onsite clean and unloaded.
    i. All weapons must be inspected by the Safety Officer prior to their use in any demonstrations or opposing lines/tactical demonstrations. Inspected weapons will receive a token indicating their acceptable inspection status. Weapons that do not pass inspection or have not been inspected by the Safety Officer may not be used in demonstrations or opposing lines/tactical demonstrations under any circumstances. See **Section VII:** for appropriate Inspection Checklists.

j. All weapons must be properly carried by individuals and stored/secured when not in use.
k. All weapons must be unloaded when not in use.
l. All ammunition must be properly carried and/or stored in appropriate and approved ammunition containers. When ammunition is not in use, it must be securely stored away from the public.
m. Moveable ammunition containers must not be left unattended during public visiting hours.
n. Smoking/open flames are prohibited within 10 feet of stored small arms ammunition. A minimum of 30 feet from smoking/open flames is required for artillery/large-bore weaponry ammunition.
o. Inert, or "dummy" ammunition is authorized for display/explanatory purposes, but it must be stored separately from blank or black powder ammunition.
p. Expended cartridges are to be policed and properly disposed of following demonstrations or opposing lines/tactical demonstrations and may NOT be given to the public.
q. Ground burst or aerial pyrotechnics are prohibited in opposing lines/tactical demonstrations.

2. *Edged Weaponry (i.e. swords, sabers, knives, bayonets, hatchets, etc.)*:
    a. All edged weapons must be dulled and/or blunted if used in demonstrations.
        i. Edged tools used in living history demonstrations such as cooking, campfire management, carpentry, etc. must be sharp to be safely used. Site Manager and Safety Officer will use discretion when inspecting edged weapons to determine use in demonstrations. Edged "tools" will not be allowed in opposing lines/tactical demonstrations.
    b. All edged weapons must have appropriate scabbard or sheath and must be appropriately stored when not in active use.
    c. Edged weapons may not be in active use without approval of the Site Manger or Safety Officer.
    d. The public may not handle edged weapons under any circumstances.
    e. Throwing demonstrations with edged weapons is prohibited on THC-managed property.

# Section II: Black Powder Firearms

The following guidelines are specifically for firearms that utilize black powder, paper cartridges, powder flasks, etc. (i.e. muskets, rifles, pistols, etc.). Firearms using metallic cartridges are addressed in a later section.

1. *General Information*:
    a. Weapons must be clean, unloaded, in good working order, and free of rust, pitting, cracks, or other damage/debris to pass inspection. Refer to Black Powder Weapon Inspection Checklist in Section VII.

2. *Ammunition*:
    a. Ammunition used in black powder demonstrations must be appropriately and consistently measured. Pre-measured cartridges and graduated or static powder measures are acceptable. See **Appendix B** for maximum loads for black powder weapons.
    b. Pre-measured cartridges may not contain any substances besides gun powder including, but not limited to, flour, corn meal, gun wadding, oatmeal, cotton, etc. Non-combustible materials such as plastic, staples, cotton, foil, etc. are also prohibited.
    c. Pouring powder directly from powder flasks/horns into weapon muzzles or priming pans is strictly prohibited.
    d. Ammunition containers must be made of non-sparking material. Tools and spare parts required for weapon use/maintenance must be stored in a separate compartment from any ammunition.

3. *Loading/Firing*:
    a. Participants must use appropriate loading techniques in accordance with weapon manufacturers' recommendations, documented historic military drill, or methods reviewed and approved by Safety Officer.

4. *Zone of Fire*:
    a. The public may not be within 10 feet in ANY direction of a black powder firearms demonstration.
    b. No person may be within 30 yards in front of a demonstration from a 45-degree angle to the position of the demonstrator.
    c. See **Appendix A** for illustration of Zone of Fire for Firearms Demonstrations.

5. *Opposing Lines/Tactical Demonstrations*:
    a. Refer to **Appendix A** for Table of Minimum Distances for Opposing Lines/Tactical Demonstrations.
    b. Ramrods may not be used in opposing line/tactical demonstrations.

# Section III: Cartridge Weapons, Automatic Weapons, and Blank Ammunition

The following guidelines are specifically for firearms that utilize metallic cartridges, smokeless powder, crimped/blank ammunition, etc. This section also covers the use of automatic weapons. Firearms using black powder are addressed in the previous section. The National Museum of the Pacific War has specific guidelines and standard operating procedures for demonstrations at the "Pacific Combat Zone."

1. *General Guidelines*:
    a. Blank firing adapters (as needed) must be in good condition, of proper size and manufacture, and appropriately installed.
    b. Weapons must be clean, unloaded, in good working order, and free of rust, pitting, cracks, or other damage/debris to pass inspection. See Section VII for Cartridge Weapon/Automatic Weapon Inspection Checklists.

2. *Ammunition*:
    a. Live ammunition is strictly prohibited on THC-managed property during events and demonstrations.
    b. Dummy rounds for visual aids/interpretation must be inspected by Safety Officer in addition to blank ammunition inspections.
    c. Dummy rounds must be stored and handled separately from blank ammunition used for demonstrations and opposing lines/tactical demonstrations.
    d. Expended brass must be policed at the conclusion of each demonstration. Expended brass may not be given to the public.
    e. Wax-tipped blanks, paper wadding, wooden bullets, florist foam or any blank that will have any kind of projectile are prohibited. The only acceptable cartridge packing materials are, packing peanuts, cream of wheat, or corn meal.
    f. Crimped commercially loaded blanks are acceptable and encouraged.
    g. Shotgun blanks will be either commercially loaded blanks with sawdust wadding for black powder or "poppers" with modern powder. Self-loaded shotgun blanks are not allowed.
    h. All ammunition must be inspected prior to a participant's use of blank-operating weapons.

3. *Automatic Weapons*:
    a. Any automatic weapon must be pre-registered with the Site Manager and Safety Officer prior to the event.

b. Any Participant wishing to use an automatic weapon at a Site must provide copies of their appropriate Federal Government Paperwork to the Site Manager prior to arrival at the Site.
c. Facsimile weapons (gas-operated platforms, blank-firing only weapons, etc.) must be operated according to manufacturer's recommendations/guidelines.

4. *Loading/Firing*:
    a. Participants must use appropriate loading techniques in accordance with weapon manufacturers' recommendations, documented historic military drill, or methods reviewed and approved by Safety Officer.
    b. Magazines must be retained as they are expended/exchanged. Clips must be policed after the conclusion of a demonstration or opposing lines/tactical demonstration.

5. *Zone of Fire*:
    a. The visiting public may not be within 10 feet in ANY direction of a cartridge weapon small arms or automatic weapon demonstration.
    b. No person may be within 30 yards in front of a demonstration from a 45-degree angle to the position of the demonstrator.
    c. See **Appendix A** for illustration of Zone of Fire for Firearms Demonstrations.

# Section IV: Artillery

The following guidelines are specifically for artillery as defined in the Glossary.

1. *General Guidelines*:
    a. All Artillery pieces must be pre-registered with the Site Manager and Safety Officer prior to events or demonstrations.
    b. Scaled artillery is not permitted at THC sites or THC-managed events.
    c. Artillery Batteries are under the direct supervision of the Battery Commander. In Opposing Lines/Tactical Demonstrations, at least one Safety Officer should be appointed per Battery, in addition to the Battery Commander.
    d. A minimum crew of three is required to operate a gun, including the Chief of the Piece. Safety Officer and Battery Commanders reserve the right to determine if additional crew are needed to serve any Artillery Piece at any time for any reason.
    e. All crew members must wear clothing made of natural fiber. Crew members serving in the "Number 1", or "Number 2" positions must wear 100% wool top and bottom outer garments. The "Number 3" position must wear, at a minimum, a 100% wool top garment that covers the torso and arms to the wearer's wrist.
        i. Certified fire-retardant clothing may be substituted at the discretion of the Site Manager.
    f. All Battery Commanders and Chiefs of the Piece must be familiar with this THC Safety Manual with special attention to this section.
    g. All Artillery Demonstrations must be overseen by a Safety Officer, Battery Commander, or Chief of the Piece.

2. *Ammunition*:
    a. See **Appendix B** for instructions on proper charge construction.
    b. Charges must contain the appropriate amount of Cannon-grade or 1F black powder. See **Appendix B** for the Table of Maximum Loads for Artillery Charges. Charges may not exceed manufacturers' recommendations for said artillery piece, if applicable.
    c. Charges may not contain any substances besides gun powder including, but not limited to, flour, corn meal, gun wadding, oatmeal, cotton, etc.
    d. Charges must be kept in a secure, locked ammunition container outside of active demonstrations or opposing lines/tactical demonstrations.
    e. During active demonstrations, when ammunition containers are unlocked, there must be a participating Crew Member, Chief of the Piece, Battery Commander, or Safety Officer within arms-reach of said container.
    f. Ammunition containers must be no closer to the rear of the Artillery Piece than 10 yards. This container must be placed 10 yards from the public.

g. Ammunition containers must open away from the rear of the piece and may not be propped open.
h. Charges must be carried from ammunition containers to muzzle of Artillery pieces one at a time in a leather haversack or pouch.
i. All artillery ammunition must be inspected prior to their use at a Site or an Event. See Section VII for Artillery Weapon Checklist.

3. *Loading/Firing*:
   a. All Crews must demonstrate a servicing, loading, firing, and misfire drill to Safety Officer and their respective Battery Commander during their pre-demonstration inspection.
   b. Participants must use appropriate servicing, loading, firing, and misfire techniques in accordance with documented historic drill or methods reviewed and approved by Safety Officer and Battery Commanders.
   c. Artillery Pieces may not fire any more than one round every three (3) minutes.

4. *Zone of Fire*:
   a. **Appendix A** illustrates the appropriate layout for a single Artillery Piece's Zone of Fire.
   b. The visiting public may not be within 20 yards in ANY direction of an artillery piece during a demonstration or opposing line/tactical demonstration.
   c. Markers are to be placed 75 yards in front of and 25 yards across the left and right (centered on the muzzle of the artillery piece) to indicate the Zone of Fire.
   d. Physical markers/barriers need to be erected prior to demonstrations that clearly indicate the Zone of Fire to the visiting public, Site Staff, and Volunteers, and should be easily visible to Artillery crew members, Safety Officer, Battery Commanders, and Chiefs of the Piece.
   e. Any breach of the Zone of Fire at any point during a demonstration requires an immediate Cease-Fire.
   f. Artillery Pieces in Battery must be at least 7 yards apart, hub to hub.
   g. Artillery Pieces may not fire in the direction of buildings unless they are more than 100 yards from the muzzle.
   h. Artillery pieces must be no closer than 40 yards to Historic Buildings/Structures and must fire away from them at an angle greater than 45 degrees.

5. *Opposing Lines/Tactical Demonstrations*:
   a. See **Appendix A** for illustrations regarding minimum safe distances for opposing artillery in Opposing Lines/Tactical Demonstrations.
   b. The Zone of Fire stated above must be clearly marked for other Opposing Lines/Tactical Demonstration Participants to see. These Zones of Fire must be indicated to All Participants prior to the commencement of Opposing Lines/Tactical Demonstrations.

c. Artillery Pieces/Batteries must be offset from each other so as not to point directly at each other. The distance offset between opposing batteries should mimic the hub-to-hub distance stated above. See **Appendix A** for illustrations.

6. *Misfire Procedures*:
    a. **Level One** Misfire Procedure:
        i. For artillery pieces that use quills, wait two minutes after the last wisp of smoke is seen at the vent. For friction primers wait a minimum of 30 seconds.
        ii. After waiting, the Chief of the Piece will command that the piece be reprimed. When repriming the artillery piece, a cannoneer should stand in front of the carriage's axle, placing themselves between the muzzle of the gun and the wheel of the carriage. If the artillery piece is small enough the cannoneer may reach over the top of the wheel instead.
        iii. Using the priming wire or pliers, discard the spent primer quill or primer. Re-prick the cartridge. While doing this make sure your fingers and hands are not on top of the ring of the priming wire, and fingers do not pass through the ring.
        iv. Reprime.
        v. When the crew members have returned to their proper stations, the Chief of Piece gives a "prepare to fire" command to alert the crew and the crowd.
        vi. A "Fire" order is given.
        vii. If the Piece does not fire, the steps above should be repeated.
        viii. If the Piece fails to fire after three attempts move to the procedure for Level Two misfires.

    b. **Level Two** Misfire Procedure:
        i. Slowly insert several syringes worth of water into the vent. While this work is being done, the cannoneer shall stand in front of the carriage's axle, placing themselves between the muzzle of the Piece and the wheel of the carriage. If the artillery piece is small enough the cannoneer may reach over the top of the wheel instead.
        ii. After flooding the vent, the artillery piece's muzzle is placed at its maximum elevation.
        iii. Flood the bore of the Piece, by way of the muzzle, with water. It is best to do this using a hose and funnel.
        iv. The water is allowed to sit in the bore for at least 30 minutes. During this time the crew members stay with the Piece to keep the area around the cannon clear of unnecessary personnel.
        v. The worm is inserted to the bore to hook the blank cartridge and it is withdrawn to be placed in a bucket of water. After which, the remains will be discarded. If a C02 discharger is available, insert it into the vent and clear the vent, ensuring air

moves through completely.

vi. The Artillery Piece is thoroughly cleaned.

vii. An Artillery Piece that experiences a Level Two Misfire incident may not be placed back into service unless approved by the Safety Officer and the Site Manager.

# Section V: Equines, Cavalry, Livestock, Domesticates, and Equipment

Animals (equines, livestock, domesticates, etc.) create unique safety situations at historic sites and events. The following guidelines provide a broad outline of safety principles for common animal situations. It is the responsibility of the Site Manager, Site Safety Officer, Staff, Animal Owners, Law Enforcement, Volunteers, and any other involved party to be aware of these guidelines and educated on the specific situations/circumstances where animals are present. Agency Staff are encouraged to seek expert guidance from veterinarians, animal industry professionals, and Law Enforcement when working with animals at THC HS Sites and Events.

1. *General Guidelines*:
    a. All animals must be pre-registered with Site Management prior to arrival on a Site or Event.
    b. When animals are expected at a Site or Event, Site Managers, Safety Officer, and Relevant Participants must review the Texas Farm Animal Liability Act, Historic Site Rules, and any other relevant documents concerning the presence of animals at said Site or Event.
    c. Appropriate signage relevant to Texas Farm Animal Liability Act, Section 87.005 must be posted as required/relevant.
    d. All On-Site Personnel (Agency Staff, Event Participants, Volunteers, Site Visitors) must be made aware of the presence of animals at the Site or Event upon arrival/check-in.
    e. Any Equines, Livestock, or Domesticates, and their owners, riders, or handlers, may be asked to leave the premises by the Site Manager at any time for any reason.

2. *Equine-Specific Guidelines*:
    a. All Equine Owners/Riders must provide proof of an up to date (within 1 calendar year) negative Coggins test prior to unloading animals onto Site Property or at an Agency-managed Event. The certificate should include all veterinary clinic information, including the vet's signature, as well as identifiers for the specific horse tested. Examples of Coggins Certificates can be found in **Appendix D**.
    b. Equine owners are responsible for the care, safety, and actions of their animals while on-Site or during Events.

c. When mounted, Equine Owners/Riders should maintain a distance of at least 5 yards from Visiting Public.
d. Stallions are not permitted at Agency Sites or Agency-managed Events.
e. Visiting Public are not permitted to mount Equines at any time.
f. All Equines must be properly corralled, picketed, or otherwise secured while not being currently ridden/displayed. Equines may be secured to stock trailers, but not to historic structures, Site Buildings, directly to trees or shrubs. Picket Lines may be erected between two large, strong trees designated by Site Manager or Safety Officer.
    i. Picket lines will be used with a strong rope tied between two points that have been approved by the Site Manager and Safety Officer. Equines on picket lines should be tied to prevent the head from being lowered below the Equine's chest. They should not be able to step over the picket line. If a picket line is arranged for the Equine to graze (where the Equine could step over the rope), then only one Equine should be tied to the picket line at any given time.
    ii. Picketed Equines must be closely supervised by at least one Equine Owner/Rider while the Public have access to the picketing area.
g. Equines are not allowed off designated trails or in designated swimming or wading areas.

3. *Cavalry-Specific Equine Guidelines*:
    a. All Equines must be actively controlled during all Firearm Demonstrations.
    b. Firearms carried by mounted Equine Owners/Riders must be kept in a state of "safety" at all times. This includes half-cocking, firearm safety mechanisms, empty cylinder-rested hammers, etc.
    c. Ammunition may only be carried in pre-rolled/loaded cartridges, pre-loaded extra cylinders, or in other approved ammunition containers, such as powder flasks.

4. *Livestock-Specific Guidelines*:
    a. Livestock Owners are responsible for the care, safety, and actions of their animals while on-Site or during Events.
    b. Livestock may not be mounted by any person at any time.
    c. All Livestock must be properly secured in pens, pastures, cages, corrals, etc. when not actively in use.

5. *Domesticate-Specific Guidelines*:
    a. All Domesticate owners must provide proof of current Rabies Vaccination record prior to unloading on a Site or at an Event.
    b. Domesticate Owners are responsible for the care, safety, and actions of their animals while on-Site or during Events.
    c. Domesticates must be secured by the use of a collar/harness, leash, cage, and/or kennel at all times.
    d. Domesticates may not be unsupervised at any time.

6. *Animal Equipment*:
    a. All equipment used to control, ride, secure, and work any animal must be well-maintained and useable.

# Section VI: Encampments, Historic Buildings, Fires, and Static Displays

1. *General Guidelines*:
    a. Site Managers and Safety Officer are to indicate camping areas, appropriate historic buildings, fire pits/rings, useable hearths, and appropriate display areas prior to Event Participant arrival/Event Commencement.
    b. Objects, Barriers, Equipage, and other items that restrict movement, create trip hazards, or prevent interaction must be clearly identified or marked. Safety Officer will have discretion to determine appropriate identification/marking.
2. *Encampments*:
    a. A rough plan of Encampment layouts should be provided to Site Manager for approval prior to setting up.
    b. Tents, flys, and other temporary shelters should be neatly and tightly organized in camps to minimize movement between erected structures where ropes, stakes, and other trip hazards are present.
    c. Encampments must be kept clean and orderly. Trash receptacles must be identified to Event Participants upon arrival/check-in.
    d. Weapons, ammunition, and ammunition containers kept in camp must be supervised and/or always secured. Tents that are securely closed are considered secure in these cases.
    e. Encampments must be completely secured if left unattended while the Public is present. This includes the securing of tents, weapons, camp equipage, etc.
    f. Site Management may designate the existence of non-historical camping areas. Non-historical camping areas must be clearly distinct and separate from historical camping areas. On sites where both historical AND non-historical camping cannot be established, ONLY historical camping is permitted.
    g. Historical camping areas may be used as education demonstration areas during public event hours with appropriate supervision.
    h. Non-historical camping areas should not be visible from event activity areas. All non-historical camping areas must be secured and actively monitored during public event hours.
3. *Historic Building Use*:
    a. Historic Buildings may be used to house Event Participants and for Demonstrations with prior approval of Site Manager in consultation with HS Architecture Personnel.

4. *Campfires & Hearth Fires*:
    a. Site Manager/Safety Officer must confer with local Emergency

Service Personnel about existing Burn Bans prior to Event Commencement. If a Burn Ban is in force, open campfires are strictly prohibited at a Site or Event where said Ban is in force.

b. Ground fires must use metal fire pans.
c. Dug fire pits are allowed only with the permission of the Site Manager in consultation with HS's Chief Archeologist.
d. Hearth fires are permitted with the prior approval of the Site Manager in consultation with HS Architecture Personnel.
e. Fire pails must be kept within reach of all campfires and tents. Water and/or clean sand must always be available to control campfires in the event of an emergency. Fires must be attended by a fire watch or extinguished with water overnight.
f. The safety Officer will ensure the appropriate placement of Class A Fire Extinguishers near areas where open flames are present.
g. No fuels other than untreated wood or charcoal shall be used for fire.
h. No garbage may be burned in fire pits.
i. When breaking camp, the fire will be extinguished, and the coals disposed of in a location designated by the Safety Officer or Site Manager.

j. *Cooking in Camp*:
    i. Cooking over campfires will be allowed only if the campfire meets the requirements of the Site Manager, Safety Officer and regulations listed above. Care will be taken to ensure the public can view, but not touch, the cookware or campfire.
    ii. Food items cannot be distributed to the Public under any circumstances.
    iii. All excess food, scraps, and wastewater must be properly stored or disposed of in approved areas.

5. *Static Displays*:
    a. Weapons used in static displays may not be handled by the Public at any time. In this case, "weapons" are also considered to include sharp objects including, but not limited to carpentry tools, surgical tools, cooking utensils, camping equipment, or any other item that may pose an inherent danger to the Public.
    b. Site Managers, Safety Officer, Demonstrators, or Event Participants may erect "crowd-control devices" as necessary. This includes rope barriers, engineering/high-visibility tape, etc. This should be done in coordination with the Safety Officer.
    c. Displays should not be left unattended at any time.

# Section VII: Inspection Checklists

**Contents:**


1. Black Powder Weapon Inspection Checklist
2. Cartridge Weapon/Automatic Weapon Inspection Checklist
3. Edged Weapon Inspection Checklist
4. Artillery Weapon Checklist


*Note to Inspecting Safety Officers/Personnel: Each weapon to be used MUST have a corresponding Inspection Checklist. A single participant with multiple weapons to be used must have multiple inspection checklists for their various weapons.*

## On all checklists, a "checkmark" will indicate an acceptable point of inspection. An "X" will indicate an unacceptable point of inspection.

## A. Black Powder Weapon Inspection Checklist

**Participant Name:** _____
**Inspected Weapon:** _____
**Site Safety Officer:** _____
**Inspection Date:** _____

## Pass/Fail: _____

1. (  ) **Flintlock Firearm**:
   a. (  ) Is the weapon clear of ammunition? Does the ramrod create a noticeable "ping" or "rebound" when dropped into the bore and is the pan clear of gunpowder?
   b. (  ) Is the weapon generally clean, clear of rust and residue?
   c. (  ) Is the bore in good condition? Are there visible cracks, pitting, or degradation around the muzzle or near the vent?
   d. (  ) Is the weapon in good condition? Are there significant cracks in the stock? Is the lock clean and free of rust or pitting? Are the barrel pins/bands in good condition and secure? Are there any parts missing?
   e. (  ) Does the lock function appropriately? Does the battery properly secure and release with appropriate resistance/ease?
   f. (  ) When at the "half-cock", does the weapon refuse to release the hammer?
   g. (  ) Is the flint sharp and securely mounted in the doghead? If a bayonet is present, does it securely mount onto the weapon as designed?
2. (  ) **Percussion Weapon**:
   a. (  ) Is the weapon clear of ammunition? Does the ramrod create a noticeable "ping" or "rebound" when dropped into the bore.
   b. (  ) Is the weapon generally clean, clear of rust and residue?
   c. (  ) Is the bore in good condition? Are there visible cracks, pitting, or degradation around the muzzle or near cone?
   d. (  ) Is the weapon in good condition? Are there significant cracks in the stock? Is the lock clean and free of rust or pitting? Are the barrel pins/bands in good condition and secure? Are there any parts missing?
   e. (  ) When at the "half-cock", does the weapon refuse to release the hammer?
   f. (  ) Does the hammer fall squarely and completely upon the cone?

g. (  ) If a bayonet is present, does it securely mount onto the weapon as designed?

3. (  ) **Black Powder Revolver**:
   a. (  ) Is the weapon clear of ammunition? Is every cylinder empty of gun powder and packing material?
   b. (  ) Is the weapon generally clean, clear of rust and residue?
   c. (  ) Is the bore in good condition? Are there visible cracks, pitting, or degradation around the muzzle or near the chamber?
   d. (  ) Is the weapon in good condition? Are there significant cracks in the stock? Is the body clean and free of rust or pitting?
   e. (  ) Is the cylinder is good condition and properly functioning? Is it clean and free of cracks, rust, or pitting? Does it rotate with ease?
   f. (  ) When at the "half-cock", does the weapon refuse to release the hammer?
   g. (  ) Does the hammer fall squarely and completely upon the cylinder cones?

4. (  ) **Black Powder Ammunition**:
   a. (  ) Are pre-rolled cartridges properly fabricated? Are they made of combustible paper, contain only combustible materials, and made with the appropriate amount of powder indicated in **Appendix B** of this Safety Manual?
   b. (  ) Does the cartridge box/shot bag properly contain cartridges? Is it free of loose black powder? Is it free of non-essential items or any items not directly associated with the weapon's operation? Are tools used for weapon maintenance stored in non-sparking containers apart from ammunition storage compartments?
   c. (  ) Are powder flasks properly constructed and contained? Does it securely close or seal? Is it free of cracks or leaks? Is an appropriate powder measure present?
   d. (  ) Does revolver ammunition contain any materials other than black powder and approved packing material (packing peanuts, corn meal, or cream of wheat)?

## B. Cartridge Weapon/Automatic Weapon Inspection Checklist

**Participant Name:** _____
**Inspected Weapon:** _____
**Site Safety Officer:** _____
**Inspection Date:** _____

## Pass/Fail: _____

1. (  ) **Cartridge Firearm**:
   a. (  ) Is the weapon clear of ammunition? When the chamber is opened, is any brass present?
   b. (  ) Is the weapon generally clean, clear of rust and residue?
   c. (  ) Is the bore in good condition? Are there visible cracks, pitting, or degradation around the muzzle or near the chamber?
   d. (  ) Is the weapon in good condition? Are there significant cracks in the stock? Is the body clean and free of rust or pitting?
   e. (  ) Is the machinery in good condition? Are the moving parts clean, free of rust or pitting? Are the moving parts properly lubricated? Do they function appropriately and with ease? Are there any parts missing?
   f. (  ) Does the safety mechanism, if present, work?
2. (  ) **Automatic Cartridge Firearm**:
   a. (  ) Does the participant have the appropriate licenses and paperwork required to own and operate this weapon? Copies of this paperwork must be attached to this Checklist form.
   b. (  ) If this is a facsimile weapon, the Participant must demonstrate its function to Safety Officer and Site Manager with documented manufacturer information. Copies of this paperwork must be attached to this inspection checklist.
   c. (  ) Is the weapon clear of ammunition? When the chamber is opened, is any brass present?
   d. (  ) Is the weapon generally clean, clear of rust and residue?
   e. (  ) Is the bore in good condition? Are there visible cracks, pitting, or degradation around the muzzle or near the chamber?
   f. (  ) Is the weapon in good condition? Are there significant cracks in the stock? Is the body clean and free of rust or pitting?
   g. (  ) Is the machinery in good condition? Are the moving parts clean, free of rust or pitting? Are the moving parts properly lubricated? Do they function appropriately and with ease? Are there any parts missing?
   h. (  ) Does the safety mechanism, if present, work?

3. (  ) **<u>Cartridge Ammunition</u>**:
   a. (  ) Are dummy rounds, if present, clearly inert and are they easily identifiable from blank ammunition? Are they stored separately from blank ammunition?
   b. (  ) Are blank rounds properly packed with approved packing material (packing peanuts, corn meal, or cream of wheat)?
   c. (  ) Do ammunition containers, boxes, pouches, etc. properly contain ammunition? Are they free of non-essential items or any items not directly associated with the weapon's operation? Are tools used for weapon maintenance stored apart from blank ammunition?

## C. Edged/Pointed Weapon Inspection Checklist

**Participant Name:** _____
**Inspected Weapon:** _____
**Site Safety Officer:** _____
**Inspection Date:** _____

## Pass/Fail: _____

1. (  ) **<u>Edged Weapon (Swords, sabers, hatchets, combat knives, etc)</u>**:
   a. (  ) Is the weapon completely blunted/dulled?
   b. (  ) Does the weapon have an appropriate sheath/scabbard? Does it securely fit in said sheath/scabbard?
   c. (  ) Is the weapon in good condition? Is the handle well-secured to the blade? Are there any cracks, pitting, rust, or damage to the blade or handle?
2. (  ) **Pointed Weapon (Bayonet, Lance, Spear, Poleaxe, etc.)**:
   a. (  ) Is the weapon completely blunted/dulled?
   b. (  ) Does the weapon have an appropriate sheath/scabbard? Does it securely fit in said sheath/scabbard?
   c. (  ) Is the weapon in good condition? Is the handle well-secured to the head? Are there any cracks, pitting, rust, or damage to the head or handle?
   d. (  ) For Bayonets, is the socket in good condition? Does it securely mount to the corresponding firearm?

## D. Artillery Weapon Inspection Checklist

**Chief of the Piece:** _____
**Inspected Weapon:** _____
**Site Safety Officer:** _____
**Battery Commander:** _____
**Inspection Date:** _____

## Pass/Fail: _____

1. (  ) **Tube:**
   a. (  ) Bore clean and relatively smooth
   b. (  ) Internal signs of damage (bulges, pits, lodgments, corrosion)
   c. (  ) Liner secure
   d. (  ) Vent clean and acceptable size (under .25 inches)
2. (  ) **Carriage**:
   a. (  ) Wheels tight and free of rot/corrosion
   b. (  ) Wheels turn freely
   c. (  ) Body of carriage free of rot/corrosion
   d. (  ) No Parts missing or damaged
   e. (  ) All ironwork/metalwork tight
   f. (  ) Elevating mechanism operating properly
   g. (  ) Tube rotates freely in trunnions
   h. (  ) Cap squares snug and properly keyed
   i. (  ) All wood sound and free from serious checks/cracks
3. (  ) **Implements and Equipment**:
   a. (  ) Sponge in good condition and fitted to bore
   b. (  ) Sponge bucket filled and free from leaks
   c. (  ) Rammer head tight and sound
   d. (  ) Worm prongs sharp and not bent
   e. (  ) Gloves for No. 1 and No. 2
   f. (  ) Proper vent stall
   g. (  ) Vent prick (non-ferrous metal only)
   h. (  ) Leather Haversack that is free of loose powder
   i. (  ) Priming pouch
   j. (  ) Linstock and Slowmatch (non-friction primed)
   k. (  ) Lanyard (friction primed)
   l. (  ) Gimlet
   m. (  ) Vent brush
   n. (  ) Pliers
4. (  ) **Crew**:
   a. (  ) Demonstrates proper loading and firing drill
   b. (  ) Demonstrates proper Level 1 Misfire Procedure

c. (  ) Demonstrates proper Level 2 Misfire Procedure
d. (  ) #1 and #2 positions dressed in 100% wool outerwear
e. (  ) All crew members wearing 100% natural fibers

5. (  ) **Ammunition:**
   a. (  ) Cartridges properly constructed
   b. (  ) Cartridges free of foreign materials.
6. (  ) **Ammunition Container**:
   a. (  ) Clear of non-essential items
   b. (  ) Free of loose powder
   c. (  ) Cartridges properly stored
   d. (  ) Container lockable and lock present
   e. (  ) Free of potentially sparking metals/items
   f. (  ) Friction primers or quills properly stored away from cartridges

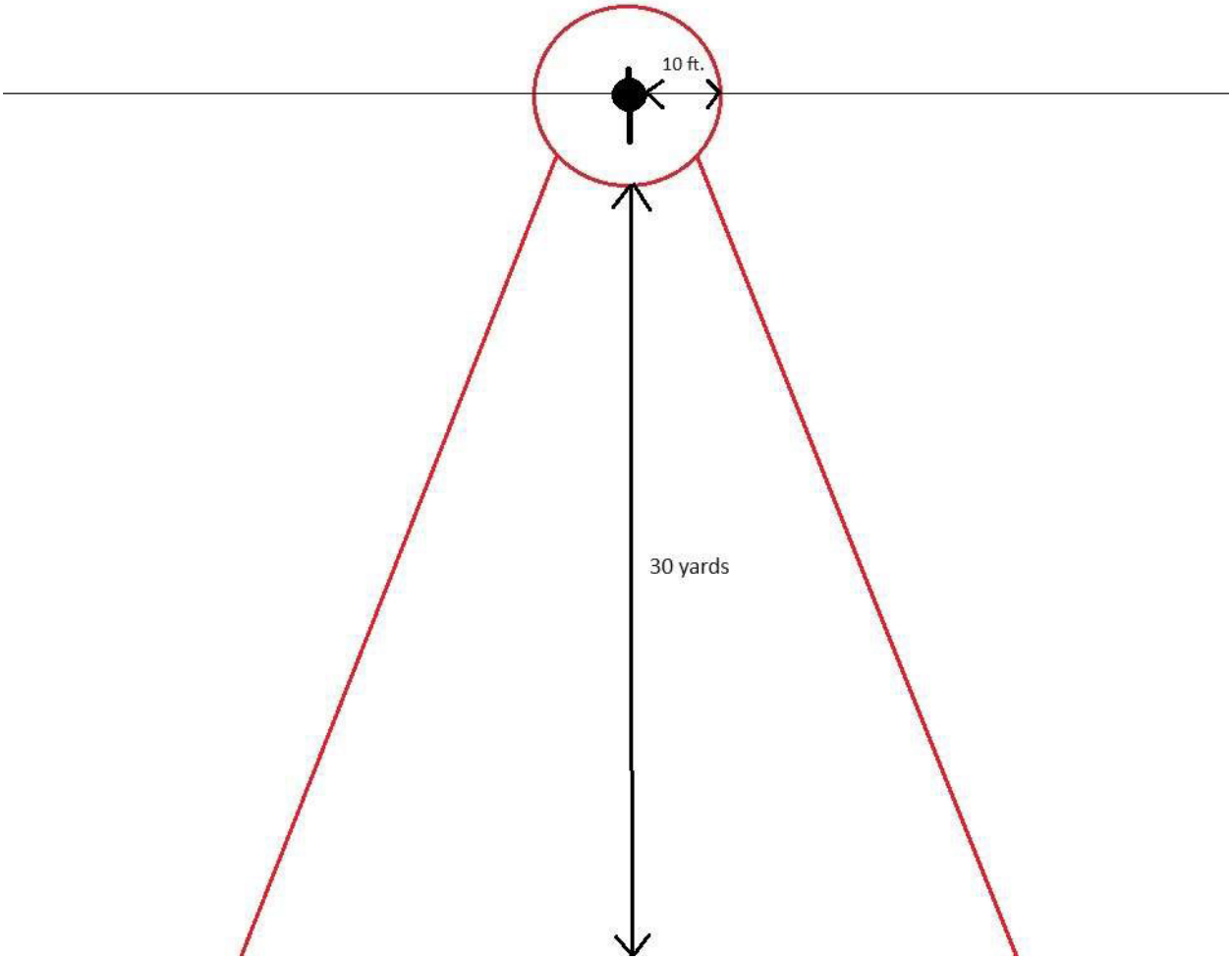
# Section VIII: Appendices

## Contents:

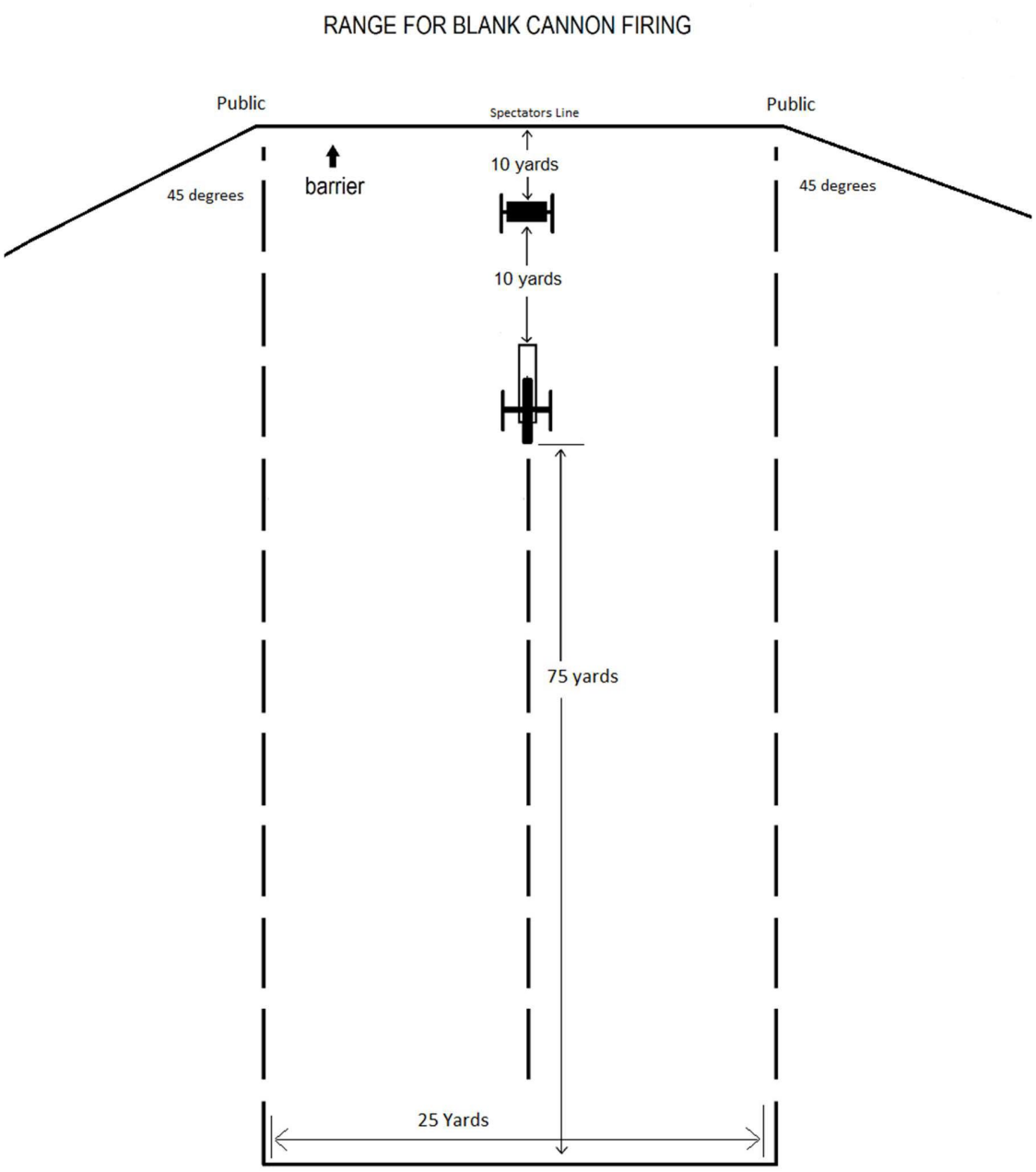

1. **Appendix A**: Safe Zones of Fire
2. **Appendix B:** Maximum Loads for Black Powder
3. **Appendix C:** Directions for Blank Charges for Artillery
4. **Appendix D:** Coggins Certificate Examples
5. **THC Release of Liability**

# Appendix A: Safe Zones of Fire

*A. Small Arms*

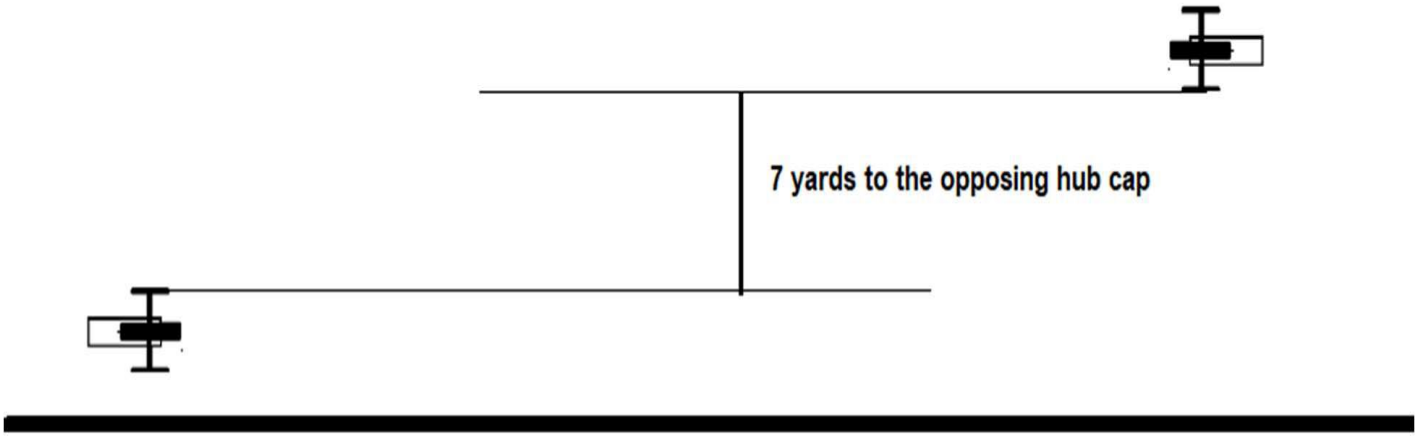


## *B.* Artillery

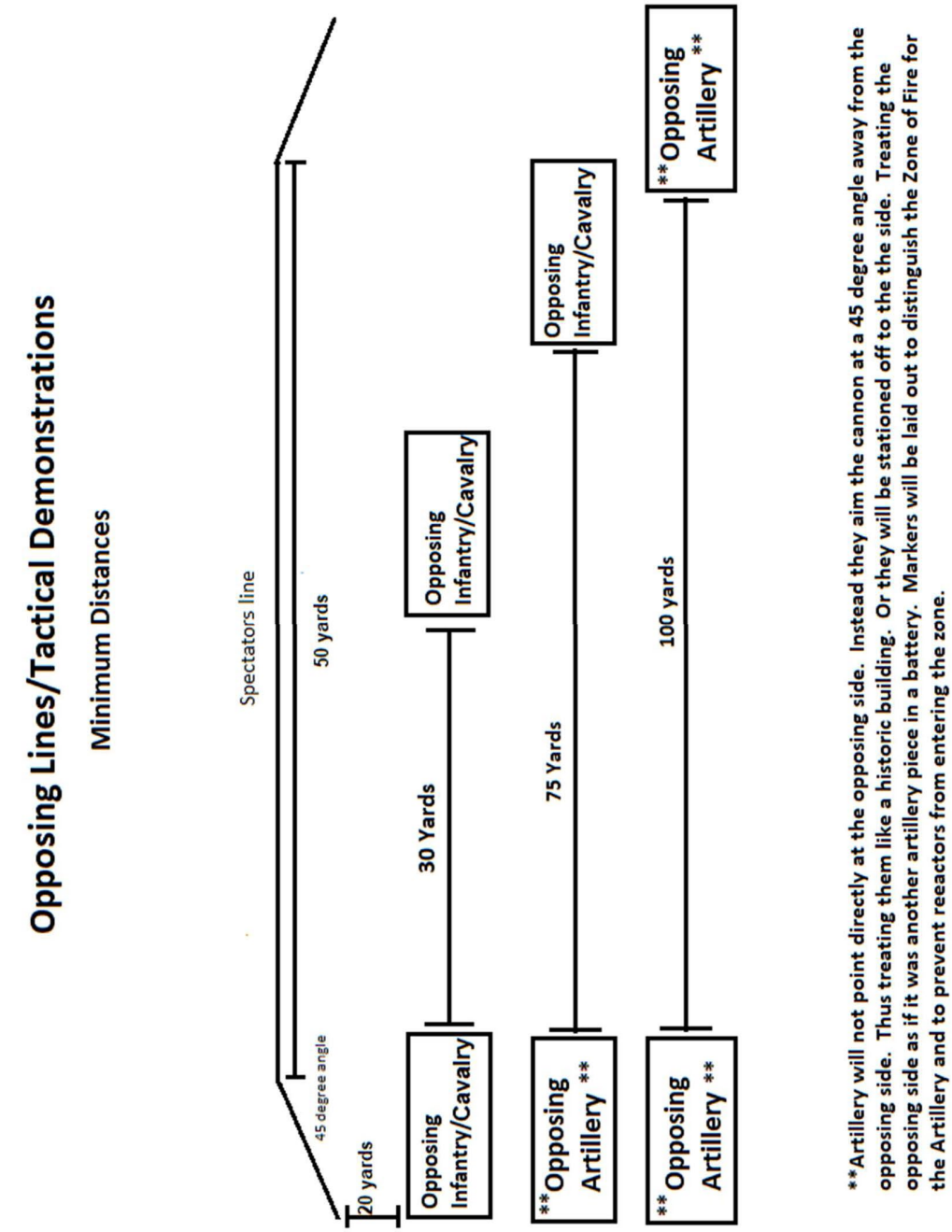

RANGE FOR BLANK CANNON FIRING
Public
Spectators Line
Public
barrier
10 yards
45 degrees
45 degrees
10 yards
75 yards
25 Yards

*C. Opposing lines/ tactical demonstrations*

a. Artillery Orientation Table



b. Opposing Lines/Tactical Demonstrations Minimum Distances



# Appendix B: Maximum Loads for Black Powder

## *A. Musket, Rifle, & Handgun*

| Weapon Caliber | Maximum Load (FF Black Powder) |
|---|---|
| .75/.69 | 150 gr. |
| .62 | 130 gr. |
| .58 | 120 gr. |
| .54 | 110 gr. |
| .50 | 90 gr. |
| .45 | 75 gr. |
| .32 | 60 gr. |

*Table Notes*

1. *Maximum Loads for pistols shall be half the load for long arms of equal caliber.*
2. *Decrease loads by 15% when using FFF black powder.*
3. *When using black powder substitutes (such as Pyrodex), loads are to be equal in volume, not weight, to the above table.*

## *B. Artillery*

### *a.* 18th Century

| GUN TYPE | CALIBER | MAXIMUM CHARGE SIZE Cg/Fg (oz.) |
|---|---|---|
| Swivel Gun | 2 lbs. | 4 |
| "Grasshopper" Bronze | 3 lbs. | 6 |
| British Light Gun | 6 lbs. | 12 |
| Iron Gun | 5.8 in. | 10 |
| Iron Gun | 3 lbs. | 6 |
| Iron Gun | 4 lbs. | 8 |
| Iron Gun | 6 lbs. | 10 |
| Iron Gun | 12 lbs. | 20 |
| Howitzer | 8 in. | 36 |
| Howitzer | 8.76 in. | 16 |
| Iron Gun (Armstrong) | 9 lbs. | 16 |
| Iron Gun (Armstrong) | 18 lbs. | 32 |
| Iron Gun (Armstrong) | 24 lbs. | 36 |

b. 19th Century

| GUN TYPE | CALIBER | MAXIMUM CHARGE SIZE Cg/Fg (oz.) |
|---|---|---|
| 1841 Gun | 6 lbs. | 10 |
| 1841 Field Howitzer | 12 lbs. | 10 |
| 1841 Mountain Howitzer | 12 lbs. | 8 |
| 1857 Gun-Howitzer ("Napoleon") | 12 lbs. | 20 |
| Parrot Rifle | 2.9 in. or 3 in. | 10 |
| Ordnance Rifle | 3 in. | 10 |
| Lyle Line-Throwing Gun | N/A | 1.5 |

*Note: Maximum blank charges for weapons not identified on this chart WILL NOT exceed 50% of the service charge for solid shot. For those weapons which a service charge in unknown, the maximum blank load WILL NOT exceed 2.5 oz.*
*Fg powder for every 1 inch of bore diameter. At no time should ANY charge exceed ANY manufacturers' recommendations for maximum loads for a given gun, if applicable.*

# Appendix C: Directions for Blank Cartridges for Artillery

## Materials Needed:

--Heavy duty aluminum foil
--Cylindrical cartridge former for the caliber of the cannon
--Powder measure
--Powder
--Thin plastic baggie w/o zipping lock (folding flap bags only)

**A cartridge must be long enough to prevent tumbling in the bore upon insertion, must not be leaking powder, and must be marked or made in a way that clearly indicates which side of the cartridge should be inserted into the bore first. This mark may be made with a sharpie or by simply having one end of the foil flattened while the other is twisted shut.**

Consult **Section IV** and **Appendix B** of this manual to ensure you are not exceeding the maximum allowable charge for your artillery piece.

## Directions:

1. Wrap the foil a minimum of three times around the cartridge former leaving enough foil beyond the end of the former to fold over the bottom.
2. Fold down the foil on the bottom end. Compress the foil completely by slamming that end of the cartridge against a solid surface.
3. Remove the Cartridge former from the foil cylinder.
4. Place the measured powder into the foil cylinder. If it is desired, you may place the powder into a folding closure-only (no zipping lock) plastic baggie and then place that baggie into the foil cylinder.
5. Twist the top of the foil cylinder closed and mark the bottom of the now completed cylinder to mark the end that should be inserting into the bore first. If your foil cylinder is leaking, discard it and create a new one.

# Appendix D: Coggins Certificate Examples

## EQUINE INFECTIOUS ANEMIA TEST RECORD

Print name and address legibly for window envelope use

Dr.

Address

City State Zip

Owner

Address

Zip

Phone

Reason for Test:
1. Clinical
2. Infected
3. Exposed
4. Show
5. Sale
6. Routine
7. Other

I hereby certify that the blood specimen submitted with this form was drawn by me from the animal described below on the date indicated.

| DATE BLED | SIGNATURE |
|---|---|
| | |

Animal Stabled At

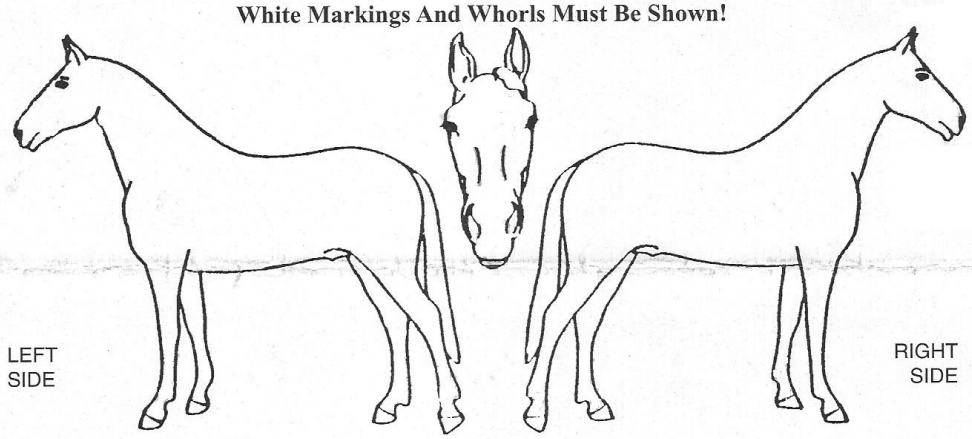
Address

County TOWN

Farm No. (QBSP)

| TUBE NUMBER | NAME | COLOR | BREED | SEX* Check One | | | AGE | TEST RESULTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | S | M | G | | |

**White Markings And Whorls Must Be Shown!**




Date and condition of samples received

The result of the test for Equine Infectious Anemia on the above specimen is as indicated

Signature

Accession No.

*Please Use Legend: S — Stallion/Male
M — Mare/Female
G — Gelding

WHITE COPY — VETERINARIAN
YELLOW COPY — OWNER
PINK COPY — FILE
GOLDENROD COPY — STATE VETERINARIAN

FORM SERJAt. U **BER**

E.IA-

GVL

**GVL - EQUINE INFECTIOUS ANEMIA LABORATORY TEST**

| 1. LAB/ACCESSION NUMBER | 2. DATE BLOOD DRAWN<br>2020-10-01 | 3. TEST REQUESTED BY VET<br>AGID | 4. REASON FOR TESTING<br>Annual |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5. CURRENT HOME PREMISES OF EQUINE: RANCH / FARM / STABLE / MARKET | 7. NAME & ADDRESS OF OWNER | 8. NAME & ADDRESS OF VETERINARIAN | |

6. COUNTY OF CURRENT HOME PREMISES OF EQUINE '\IE'TEJ!IN1\,fW•ll W.TIOW.J.ADOIS:. T"' BDN NUMBER

CERTIFICATION OF FEDERALLY ACCREDITED VETERINARIAN
I certify I am a category II federally accredited veterinarian, authorized, in the state where the sample was obtained, by me, from the animal described below.

SIGNATURE OF FEDERALLY ACCREDITED VETERINARIAN

**HORSE**

| 9. TUBE NUMBER | 10. FREEZE BRAND | 11. REGISTERED NAME | 12. COLOR / COAT OR HAIR COLOR(S) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 13. BREED OR SPECIES | 14. AGE OR DOB | 15. GENDER | 16. MICROCHIP, BREED, OR REGISTRATION NUMBER |

| NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION: | OTHER MARKS AND BRANDS: |
|---|---|
| 17. HEAD: | 18. NECK AND BODY: |
| 19. LEFT FORELIMB: | 20. RIGHT FORELIMB: |
| 21. LEFT HINDLIMB: | 22. RIGHT HINDLIMB: |

**RABIES VACCINATION**

| TYPE | VACCINATION DATE | PRODUCT | SERIAL NUMBER | EXPIRATION DATE | ADMINISTERED BY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

**FOR LABORATORY USE ONLY**

| 23. LABORATORY | 24. DATE SAMPLE RECEIVED<br>2020-10-06 | 25. DATE RESULTS REPORTED<br>2020-10-06 | 26. OFFICIAL RESULT<br>Negative | 27. TEST TYPE USED<br>AGID |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 28. LABORATORY REMARKS | | | |

| 29. SIGNATURE OF NVSL APPROVED EIA TECHNICIAN | 30. INTERIM RESULT REFERRED FOR CONFIRMATION |
|---|---|

Official EIA Test Form, Approved by USDA Veterinary Services March 2020, GVL

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES

P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711-2276
512-463-6100
thc.texas.gov

# Release of Liability

I, _____ in consideration for participating in interpretive programs on the premises of the _____ State Historic Site (the "Premises"), assume all risks associated with participating, whether foreseen or unforeseen, and unconditionally release and hold harmless the State of Texas, Texas Historical Commission, and Texas Historical Commission's commissioners and employees, from and against any and all liabilities, costs, expenses, claims and damages for which they, individually or collectively, might otherwise become liable by reason of any accidents, or injuries to, or death of any persons, or damage to any property, connected with or related to the presence of any such person or property upon the site, regardless of how, where or when such injury, death or damage occurs, even if caused by the **actions, negligence or gross negligence of the Texas Historical Commission or one of its employees, or a condition of the Premises.**

I understand that the activity involves risk. I agree that I am responsible for my own safety on the Premises, and I will follow the safety and other rules and instructions of Texas Historical Commission at all times while participating in the activity. I understand that my failure to comply with these rules may result in the loss of the participation privileges in the interpretive programs.

I have read this release and understand all its terms, including but not limited to the following:

- **I assume all risks associated with participation:**
- **I waive the right to recover from the Texas Historical Commission or any of its employees for any negligent or grossly negligent conduct; and**
- **I waive the right to recover from the Texas Historical Commission or any of its employees for any injuries resulting from the conditions of the Premises.**

I execute this release voluntarily with full knowledge of its significance.

_____ _____
Signature Date

_____
Printed Name