

Washington County 4-H Muzzleloading Safety Rules

1. Follow the instructions of the range officer.
2. Treat all guns as if they are loaded.
3. Always point the muzzle in a safe direction.
4. Be sure of your target and what is beyond it.
5. Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
6. Always keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.
7. Be sure the barrel and action are clear.
8. Use only black powder of proper grain.
9. Cap and prime only when ready to fire.
10. Never permit anyone to smoke around black powder.
11. Know how the gun operates. Learn the mechanical and handling characteristics of the firearm you are using.
12. Blowing down the barrel is not acceptable.
13. Never point a firearm at anything you do not wish to shoot.
14. Never climb a tree, fence, or jump a ditch with a loaded firearm.
15. Never shoot at a flat hard surface or water.
16. Shoot only with the knowledge and approval of your parents.
17. Safety glasses and hearing protection must be worn when shooting or near the firing line.
18. If you have a misfire, keep the muzzle pointed down range and hold for several minutes, alert the range officer immediately and **DO NOT MOVE OFF THE FIRING LINE.** The Range commander will assist you with the next proper procedures.
19. Follow all safety rules of the range where you are shooting and practice good sportsmanship and etiquette.