

# **Battle Road / Minute Man NHP Historic Weapons/Black Powder Safety Regulations**

**Acceptable Weapon Types:** Only reproduction firearms may be used at this event. The use of original firearms is prohibited. Reproduction small arms that will be allowed for this event are:

- Early to mid-18th century flintlock muskets, fusils, or fowling pieces.
- British Long Land Pattern
- British Short Land Pattern
- French Charleville

## **Unacceptable Weapon Types**

- Pistols
- Blunderbusses
- Rifles
- Percussion-cap weapons
- “Belgian Bombs”
- Dog lock muskets

Prohibited weapons brought on site will be returned to the owner’s vehicle, or secured by the NPS and returned after the event.

## **Weapon Safety and the Public**

- Visitors are not allowed to handle or touch a loaded weapon.
- DO NOT HAND YOUR WEAPON TO VISITORS.
- No weapon is to be left unattended.
- NEVER point your weapon (firearm or edged weapon) at anyone at anytime.
- Participants under the age of 16 may not handle weapons (firearms or edged weapons) or powder.

## **Ammunition**

Do not bring ammunition with you on site. All ammunition for the event will be provided by the NPS (*except for Tower Park which is off-site*).

## **Small Arms Inspections:**

**Morning inspection: 10:30 a.m. Provincials at Hartwell parking area. Crown at Smith House.**

**Post demonstration inspection: 12:30 p.m.**

All small arms used in firing demonstrations will be inspected by the NPS once in the morning to ensure serviceability, and then just prior to and immediately after every firing demonstration to ensure the weapon is clear. Weapons that pass the first morning inspection will be “tagged” by the NPS. Weapons that do not pass, may not be carried and must be returned to the owner’s vehicle. Weapons must meet the following standards to pass inspection:

- weapon must be clean and free of fouling
- no excessive rust or corrosion on the barrel, lock and touch hole
- secured flashguard and hammer stall
- no cracks or splits in the stock
- furniture and barrel fit securely to stock
- no missing stock pins or screws
- lock is flush with the barrel with no charring around the mortise
- half-cock position works properly
- flint is secured by leather or lead
- barrel free from visible dents or cracks

## **Firing Procedures**

- All firing demonstrations taking place on park property may only be done under the direct supervision of the NPS.
- Ramrods may not be drawn on the field during firing demonstrations.
- No soldier may carry a loaded weapon when crossing over stone walls or passing through woods, as doing so may cause an accidental discharge of the weapon. Officers, when leading their troops over or through the aforementioned obstacles, will either order a volley to empty weapons or have their troops dump charges and priming.
- Range safety standards will be observed at all times.
- No opposed firing or casualty portrayals (elements of simulated combat) are permitted.
- Firing will commence or cease at the discretion of the NPS.
- If you even suspect that your weapon has missed fire, dump the charge and priming. "When in doubt, dump it out."

## **Edged Weapons**

- Edged weapons may be drawn and brandished in a safe and prudent manner, when the bearer and the weapon are behind a barrier in a secure area out of the reach of visitors, i.e. officers carrying swords during the tactical demonstration, or infantrymen in a bayonet demonstration.
- At no time may participants engage in simulated combat with edged weapons or simulated edged weapons.
- When not behind a barrier, out amongst visitors, swords, knives, bayonets and the like may not be fully drawn. They may be partially drawn enough to expose some of the blade for visual inspection for interpretive purposes, but no visitor may touch the blade.
- Soldiers on sentry duty may fix bayonets but must keep the musket in a vertical position and the bearer must maintain control of the weapon.
- At no time may muskets be fired with the bayonet fixed.