

# National Park Service Historic Weapons Safety Program



## **BLACK POWDER/WEAPONS/AMMUNITION STORAGE & HANDLING CHECKLIST**

### **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Park complies with all federal, state and local safety codes and standards. (xx.5.1)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Blank rounds containing potassium-nitrate based sporting grade black powder are used in firing demonstrations of Pre-1898 weapons. (xx.5.2)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Commercially available or military surplus blank ammunition using the minimum propellant charge to ensure proper of ejection and feeding systems is used in firing demonstrations of Post-1898 weapons. (xx.5.2)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Only commercially available “4-wing” percussion caps are used in firing demonstrations (xx.5.3)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Only slow match, quill primers or commercially available friction primers are used in artillery demonstrations. (xx.5.3)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ignition devices are stored separately from bulk black powder. (xx.5.3)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bulk black powder and blank ammunition that does not contain a primer are stored in a magazine that meets NPS standards. (xx.5.4)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Black powder/ammunition storage is under the supervision of an officially trained and certified career, career-conditional, term or Pathways employee, 21 years of age or older. (xx.5.3)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Superintendent designates black powder/ammunition supervision responsibilities in writing including responsibilities for conducting visual inspections during a temporary absence of the certified Historic Weapons Supervisor. (xx.5.3)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Supervision responsibilities for Post-1898 ammunition include a commissioned law enforcement officer and are designated in writing by the Superintendent. (xx.5.3)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Written notification is provided to local fire authorities as to the type, capacity and location of each site where black powder and ammunition are stored. (xx.5.4)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Inhabited buildings are not used to store black powder, ammunition nor ignition devices. (xx.5.8)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Use of historic structures to store black powder or ammunition has been approved through PEPC and the Regional Director. (xx.5.9)

### **BLACK POWDER/AMMUNITION STORAGE**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Weekly visual inspections of magazines and ammunition storage areas are performed and documented weekly. (xx.5.11)
- \_\_\_\_\_ An inventory log that includes entries for receipts and usage is maintained. (xx.5.11)
- \_\_\_\_\_ An inventory of magazine/ammunition storage is conducted every ninety days. (xx.5.11)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Black powder containers are labelled with the date received. (xx.5.11)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Containers are not placed directly against interior wall or vent.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Interior of magazine/ammunition storage area is kept clean.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Park stores no more black powder or cartridge ammunition than can be used in one year and does not exceed a total of 300 pounds of black powder. (xx.5.5)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Bulk black powder is not stored for more than two years (xx.5.5)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Metallic cartridge ammunition is stored for no more than four years. (xx.5.5)
- \_\_\_\_\_ All appropriate minimum range distances to the side, front and rear of the demonstration are observed. (xx.7.4 &7.6)
- \_\_\_\_\_ If a downrange barrier is used, it is located at least 25 yards from the muzzle. (xx.7.5)
- \_\_\_\_\_ At least one employee or volunteer is stationed to ensure no one enters the range from behind a downrange barrier. (xx.8.6)

### **NPS CLASS 1 MAGAZINE**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Storage of more than 50 pounds of black powder is in an outdoor NPS Class 1 magazine meeting the standards below. (xx.5.6)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Location of NPS Class 1 Magazine is consistent with the attached Table of Distances.
- \_\_\_\_\_ “NO SMOKING” signs are clearly marked around the magazine, or within any room containing an indoor magazine.
- \_\_\_\_\_ No openings are present except door and ventilation.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Adequate drainage provided.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Masonry construction: Hollow masonry units filled.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fabricated metal wall construction: Not less than 14 gauge thickness. Walls lined inside with brick or hardwood no less than 4 inches, or sand 6 inches of sandfill.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Wood frame construction: Exterior is covered with iron or aluminum not less than 26 gauge. Walls to be no less than six inches thick, filled with sand or weak concrete.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Interior walls and floors are constructed of, or covered with a non-sparking material.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Foundation constructed of masonry. If wood piers are used, the space under the building is enclosed with metal.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Except for fabricated metal roofs, the outer roof is to be covered with no less than 26 gauge iron or aluminum, fastened to at least 7/8 inch sheathing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Doors to be constructed of not less than 1/4 inch steel plate lined with two inches hardwood.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hinges and hasps attached by welding, bolting or riveting. Hinges and hasps cannot be removed when door is closed and locked.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Two locking mechanisms are required:
  - (2) mortise locks, or
  - (2) padlocks with 3/8 in. hasps on separate hasps, or
  - (1) mortise lock and (1) padlock, or
  - A mortise lock that requires two keys to open, or
  - A three-point lock.
- \_\_\_\_\_ If padlocks are used, they must be covered with 1/4 inch steel hoods.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Vents are screened. Side wall vents must be offset.
- \_\_\_\_\_ No exposed metal on interior. All ferrous metal nail heads are covered.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Lighting is provided by battery activated safety lantern. Electric lighting must meet "National Electric Code" Class III installations (hazardous areas).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Dry grass, brush, small trees or rubbish is kept at least 25 feet in all directions from magazine.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Volatile materials are kept at least 50 feet from magazine.

**NPS CLASS 2 MAGAZINE**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Storage of up to 50 pounds of black powder is in an indoor NPS Class 2 magazine meeting the standards below. (xx.5.7)
- \_\_\_\_\_ "NO SMOKING" signs are clearly marked around the magazine, or within any room containing an indoor magazine.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Door overlaps sides by at least one inch.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Hinges and hasp welded, riveted or bolted.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Padlock has 3/8 inch shackle.
- \_\_\_\_\_ All nails/screws on interior counter sunk and filled.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Painted red with 3 inch letters on sides and top: "EXPLOSIVES Keep Fire Away."
- \_\_\_\_\_ Wood magazine Constructed of 2-inch hardwood and covered with metal no less than 20 gauge.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Metal magazine constructed of no less than 12 gauge steel, lined with at least 1/2 inch plywood or hardboard.

**POST-1898 AMMUNITION STORAGE**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Blank ammunition for Post-1898 weapons is stored in a locked cabinet that meets standards contained in RM-9, Chapter 30.

**BLACK POWDER AND AMMUNITION HANDLING**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Bulk black powder is moved in its shipping container or a lockable, marked pass box with a non-sparking interior. (xx.5.10)
- \_\_\_\_\_ A lockable, marked pass box with a non-sparking interior is used to transfer prepared ammunition to and from the demonstration area. (xx.5.10)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ignition devices are stored and moved in a separate pass box. (xx.5.10)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Pass boxes are kept locked or under an employee's direct supervision at all times (xx.5.10)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Metal cartridge ammunition is moved from storage to the demonstration area in metal or wood container that is kept locked or under an employee's supervision at all times. (xx.5.10)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Loose powder is not permitted in the demonstration area. (xx.5.10)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Unused black powder or ammunition is returned to the magazine. (xx.5.10)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Torn or damaged cartridges are disposed of following the park's approved Misfire Plan and not stored in the magazine. (xx.5.14)

**AMMUNITION LOADING**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Only paper small arms cartridges, artillery cartridges and quill primers are manufactured in the park. (xx.5.2)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ammunition loading areas is in an uninhabited building or secure outdoor site located at least 50 feet from the magazine. (xx.5.12)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Loading area has a non-sparking work-table or bench, adequate spark-free lighting, non-sparking floor surface and entrance control by the person handling the black

powder. (xx.5.12)

facilities inspection in the last four years. (xx.10.8)

\_\_\_\_\_ The loading area is clean and free black powder dust.  
(xx.5.12)

\_\_\_\_\_ Exposed powder is kept to a minimum and does not exceed  
one pound. (xx.5.13)

\_\_\_\_\_ Ammunition components (i.e. cylinders) are completed  
before powder is brought into the loading area. (xx.5.14)

\_\_\_\_\_ Loose powder is protected in a pass box during loading  
operations (xx.5.14)

\_\_\_\_\_ Ammunition is placed into a pass box as units are  
completed. (xx.5.14)

## BLACK POWDER TRANSPORTATION

\_\_\_\_\_ Transportation of bulk black powder outside park  
boundaries is minimized. (xx.6.1)

\_\_\_\_\_ Bulk black powder is transported by a certified Historic  
Weapons Supervisor possessing a valid driver's license.  
XX.6.2)

\_\_\_\_\_ Bulk black powder is transported in a government vehicle  
that has passed an inspection using the *Black Powder  
Transportation Checklist*. (xx.6.2 & Appendix H)

\_\_\_\_\_ State, county and municipal authorities are contacted before  
transporting black powder through their jurisdictions to  
insure compliance with all existing regulations.

\_\_\_\_\_ Smoking, matches, flame producing devices and loaded  
firearms are not permitted during transport operations.  
(xx.Appendix H)

\_\_\_\_\_ Transport operations avoid parking on public streets or near  
places where people work. (xx.Appendix H)

\_\_\_\_\_ Transport operations avoid congested areas and heavy  
traffic. (xx.Appendix H)

\_\_\_\_\_ Vehicle is attended by a government employee at all times  
with exceptions for short meal and restroom breaks.  
(xx.Appendix H)

\_\_\_\_\_ Annual Historic Weapons Program Summary is submitted  
on time. (xx.10.7)

\_\_\_\_\_ Program self-inspection materials are submitted to the  
Regional Inspector annually. (xx.10.8)

\_\_\_\_\_ Regional Inspector has conducted an on-site program and

## WEAPONS STORAGE AND SECURITY

\_\_\_\_\_ Historic weapons will be treated as sensitive property as  
defined in *Director's Orders for Property Management*.  
(XX.4.2)

\_\_\_\_\_ A log documenting the date, time, and person accessing  
weapons storage will be maintained. (xx.4.2)

\_\_\_\_\_ Pre-1898 Firearms are be stored in a locked cabinet or  
windowless storage room when not in use. (xx.4.2)

\_\_\_\_\_ Post-1898 firearms are stored in a locked cabinet that meets  
standards in RM-9, Chapter 30 when not in use. (xx.4.2)

\_\_\_\_\_ Access to Pre-1898 firearm storage is limited to the  
Historic Weapons Supervisor and those employees trained  
in the safe use and handling of historic weapons requiring  
access. (xx.4.2)

\_\_\_\_\_ Access to Post-1898 firearm storage is limited to the  
Historic Weapons Supervisor, law enforcement personnel,  
and those trained employees requiring access. (xx.4.2)

\_\_\_\_\_ Historic weapons are stored in a structure protected by a  
monitored intrusion alarm system (xx.4.3)

\_\_\_\_\_ All historic weapons have permanent identification  
markings. (xx.4.4)

\_\_\_\_\_ Park maintains a complete inventory firearms that includes  
serial number, NPS property number, manufacturer, model,  
barrel length, caliber and location of identification  
markings. (xx.4.4)

\_\_\_\_\_ Lost or stolen weapons are immediately reported to law  
enforcement. (xx.4.5)

\_\_\_\_\_ Historic weapons are inspected upon receipt and annually  
thereafter. (xx.4.6)

\_\_\_\_\_ Post-1898 Firearms are inspected and certified as safe by a  
licensed gunsmith at the time of purchase and every four  
(4) years thereafter. (xx.4.6)

\_\_\_\_\_ Any weapon failing an inspection is tagged with a  
description of the problem(s) and is not used until repairs  
are made and the tag removed by the Historic Weapons  
Supervisor. (xx.4.7)

## National Park Service Table of Distances for Storing Black Powder

<b>Powder Stored (Pounds)</b>	<b>Inhabited Buildings, Public Highways, and Passenger Railroads</b>	<b>Other Magazines</b>
0-25	75 feet	10 feet
26-50	85 feet	15 feet
51-75	95 feet	20 feet
76-100	105 feet	25 feet
101-125	115 feet	30 feet
126-150	125 feet	35 feet
151-175	135 feet	40 feet
176-200	145 feet	45 feet
201-225	155 feet	50 feet
226-250	165 feet	55 feet
256-275	175 feet	60 feet
276-300	185 feet	65 feet