

# FREE Gun Safety Guide



FREE Gun Safety Guide from <http://www.rem870.com/>

# FREE Gun Safety Guide

By Pedchenko Vitaly

<http://www.Rem870.com>

Copyright Pedchenko Vitaly 2013

## **License Notes**

Thank you for downloading this free ebook. You are welcome to share it with your friends.

This book may be reproduced, copied and distributed for non-commercial purposes, provided the book remains in its complete original form. Thank you for your support.

## CONTENTS

[CHAPTER 1- Safely Storing Your Firearm At Home](#)

[CHAPTER 2 - Safely Transporting a Firearm](#)

[CHAPTER 3 - Eye and Ear Protection When Using a Firearm](#)

[CHAPTER 4 - Safety on the Firing Range](#)

[CHAPTER 5 - Teaching Children about Firearm Safety](#)

[CHAPTER 6 - Reloading Your Firearm Safely](#)

[CHAPTER 7 - Safely Carrying a Handgun for Personal Protection](#)

[CHAPTER 8 - Shell Reloading Safety](#)

[CHAPTER 9 – Hunting Safety](#)

[CHAPTER 10 - Comprehensive Safety Rules](#)

[AFTERWORD](#)

## CHAPTER 1 - SAFELY STORING YOUR FIREARM AT HOME

---



Over 80 percent of home burglaries occur during daylight hours while the owners are away. This information is important to firearm owners. As a firearm owner, you want to deny access to the firearm for your children's safety and to prevent theft of your weapon. However, you will also need immediate access to the weapon when needed.

Intruders know where the hiding places are so tucking the gun in a sock drawer simply will not work and it certainly will not keep it out of the hands of children. Parents make the mistake of believing their children do not know where the gun is hidden. Therefore, not only should the gun be hidden but the gun safe or lockbox it is in should be hidden as well.

Some owners may believe that if they keep the gun locked away in a safe they would never get to it in time. Practice going to the safe or lock box and retrieving your weapon. Time yourself and you will realize that you will have the time if you hear a noise. Additionally, by taking the time to retrieve your firearm you have time to think and evaluate the situation, which can prevent an accident because that noise you heard may be your children or spouse. The few seconds

it takes to get to your weapon allows time for you to determine the actual threat level.

Trigger locks keep the weapon from being accidentally fired but will not prevent it from being stolen. Keeping a weapon lying about during the day with a trigger lock on it means it will be stolen during a break in. Your safe or lock box must be such that it cannot be carried off. A stand up gun safe that can accommodate rifles, shotguns and handguns is ideal. The safe can be placed in a closet to help conceal it or placed in the open. Many safes have a combination lock or even a digital lock on the outside and inner compartments that require keys. Ammunition should never be stored with the firearm, and firearms should never be left loaded whether they are locked up or not. Only load the weapon when you are ready to use it.

Be careful about storing gun safes in damp areas like basements or garages unless it specifically states it is waterproof. Corrosion can make ammunition misfire, which can create a dangerous situation.

You have to be aware that firearms are stolen by members of your own family often times. The recent school tragedy was carried out by an individual that had stolen the weapons from his mother's home. Very young children can and have found loaded weapons in the home and have accidentally shot themselves and others but teenagers can also gain possession of the weapon to commit suicide or to commit criminal acts with the weapon.

FREE Gun Safety Guide from <http://www.rem870.com/>

Safely securing your weapon in your home not only protects you and your family but others in the community as well. Firearm safety is not when you think of it. It must be practiced 100 percent of the time.

**External Link:** [Gun Safes](#)

FREE Gun Safety Guide from <http://www.rem870.com/>

## CHAPTER 2 - SAFELY TRANSPORTING A FIREARM

---

There are specific laws in each state that govern the transportation of a firearm. This article assumes you have the right to carry a firearm and are of the required age. Many states require that a handgun (concealed weapon) be unloaded and in a locked container when in a vehicle. A locked container is described as fully enclosed and locked by a key, padlock or combination lock. The vehicle's trunk is considered a fully enclosed secure container. The glove compartment is not considered a locked or secured container. There are exceptions, of course, a special permit can be obtained in some cases, and there are exceptions for law enforcement personnel as well.

*This information should not be considered legal advice and it is incumbent upon everyone to know and understand the laws in their state. If you have doubt as to whether you can carry a loaded weapon in a vehicle assume you cannot.*



Shotguns and rifles while not required to be in a locked container must be unloaded while being transported and there may be separate rules for weapons considered assault rifles. There are laws that dictate what is considered unloaded and loaded. Common sense tells you that if you have the magazine in the weapon but no round is chambered then the weapon is loaded. A shotgun with a slip on cartridge holder with shells attached to the weapon in some officer's mind may constitute a loaded weapon. Keep ammunition separate to avoid any misinterpretations of the law.

Some states do allow police officers to verify if a firearm is unloaded if they pull you over on a public highway or road. Ammunition magazines or loose ammunition lying in plain sight of the officer will prompt them to ask if you have a firearm in the vehicle. Keep all firearm materials contained and out of sight. Leaving rounds and magazines lying about anywhere is irresponsible.

FREE Gun Safety Guide from <http://www.rem870.com/>

Some states ask that if you do not have a trunk and have secured the weapon in a locked container or have a shotgun or rifle laying in the back that you cover that container or firearm so it cannot be recognized by anyone looking inside. There should be zero evidence that you have a weapon in the vehicle. It is similar to leaving a purse or wallet in plain sight it is an invitation for someone to "smash and grab".

An automobile accident can cause a firearm to discharge if loaded. Hunters have placed their rifles in the back seat with the safety off and the weapon loaded. This is a dangerous situation if the hunter is involved in an accident. Even if there were not laws governing this, common sense should tell you that if you do not have complete control of the firearm at all times then it should be unloaded and secured.

Some states require a Firearm Owner Identification Card (FIOD) to transport a firearm in a vehicle. Rifles and shotguns in some states if encased and unloaded can be carried in a traditional mounted gun rack in the back window, typically found in pickup trucks. Law enforcement in these states will tell you that having firearms displayed is inviting theft.

**External link:** [Gun Cases](#)

## CHAPTER 3 - EYE AND EAR PROTECTION WHEN USING A FIREARM

---

Anyone that has fired a weapon has experienced ringing of the ears and stinging of the eyes. Repeatedly firing a weapon without ear protection will lead to permanent hearing loss. Semi-automatic weapons and bolt-action firearms discharge empty shells that pose a risk to your eyes, as well as, splatter and gunshot residue.



Firearms can malfunction causing an explosion and of course, your face and eyes are in the line of fire. Eye protection is critical; shooters have been blinded in one or both eyes because of weapons that malfunction. Shooting at hard surfaces can cause the round to splatter or even ricochet. Splatter is small pieces of the projectile flying off in different directions as it strikes the hard surface. While the small pieces are not likely to penetrate clothing or cause serious damage to skin they can puncture the eyeball. Having eye and ear protection is required on any public firing range and most private ones.

Earplugs are relatively inexpensive and foam ones can be purchased virtually anywhere. However, they are easily misplaced and most consider them disposable, or a onetime use earplug. There are plugs that are connected to a lanyard or line and can be draped around the neck when not in use. The plugs are usually soft plastic that can be used multiple times. These are easier to keep track of. Earmuffs by most accounts provide the most ear protection. They do deaden all noise and if you are concerned about not hearing instructions from the range master, you can purchase electronic earmuffs.

FREE Gun Safety Guide from <http://www.rem870.com/>



Electronic earmuffs allow normal sounds to be heard such as instructions from the range manager and other normal speech, but deaden the much louder noise of gunshots. If you cannot hear the instructions from the range, you may tend to move your head and body for better reception and this may cause you to sweep your weapon as you adjust position. Quality ear protection is necessary to make sure you can hear instructions from the range. Some shooters have custom-made earplugs. The ear is measured and plugs are made specifically for your ears. The plugs are much more comfortable than the generic one size fits all plugs. The plugs are designed to allow normal sounds to filter through while blocking loud noise.

Your safety glasses should block objects from the side as well, and you can purchase glasses specifically for shooting that provide this protection. You can get tinted ones for outdoor ranges or clear lenses for indoor ranges. The styles vary and most do not look like the old-fashioned safety goggles.

If you wear, corrective lenses and they are considered safety lenses the range master will likely allow them. However, for your safety, make sure you know they are safety lenses or you can have pair made that is. Non-safety lenses can shatter when struck. You can also buy safety glasses designed to fit over your eyeglasses.

Serious eye injuries have occurred because of flying brass. Tactical training requires shooters to shoot with their off hand or weak hand and right-handed shooters switching hands, especially with a rifle, knows that flying brass can be a serious issue.

Investing in quality protection means you do not have to purchase protection every time you visit the range or target practice on your property, and make sure any one that is with you wears quality protection. Teach your children from now on the importance of eye and ear protection when shooting.

**External Link:** [Eye and Ear Protection](#)

## CHAPTER 4 - SAFETY ON THE FIRING RANGE

---



Firearms do not shoot themselves; simply put they are a mechanical device that requires certain actions be performed before they can be fired. The person holding the weapon is what creates dangerous situations. Inexperience and simply not having your mind on the task causes accidents at gun ranges.

Typically, a firing range will have a safety office or sometimes called a range master assigned to ensure all rules are followed. Violations of the rules may mean you are asked to leave and in some cases, not allowed back. The ranges can be open to the public or they can be privately owned. Some private ranges such as ones associated with a gun store may rent weapons out to people or allow prospective buyers to test fire a weapon before purchasing. Firing ranges can be indoors or outdoors. Generally, you must be between 18 and 21 years of age and usually have to sign a waiver before you are allowed to fire a weapon. Some ranges may offer firearm-training classes for a fee.

---

### THE RULES

---

This a basic outline of rules typically found at a gun range. Rules can vary depending on certain state laws and the gun range itself. Rules such as caliber or type of weapon allowed on the range will vary from one range to another.

- First, obey all rules as established by the range master. Normally the rules are posted where you can read them before entering the range. When the order to cease-fire is given, you must follow it.
- All weapons must be unloaded before entering the range facility, and unloaded prior to departure. Some range masters may verify the weapons are unloaded.
- Ear plugs/ear protection is required on indoor and outdoor ranges as well as, eye protection. Flying brass poses serious risks to eyes.
- Public firing ranges usually will not allow fast draws, trick shooting or combat style shooting. You can find ranges that cater to this type of shooting and they are normally private ranges.
- Weapons must be pointed downrange at all times whether it is loaded or not. If you are caught, sweeping the weapon or swinging it in the direction of others you will be asked to leave.

FREE Gun Safety Guide from <http://www.rem870.com/>

- When not firing, the weapon must be unloaded and benched
- Typically, you are not allowed at the firing line nor can you have a weapon in your hands when someone is downrange. This is a serious breach of the rules.
- You may be responsible for your own targets or can purchase ones there or the membership fee may cover the costs.
- Make sure you know what targets are authorized. Some ranges do not allow metal targets because of splatter and ricochet. If metal ones are allowed, there may be a caliber restriction and usually the gun range will have a distance from the target requirement.
- Police up your brass and if you cannot find yours in particular pick up the number that corresponds to the amount fired and always pick up a few extra. Dispose of the brass in the designated containers or carry home for re-loading.
- If your weapon misfires, hold position for up to 20 seconds and then drop the magazine and remove the round or safely unload the revolver with the weapon always pointed downrange. If you cannot or simply do not know how ask for help from the range officer.

Use common sense and always know what is going on around you. Remember the firing range is full of people with loaded weapons.

## CHAPTER 5 - TEACHING CHILDREN ABOUT FIREARM SAFETY

---

According to recent studies over 40 percent of all homes in the United States have, some type of firearm and one in four of those firearms is a handgun. Parents believe their children do not know where the gun is hidden but statistics show that close to 80 percent of first and second graders that live in a home with a firearm knows where that firearm is.

Parents are living under a misconception, which leads to accidents. Many think it is simply enough to hide the firearm. Anyone that has children knows they are curious and if you try to sneak a gun past them into the home, they are going to want to know what it is. They will find it if it is not secured in a lockbox or gun safe. Parents have created a mystery that the children simply must solve, it is their nature.

First, tell your children there is a firearm in the home. Then begin explaining what to do if they ever see that firearm or any other firearm. They are not to touch it, they are to leave the area immediately and must notify an adult. Tell them they must adhere to these rules in other homes as well. Your children may visit homes with firearms, so the rules apply no matter where they are. There is nothing wrong with inquiring of your friends and neighbors about firearms in their homes if your children visit.



Firearms are never to be loaded when stored and do not store ammunition with the weapon. Do not leave the keys to the lock box or gun safe hanging with your car keys. High risks home are homes with adolescent boys and homes where alcohol and drugs are used.

Lack of supervision in the home will lead to gun related injuries and fatalities. Most accidental shootings occur during the summer months when children may be out of school, and the hours after school when

children may be home alone. You simply cannot just hide a firearm in a drawer or high on a closet shelf and expect your children will not find it if they are home alone.

Children that play with toy guns cannot distinguish between a real gun and a toy one. A child that finds a real gun will naturally assume it is similar to the one they have been playing with. Children know to point and shoot because many play guns shoot darts or foam missiles. They will attempt to use the real firearm the same way. You must repeatedly explain the difference.

FREE Gun Safety Guide from <http://www.rem870.com/>

Television, movies and video games may also show firearms being carried and used with no apparent injuries. Children can be influenced by what they see. You must explain that what they are seeing is not real, and once again go over the real dangers of a firearm.

Firearm safety starts with you. Children will follow your lead. If they see you acting careless and handling the firearm for no apparent reason they will want to as well. New gun owners tend to want to bring their handguns or rifles out to show them off or to handle them. Make sure you as a parent know and follow the rules. Lead your children by setting the example.

The only time your weapon should be visible is when you are cleaning it or intend to use it for self-defense. Otherwise, it is unloaded and locked away securely in a lock box or safe.

## CHAPTER 6 - RELOADING YOUR FIREARM SAFELY

---

Accidental discharges (AD) can happen when loading your weapon and they seem to be more common with rifles. One reason can be an extended primer on the cartridge that is struck by the bolt when you press the release. The primer can extend enough to where the bolt can cause the round to fire. Accidental discharge of pistols while loading can also be caused by a malfunction of the pistol or inferior ammunition as well.



The firing pin on some pistols is blocked from running forward until the trigger is fully depressed. Some pistols allow you to lower the hammer without depressing the trigger, which can cause the firing pin to release. On other models, you usually would depress the trigger and hold the hammer with your thumb to drop the hammer slowly, and with your other thumb in the way to keep it from striking the firing pin if your thumb slips. Of course, if you have a round in the chamber and while "un-cocking" your weapon the hammer slips, you have an AD.

In the heat of competition shooting or if in a firefight, shooters may leave their finger on the trigger while they reload. This of course is dangerous, and if caught doing it on a firing range you may be asked to leave. The only time your finger is on the trigger is when you are prepared to shoot. You will not increase your shooting speed by having your finger "poised" on the trigger as you reload.

If on a firing range, you must reload at the bench or firing line with the weapon pointed downrange. If you have a revolver, swing the cylinder out and depress the plunger to push the spent cartridges out or shake them loose. Either load each round by hand after verifying no obstructions in the chamber, or use a speed loader. If you have a semi-automatic drop the empty magazine, verify no obstructions in the chamber, push the full magazine in, and set with the palm of your hand. Some at this point may chamber a round, pull the magazine out, and add one more round. Obviously, you probably would not be able to do this in a firefight unless you have good cover. Practicing moves and techniques you know you cannot use in a firefight can create problems. Practice for is most likely to be the case during a tactical situation.

Many experienced shooters and some members of the military adhere to the adage "never fire a weapon you did not load yourself". Your ammunition should have been inspected while loading your magazines or speed loaders or when filling your pouch. Bulging primers can cause an AD, as well as degraded or poor quality ammunition. Poor quality ammunition can cause a misfire and while clearing the weapon you can have an AD. So borrowing ammunition to reload or allowing someone else to load your weapon with ammunition other than what you have brought with you can be dangerous.

FREE Gun Safety Guide from <http://www.rem870.com/>

In the heat of battle, you may have not noticed the last round misfired. There are two situations that can be dangerous one is what many call a cartridge "cooking off" one that did not fire and is in the hot barrel cooking off. The other is what is called a squib where the charge exploded but was not enough to push the projectile out of the barrel. You have to get into the habit of checking for obstructions in the barrel while reloading. A quick glance while the cylinder is out or if the slide is back on a semi-automatic is all it takes. No one needs to tell you what would happen if you fired a round with an obstruction in the barrel.

## CHAPTER 7 - SAFELY CARRYING A HANDGUN FOR PERSONAL PROTECTION

---

Just because you have a handgun on your person does not make you safer. Know your limitations and your weapons limitations. Do not impulse buy because the clerk tells you it is the best fit for you. You must have the ability to use the weapon. A handgun is not something you buy and then drop in a pocket or shove in your waistband.

Never carry a weapon in your waistband or pocket. The trigger must never be exposed. People have accidentally discharged a weapon and shot themselves or others when pulling a handgun out of their pockets. Your hand is fumbling for the grip, disengages the safety and you inadvertently pull the trigger. This has happened and can happen to people who carry their gun in a coat pocket. Use a holster that is designed for the handgun one that covers the trigger and keeps

the gun secured even while running or grappling with someone.



Some people will tell you that a weapon without a round in the chamber makes a good club. Obviously, you do not want to walk around with a pistol that has the safety off but a quality revolver will have a firing pin block, and the only way to fire the weapon is to disengage the safety and depress the trigger. Some may tell you that if a weapon is dropped with a round in the chamber it will discharge. This

may be true with some older models if there is a round under the hammer.

Double action revolvers allow you pull the trigger to draw the hammer back as the cylinder rotates to line a round up with the hammer but it takes considerable pull. On a single action revolver, you must manually pull the hammer back and then depress the trigger. You can draw the hammer back with your thumb and then pull the trigger on a double action as well. Semi-automatics are designed in most cases to be carried locked and loaded and you must disengage the safety to pull the trigger. That is why a holster that is designed for your weapon will prevent the hammer from being pulled back or the safety accidentally being disengaged.

It is important you take a safety class and continue to do so until you feel confident because you will never feel safe if you are afraid of your pistol and are not sure how it functions. Some people are afraid of a firearm lying on a table, which means they have an irrational fear of guns. The firearm can lie on that table for years and it will never be a threat to anyone. It is the actions of the person holding the weapon that make the firearm a threat.

FREE Gun Safety Guide from <http://www.rem870.com/>



Usually it is illegal to brandish a weapon to intimidate someone. The only time you should ever pull your handgun is if you feel your life is in immediate danger. This means that the person has a weapon visible and is threatening you or otherwise has the means to do you physical harm and the only way to prevent that harm is to use your firearm. The aggressor may only have their fists and a case can be made that they are weapons. If there is a way, of avoiding someone, that only has his or her fists or feet as a weapon do so. If they have a gun or knife or a blunt object you may not have any choice but to use your handgun.

**External Link:** [Holsters and Belts](#)

## CHAPTER 8 - SHELL RELOADING SAFETY

---

Hunters and other shooters have been reloading their own shells for decades. There are various reasons why and economics may play a role while some simply love the challenge. Having the knowledge and tools to reload is also beneficial in times of crisis. There may be an ammunition shortage or the retail outlets are shut down because of a crisis. However, there are safety issues that anyone that currently reloads or is interested in doing so must understand.



First, know what a shell re-loader is supposed to do and if you buy one used from a friend or someone else make sure you know what components are supposed to be there. The manual is important and make sure it matches the equipment you are purchasing.

Never experiment with charges unless you are an expert, and never guess, always use the recommended amount and verify the charge using a scale to ensure the setting has not been changed on the loader.

Over charging is dangerous as well as is under charging. If the propellant is not enough to propel the round out of the barrel, you may very well fire the next round with an obstruction in the barrel. Cracked casings are safety issues as well so always inspect them before using.

Obviously, gunpowder is an explosive but it must be mentioned that smoking while reloading is dangerous. Using gunpowder near any equipment that creates a spark is dangerous, as well as, loading in an area that may have a gas furnace or hot water tank. The pilot light is an open flame, so be careful if you are loading in your basement or garage. Gunpowder dust is highly flammable. Brass tools are ideal for working around explosive/combustible materials because the metal will not create a spark when struck.

Lead dangers from rounds and other components. It is recommended you wear a dust mask, safety glasses and use protective gloves when handling lead products or may be exposed to lead dust. Lead particles can cling to your clothes and hands so protect yourself and your children. Wash your hands, hair, face and arms thoroughly after reloading and wash the clothes you wore while reloading separate from others.

FREE Gun Safety Guide from <http://www.rem870.com/>

Never mix powders and always leave the charge in the container it came in. Measure from the container and never pour out more than your immediate need. Do not leave it exposed to air any longer than needed.

Never attempt to reload shells if you are under the influence of alcohol or any drugs prescription or otherwise that impairs your thinking. Avoid watching television or listening to the radio because these are distractions. One slip and you can overload a shell, and you do not need to be told what this would mean.

Never vacuum up gunpowder always use a broom and dustpan and make sure you wear a protective facemask. It is recommended that you burn deteriorated powder or powder swept up from a spill.

If burned in an open area it will simply burn and not explode. Place the powder in a pile not to exceed one inch in depth. Use an igniter such as a slow burning combustible so you are not standing over the pile when it ignites. Make sure the area is open and is otherwise safe for igniting a fire.

What gives smokeless powder its energy is the gases that build up upon ignition. The confined pressure from the gas is what propels the shot down the barrel. This is one reason why you do not want to use a cracked shell casing because that will be the weak point and the escaping gas under pressure because of the confinements of the chamber can cause serious injury.

Smokeless powder does not need oxygen so depriving it of oxygen will not prevent ignition and subsequent explosions. The canisters the powder is shipped in are designed with a weak seam to allow the gas to escape slowly if ignited instead of building up and causing an explosion. It is why it is important you do not pour the powder into an unapproved container.

Powder that is not confined and has plenty of room for the gas to escape will simply create a flame like any combustible material. It will give off a noxious smoke that should not be inhaled and must be treated like any fire.

**External Link:** [Reloading Supplies](#)

## CHAPTER 9 - HUNTING SAFETY

---

According to the National Safety Council there are close to 1,000 reported hunting related injuries and 100 hunting fatalities every year. Relative to other activities the numbers are very low. According to recent studies there are close to 100 people killed daily from automobile accidents.

Accidents result in injuries and death in every area of life, every activity and every sport. For many, hunting is not a sport but is a means of providing food for their family. Coming home after a day in the woods empty handed may mean an empty table that night. Hunting safety is critical to ensuring hunters are safe in the woods and can continue to provide for their families. One mistake, one violation of the safety rules can however have dire consequences.

### Rules

1. Assume every firearm is loaded and handle accordingly.
2. Never load your weapons and then transport by any type of vehicle for any distance. This is a violation of most states' laws and it is dangerous. This includes four wheelers.
3. Once in the woods always keep the weapon pointed in a safe direction with the safety on. Inexperienced hunters think that walking around with the safety off allows them to take advantage of a deer or pheasant that may get flushed from the brush. First, sweeping the weapon around to take a shot is dangerous. Swinging around is common in bird hunting, much like skeet shooting where you follow the target, but normally you and other hunters have set up the area and each hunter should be positioned correctly. Having one hunter that thinks the faster shot takes home the prize is dangerous.
4. Unload your weapon when handing it off to another person for any reason and always verify a weapon is unloaded if it is handed off to you.
5. If you are alone and must cross a fence unload your weapon and place in on the side of the fence you want to be on. If in a group, unload and hand it off to others that have crossed over.
6. Never carry a loaded weapon while moving up or down from a tree stand.
7. Know your weapon's range and know what ammunition you have loaded. A slug will travel much farther than birdshot and can pose a risk to others.
8. Keep yourself in check and pay attention to new hunters. Inexperienced hunters may act erratic when they first spot game and may very well get so excited that they point the weapon in all directions while gesturing to you and others. New hunters also tend to shoot before they have verified downrange is clear of humans.
9. Do not run with a loaded weapon. People have fallen and have discharged their weapon causing injuries to others or even to themselves. Unless your life or someone else's life is at risk,

FREE Gun Safety Guide from <http://www.rem870.com/>

there is no reason to run in the woods with a loaded firearm. Hunting requires patience and running down game to get a shot is not showing any patience.

10. Make sure you have eye and ear protection. Quality ear protection will allow you to hear normal sounds while deadening loud sounds. You can still hear game and other hunters with the protection on. If nothing, else at least protect the ear closest to the weapon such as the right ear for right-handed shooters.

As you can see most of the safety, rules are common sense, and yet there are still accidents. It is difficult for non-hunters to understand how a hunter would mistake another hunter for a deer. It is not that a hunter sees a human and says there is a deer, but rather they see movement and the hunter may be camouflaged and all the shooter sees is a splash of brown or white and fires.

It is important you know what you are shooting at. If you cannot identify the target do not shoot, pretty simply and yet, you all know what happens sometimes. The mind sees what it wants to see. You expect a deer to be there and if you see movement you automatically "see" a deer there whether it is a deer or not.

**External Link:** [Orange Safety Vest](#)

## CHAPTER 10 - COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY RULES

---

### **1. Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction**

This is by far the most important safety rule when it comes to handling a firearm. You cannot accidentally injure someone if the barrel is always pointed in a safe direction. You will be asked to leave the firing range if you do not keep your weapon pointed downrange. It does not matter if the weapon is loaded or not, sweeping the range is a serious violation.

### **2. Always assume every weapon is loaded and treat it accordingly**

Far too many have stated after accidentally shooting himself or herself or someone else, that they thought the weapon was unloaded. It takes just seconds to verify it and if you always assume it is loaded and follow rule number one you will not have an accident.

### **3. Finger away from the trigger**

The only time you have your finger on the trigger is when you have sight alignment, that means you have verified your target, and know what is downrange, and you know where fellow, shooters and hunters are. Otherwise, there is no reason to have your finger on the trigger. You cannot have an accidental shooting if your finger is not on the trigger. Do not depress the trigger to test the safety or test the pressure needed to operate a double action revolver unless you are sighted on a target downrange.

### **4. Know where others are, and never shoot from behind anyone**

Before firing know what is downrange, even on a firing range an animal or human can wander on to the firing range. Always double check and this is particularly important in a hunting situation where you are with a group. Even if hunting alone, there may be other hunters near your target. Every season hunters are shot because they wandered into the sight picture as someone fired or they were mistaken for game. Accidents like this can be avoided by paying attention to your surroundings.

### **5. Keep the firearm unloaded when not in use**

First, never transport a weapon loaded in any type of vehicle and most states have laws against transporting a loaded weapon. Never hand off a weapon to someone else if it is loaded. Unload using the proper procedures and then have the person you are handing it to load the weapon. Never accept a loaded weapon and when handed one immediately verify it is unloaded. Lock the bolt or slide back and open the cylinder so everyone can see the firearm is unloaded.

### **6. Never let someone else load your weapon**

To some this may not be a hard-set rule and difficult for some to understand, but to the military and law enforcement personnel it may mean the difference between surviving and not. If someone cannot or will not load their own firearm because they do not know how or because they feel uncomfortable, that person is not ready to use a firearm. Allowing someone else to load

FREE Gun Safety Guide from <http://www.rem870.com/>

may result in you getting the wrong ammunition in the weapon. Some firing ranges only allow one type of ammunition at the bench or firing line for this reason and others. Having the wrong ammunition can cause serious injuries to the shooter and others around them.

**7. Hold position if the weapon misfires**

Keep the muzzle downrange if you misfire for up to 20 seconds. Then keeping it downrange, remove the magazine or eject the shells and inspect the barrel for a round that did not fire or one that jammed in the barrel. Do not attempt to leave the firing line until the problem has been resolved

**8. Always wear eye and ear protection**

**9. Know the rules of whatever range you are on**

Do not assume the rules are all the same, each range master can have a different set of rules. While in general they are all the same, some may differ or there can be a rule you have never experienced. Learn the rules before entering the range, so you do not inadvertently make a mistake that will result in you being asked to leave.

**10. Learn how to properly maintain your firearm and keep it well maintained**

There have been some myths on the Internet about whether it is necessary to clean your weapon after shooting or at all for that matter. This will be left up to you to decide. However, dirt and grit along with friction will prematurely wear metal down and can cause malfunctions. Bolts left to gum up will not work as well and dirt lodged in moving parts never enhances a weapons performance. If measures are not taken to keep moisture at bay you will see pitting and rust on metal surfaces of your firearm.

## AFTERWORD

---



Vitaly Pedchenko is the author of this eBook.

Vitaly is an IPSC shooter and Range Officer, and participates in many shotgun competitions. He is interested not only in sport application, but also in tactical and home defense use.

His passion is the Remington 870 and its upgrades, which he tests and describes on his blog: <http://www.rem870.com>.

Vitaly's blog became very popular and so he decided to write an eBook compilation to have all of his information in one place.

His first book was about Remington 870 Shotgun: [Remington 870 Guide](#)

This is his 2<sup>nd</sup> book which is free and dedicated to gun safety.

**You are welcome to share it with your friends. This book may be reproduced, copied and distributed for non-commercial purposes, provided the book remains in its complete original form.**

Feel free to contact author at: [info@rem870.com](mailto:info@rem870.com) with any questions or suggestions you may have.



See you on the Remington 870 blog and forum:  
<http://www.rem870.com>



Recommended website for shotgun parts, accessories and upgrades:  
[Brownells.com](http://Brownells.com)

FREE Gun Safety Guide from <http://www.rem870.com/>