



## Fort George National Historic Site of Canada The 202<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Fort George July 11 & 12, 2015

### Parks Canada Historic Weapons Safety Rules and Emergency Procedures.

#### BRIEFING SESSIONS

The Unit Commander Briefing must be attended by the unit commander /safety officer / unit representative. Orders will be communicated by the staff to the individual unit commanders who will in turn brief their unit members.

#### TACTICAL DEMONSTRATIONS

The safety of viewers and participants overrides all other considerations, and will be the governing factor in determining the location and extent of demonstrations.

1. Participants must be at least 16 years of age to handle black powder.
2. During any opposed side demonstration, weapons will not be directly aimed at the “enemy” forces. During battle re-enactment scenarios, rammers will NOT be used.
3. No closing with edged weapons is allowed.
4. No objects or projectiles may be thrown during demonstrations.
5. No weapon is to be discharged toward or over viewers.
6. At the conclusion of any demonstration, all misfires and loaded weapons will be cleared under the supervision of Unit Safety Officers, before a unit leaves the range or in a designated secure area. All units must check their area or range for cartridges and other objects.
7. Any scripted “contact” must be planned, and approved by Parks Canada Historic Weapons Safety Officers in advance. No hand to hand combat is permitted. No improvisational assaults on artillery pieces, enemy colours, soldiers, camp followers or mascots. No departures from the script are permitted, unless Parks Canada Historic Weapons Safety Officers and field commanders approve.
8. Safety lines and public viewing areas will be established. Artificial barriers such as rope or tape will be used to mark these areas, and wherever possible will coincide with natural features. No participants may cross into the public areas during a demonstration, or with loaded weapons.
9. NO firing, in any direction, within six (6) metres/yards of safety lines and viewing areas.
10. Weapons are only to be fired as part of an approved demonstration, and any training or practice firing must be approved by a Parks Canada Historic Weapons Safety Officer in advance.
11. On the word of command **STOP**, all participants will stop marching and stop firing until cleared by the Parks Canada Historic Weapons Safety Officers to continue.

#### BLACK POWDER

1. Black Gunpowder should be brought to the event in pre-made cartridges. Cartridges will not be prepared on the site, except at specific locations designated by Parks Canada Historic Weapons Safety Officers.



2. Cartridges must be stored in a secure location and returned there after each demonstration unless alternate arrangements have been made with Parks Canada Historic Weapons Safety Officers.
3. Any theft of black powder should be reported immediately to a Parks Canada Historic Weapons Safety Officer.
4. Black gunpowder is the only approved propellant.
5. Only blank cartridges are permitted, no projectiles are allowed.
6. Blank cartridges for small arms will be of paper, rolled in an appropriate historical manner, folded or tied, without staples or tape.
7. Paper used for cartridges must be heavy enough to withstand damage before use, or accidental ignition by stray sparks.
8. Cartridges for flintlock muskets must not exceed 125 grains FFg.

### EQUIPMENT

1. All equipment and accoutrements should be in good working and safe condition. Parks Canada reserves the right to inspect any and all equipment and accoutrements.
2. Powder horns must not be used for loading and should never contain black gunpowder at any time.

### FIREARMS

1. Only proofed reproductions firearms and pre-made ammunition which pass the inspection by a Parks Canada Historic Weapons Safety Officer, or designate will be used on Parks Canada property.
2. Any group or individual failing to attend the safety check will not be permitted to participate in the battle re-enactment scenarios.
3. Only reproductions of arms appropriate for the period will be permitted. No percussion cap weapons are permitted.
4. All individuals firing weapons in demonstrations must be fully trained in the safe, historically correct procedures.
5. No member of the public is to be permitted to handle or fire any firearm at any time.
6. All firearms must be secure at all times, either hand held or locked away.
7. Flash guards are required for all priming pans.
8. Ramrods are NOT to be used to load any firearm during any opposed lines demonstration.
9. No projectiles or wadding is to be fired from any weapon at any time.

### ARTILLERY

**Please note: Only full scale reproduction artillery is permitted. Undersized guns will not be permitted to participate.** Gun barrels must be at least 36 inches in length and the centre of the axle must be at least 20 inches from the ground\*\*. Though there may be a slight variation to these measurements, if any clarification is required please contact Peter Martin at (905) 468-6618 or [Peter.Martin@pc.gc.ca](mailto:Peter.Martin@pc.gc.ca) before arriving at the event.

\*\*Note: These measurements do not apply to howitzers and mortars.

1. Each artillery piece, and associated implements and ammunition will be inspected by the Parks Canada safety officer and/or designate. Crews will also be asked to demonstrate their



loading, firing and misfire procedures. Only crews with guns, implements and procedures that pass inspection will be permitted to participate in firing demonstrations.

2. The minimum interval between firing artillery **AND** reintroducing a charge in the muzzle of the gun is a five (5) minute interval.
3. All blank artillery cartridges will be made of triple wrapped aluminum foil, rolled and formed with a distinct top and bottom. Heavy duty foil is strongly recommended.
4. Artillery crews will double worm and double sponge their guns before any gun is loaded.
5. Artillery that has misfired will remain in position until the situation is resolved with the help of a Parks Canada Historic Weapons Safety Officer.
6. All gun crews firing black powder artillery pieces will wear only natural fibre, long sleeved outer garments or full uniforms as protection.
7. Earplugs or hearing protection is mandatory for all gun crew members.
8. All artillery must remain in positions as per the program plan and may not be moved in a loaded condition or simulated battle.
9. Artillery will not be fired within 50 metres of the opposing forces or while supporting infantry is forward of the gun muzzle, within a 60 degree arc of the weapon.
10. Artillery, when intended to be fired, shall be placed a minimum of 12 metres in front of or to the side of the audience. The area forward of the muzzle will be clear of any persons.
11. Use of artillery is the responsibility of the visiting group and they must ensure that only trained personnel are involved in the firing, and their procedures, implements and ammunition must be approved by a Parks Canada Historic Weapons Safety Officer prior to the demonstrations.

#### **EDGED WEAPONS**

1. All edged weapons including bayonets, knives, swords, tomahawks, axes, etc. must be sheathed on the field during a demonstration, unless otherwise approved by a Parks Canada Historic Weapons Safety Officer.
2. Throwing edged weapons is strictly prohibited.

#### **FIRST AID**

1. St. John's Ambulance will be on-site during event hours.
2. Parks Canada staff will be on and around the battlefields with water and radios if help is required.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Peter Martin at (905) 468-1393 or [Peter.Martin@pc.gc.ca](mailto:Peter.Martin@pc.gc.ca).