

SUGGESTED SAFETY PROTOCOLS - November 2018

This resource has been prepared to help re-enactment groups surrounding the Crown Forces North America in potentially establishing company/regiment/group internal safety protocols. It is not an official directive. It is not legal advice. It is not intended to replace existing or site-specific/event-specific regulations imposed by/at some re-enacting events.

The items laid out below are a close variation of the same used by Fort George in Niagara-on-the-Lake (via Parks Canada) for their events. We have found them to be an excellent guideline to consider in terms of your company's/group's/unit's safety guidelines.

Briefing Sessions:

Attendance by unit commanders at Officer's Calls is mandatory. Any unit that does not send a representative will not be allowed to participate in any weapons demonstrations.

Tactical Demonstrations:

During any opposed sides demonstration, all weapons will not be deliberately aimed at "enemy" forces.

No weapon is to be fired unless part of a scheduled approved demonstration or has been cleared through approved site/event management.

Firing will cease within a minimum of 25 metres (80 feet) of two opposed sides, and no closing with edged weapons is allowed.

No objects or projectiles may be thrown at persons during demonstrations.

No weapon is to be pointed or discharged towards or over visitors.

Units must safety check/inspect all firelocks at the end of any demonstration before leaving the demonstration area.

All units must check their area or range for cartridges and other objects.

Any misfires must be cleared under direction of unit commanders or an appointed safety officer, in approved safety areas.

No hand to hand combat is allowed, unless previously scripted and approved.

All mounted units must keep their horses under control and secure at all times.

Safety lines and public viewing areas will be established for this event, and rope or other barriers will outline the demonstration area.

Participants must not cross over into the public areas during demonstrations.

Ammunition:

Weapons and ammunition must be safely and securely stored at all times.

Cartridges should be made up prior to the event. If rounds must be made on site, make sure it is in an area and at a time cleared through approved site/event management.

Any theft of ammunition must be reported immediately to site staff/site management/senior staff.

Only blank cartridges should be used.

Cartridges for black powder muskets should not exceed 125 grains of ffg black powder.

Paper cartridges for 18th and 19th century weapons must be tied or glued, and no staples used.

They must be made in a correct historical manner.

Equipment:

All equipment and accoutrements should be in good working and safe condition.

All edged weapons must be sheathed on the field unless in use.

Throwing of edged weapons is strictly prohibited.

Powder horns may be carried, but can contain no powder and must not be used for loading firelocks.

Only firelocks that pass inspection by an inspector approved by the site/event management can be used for demonstrations of any sort.

Weapons should always be checked, prior to a display, by unit commanders and/or safety officers.

No member of the public may fire or have control of any firelock.

If a member of the public wishes to touch/hold a firelock, ensure the owner of the weapon or a firing-approved member of the re-enacting group, has one hand on the weapon at all times.

All firelocks shall be pointed or fired in the direction of/at other re-enactors only, unless in as part of an approved demonstration.

Flintlock weapons must have flashguards. Frizzen covers/Hammer stalls may also be required by/at some sites/events.

Ramrods may only be used in non-opposed sides demonstrations.

No wadding is permitted in muzzle loading firelocks, except cartridge paper in non-opposed sides demonstrations and when approved by the site/event management.

Historic Artillery:

Muzzle loading artillery guns must observe a five (5) minute delay between firing and introducing a charge in the muzzle of the gun. The crew must double worm and double sponge the gun with approved implements between each shot fired. Priming tubes, paper cartridges or friction primers are permitted for ignition.

All muzzle loading artillery will make blank cartridges from aluminum foil, rolled and formed with a distinct top and bottom. A triple wrap of heavy-duty foil is strongly recommended.

Modern artillery may use brass shells, safety (shotgun) cartridges, or other ammunition as approved.

All artillery pieces, ammunition, implements and drills should be inspected and an approved safety person through the site/event management before use.

Any guns that have misfires will remain in position until the situation is resolved. A misfire will end that weapon's use in a demonstration unless otherwise cleared by an approved safety person through the site/event management.

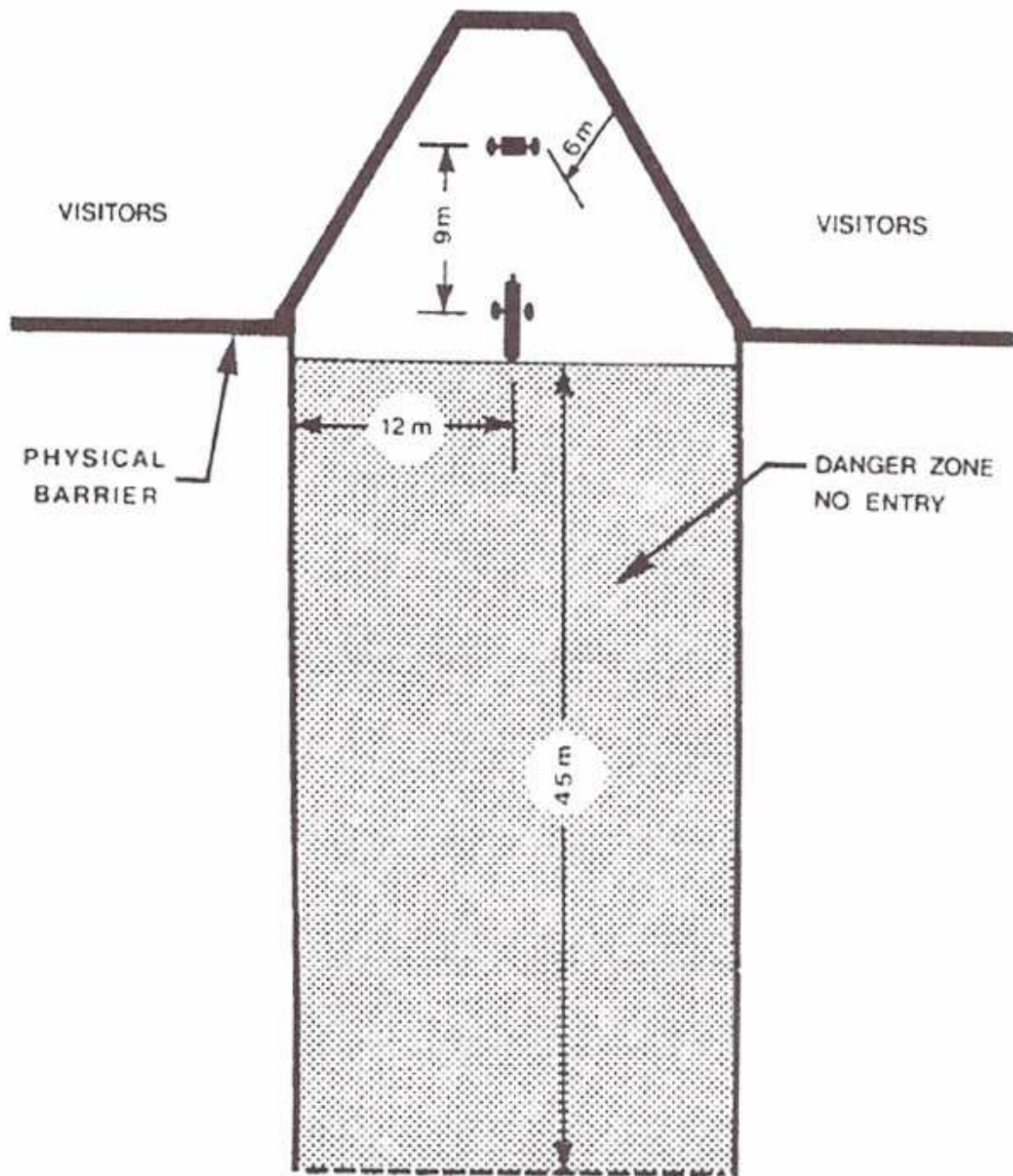
Any gun crews firing black powder will wear only natural fibre, long sleeved outer garments or full uniforms as protection.

Earplugs, ear defenders, or hearing protection is required.

Any artillery must remain in positions as per a tactical plan and may not be moved when loaded.

Artillery must not be fired within 50 metres of any opposed forces or while supporting infantry is forward of the gun muzzle within a 60 degree arc of the muzzle.

Artillery, when intended to be fired, shall be placed twelve (12) metres in front of or to the side of the public. The area in front of the muzzle of the gun shall be kept clear of people for an arc of 60 degrees. (See attached range diagram)



Scale: 1cm = 4m