

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 the 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

Powder Stored (Pounds)	Inhabited Buildings, Public Highways, and Passenger Railroads	Other Magazines
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