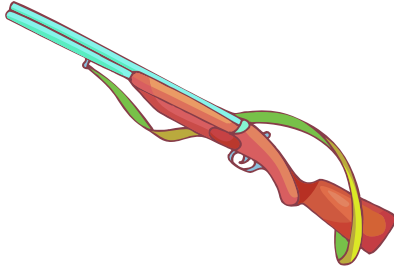


Safety Note #63

BASIC FIREARM SAFETY



Information available from the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control indicates unintentional firearm discharges annually cause more than 1,500 fatalities. Moreover, firearm discharges also cause about 20,000 nonfatal injuries each year. California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 8, Section 3203 (7) requires employees be trained on the equipment they use in the workplace.

Firearm Definition

The Research and Extension Center (REC) Firearm Policy and Procedures defines firearm as “Any device capable of discharging a center or rim fire cartridge, black powder, CO₂-powered projectiles or projectiles powered by pumping or cocking the device. This includes but is not limited to: Rifles, handguns, shotguns, pellet guns and BB guns.”

Firearm Restrictions

Under California Penal Code Sections 626.9 (h) and (i), it is considered a felony to possess firearms, loaded or unloaded on University of California (i.e., REC) property unless written permission is granted by an appropriate University official (i.e., REC Director).

Firearm Safety Precautions

- Prior to use, become familiar with the firearm owner’s manual with particular attention given to descriptions of safety procedures.
- Before using, assure the mechanical actions of the firearm are functioning properly.
- If a firearm fails the pre-use inspection, notify your supervisor and remove the firearm from service by attaching a red tag that states “DO NOT USE.” Complete red tag with appropriate information.
- Always wear eye and hearing protection when using a firearm.
- Wear a blaze orange vest or jacket when in the field during hunting season.
- Do not transport loaded firearms. Only load firearms after arriving at destinations.
- Only use manufacturer-recommended ammunition in a firearm.
- Never point a firearm muzzle at anything you do not intend to shoot.
- Handle firearms with caution. Always assume all firearms are loaded.
- Do not put your finger on the firearm trigger until you are ready to shoot.
- Be alert and think before shooting a firearm. Positively identify your target.
- Never climb trees or fences or jump over obstacles with a loaded firearm.
- Carry firearms with control over the direction the muzzle is pointing.
- Do not shoot across roads or highways.
- Always unload and clean firearms after use and before placing in storage.
- Store firearms separate from ammunition and in a locked location inaccessible to children.
- Keep ammunition in a locked location inaccessible to children.