

# **Battle of Hogtown Artillery Range Safety Rules.**

1. All artillery units should follow the instructions of the United States Field Artillery Association muzzle-loading artillery school. More information about these instructions can be found at <http://www.2ndfloridalightartillery.com/Library.htm>.
2. Obey all safety rules. Every member is a Safety Officer and is responsible for learning and enforcing all safety procedures.
3. All artillery units will follow “3 minute” rule, which states that three minutes shall have elapsed between when the cannon was last fired and serviced, and when the next round may be loaded. The rule will not be violated under any circumstances.
4. Do not, under any circumstances, fire a cannon with anyone within 50 yards in front of the muzzle of the cannon and within a 90 degree arc from the center line of the bore.
5. Keep the cannon at full elevation.
6. Never load more than one round at a time. For a bigger “bang” use a bigger charge. Loading two or more charges creates the potential of the second charge becoming an exploding projectile that can cause serious injury.
7. Never discharge a pistol, rifle, or musket within 100 feet of a loaded cannon or artillery limber chest.
8. No smoking of any kind (pipe, cigar, cigarillo) is permitted on the gun line.
9. All cannons must be inspected by the event artillery safety officer prior to each battle reenactment. No cannon can be used that has not passed inspection.
10. In a real medical emergency, the key word for help is “Medic.” If you hear the word “Medic,” repeat it as loud as you can, then go to the person that needs help and give all the assistance you can.

## **Powder Charges**

### **Preparation Of Charges**

Powder charges should be made with 1Fg or Cannon Grade black powder only. There should be nothing in the charge other than powder – this includes: flour, wadding, steel wool, etc.

The charges should be carefully prepared in cylindrical packages using plastic “baggies” (the kind with the fold-over flaps, not ZipLock bags) and heavy aluminium foil. Make sure that the foil does not have any holes or tears that would allow powder to come into contact with a lingering spark. Do not roll the excess foil into a “pig tail” as this creates a

potential projectile and could cause a misfire if the charge gets turned around while loading.

### **Storage Of Charges**

The completed charges should be placed in a heavy cardboard cylinder with a bottom and lid. This will protect the charges when being handled. If a bag does develop a leak, you will not have loose powder scattered about the limber chest. Another suggestion is to use a metal ammo box either with or instead of the cardboard cylinders.

### **Storage Of Primers**

At no time allow primers to be stored in the same container, or in the same compartment, with the charges. They should be placed in a metal box and stored separately from the chest.

### **Limber Chest**

The limber chest should be divided into at least 2 compartments. Only accoutrements and equipment essential to servicing the piece, and charges should be allowed in the chest. Primers should be kept separate from the charges if possible. Keep it free of loose powder at all times. It should be equipped with a hasp and lock.

## **A Note About Commands**

A cannon crew must know what orders to follow and when to follow those orders. When there are multiple cannons on a gun line, and multiple levels of officer giving commands, a cannon crew must know whose orders to obey.

A cannon crew is to only follow the orders of its Gunner.

There is a chain of command that is to be followed and must never be violated under any circumstances.

- A Cannon Crew takes its commands from the Gunner
- The Gunner takes his commands from the Section Chief
- The Section Chief takes his commands from the Battery Commander
- The Battery Commander takes his commands from the Battalion Commander or the Chief of Artillery, depending on how many guns are present and the overall command structure of the event.

Each individual giving commands must ensure that his commands are being followed properly and bring to the attention of their subordinates any failure to obey a command or any unsafe conditions that exist on the gun line. A senior commander should never approach a cannon crew directly unless the circumstances are dire enough to warrant this breach of military protocol.

No individual who is outside the Cannon Crew's direct artillery chain of command should ever give a command to the Cannon Crew. Should an infantry or cavalry officer

attempt to give a direct command to a Cannon Crew, the Gunner has the full right to politely instruct that officer to remove themselves from the gun line immediately and to consult with the senior artillery officer. The Gunner should also inform the infantry or cavalry officer where to find the senior artillery officer and should show all appropriate military courtesy to the infantry or cavalry officer's rank while preserving the integrity of the artillery chain of command and the safety of the gun line.

At no time is anyone who is not on a Cannon Crew or in the Cannon Crew's direct artillery chain of command allowed on the gun line or allowed to cross in the space between the cannon and the limber chest. The Gunner has the full right to order any unauthorized individual to leave this zone immediately and to enforce this order by any reasonable means necessary.