

# The 10 Commandments — of — Firearm Safety



- 1. Watch that muzzle!** Keep it pointed in a safe direction at all times.
- 2. Treat every firearm with the respect due a loaded gun.** It might be loaded, even if you think it isn't.
- 3. Be sure of your target and what is in front of it and beyond it.** Know the identifying features of the game you hunt. Make sure you have an adequate backstop—don't shoot at a flat, hard surface or water.
- 4. Keep your finger outside the trigger guard until ready to shoot.** This is the best way to prevent an accidental discharge.
- 5. Check your barrel and ammunition.** Make sure the barrel and action are clear of obstructions, and carry only the proper ammunition for your firearm.
- 6. Unload firearms when not in use.** Leave actions open, and carry firearms in cases and unloaded to and from the shooting area.
- 7. Point a firearm only at something you intend to shoot.** Avoid all horseplay with a gun.
- 8. Don't run, jump, or climb with a loaded firearm.** Unload a firearm before you climb a fence or tree, or jump a ditch. Pull a firearm toward you by the butt, not the muzzle.
- 9. Store firearms and ammunition separately and safely.** Store each in a secured location beyond the reach of children and careless adults.
- 10. Do not consume alcoholic beverages before or during shooting.** Also avoid mind- or behavior-altering medicines or drugs.