

Multi Lakes Association for Civil War Studies
Safety Standards
www.fourhtexas.org

These are the minimum safety requirements for all MLACWS subgroups. The rules and regulations contained in these guidelines are the collective effort of the MLACWS board and membership. The leadership of each subgroup will be responsible for completing a safety walkthrough and also conduct a safety briefing with members of the subgroup each morning. MLACWS leadership is required to address any safety issue immediately with repercussions as severe as removal from the event. Additional safety guidelines may be established by the leadership of each subgroup as they see fit.

Camp Safety

I. Fires

- A. Fires must be built only in a fire pit or fire-box. When events take place on actual battlefields, no digging into the ground for a fire pit is permitted.
- B. Fires must be no closer than five (5) feet to a cook fly, and twenty (20) feet away from tents.
- C. A bucket of water must be at each fire pit.
- D. Fires must be attended by an adult at all times.
- E. Children must not be allowed to tend fires without adult supervision; no playing around fire pits.
- F. No bonfires are allowed.
- G. At the end of its use or conclusion of an event, fire pits must be drenched in water, stirred, and drenched again, replacing the sod and re-leveling the ground to its former appearance.
- H. No garbage may be burned in a fire pit.
- I. Axes and hatchets must not be left around camp fires, wood piles, or in walk areas, but rather they must be sheathed and put in a secured tent or camp chest.

II. Gun Powder

- A. No loose powder shall be allowed within one hundred fifty feet (150) of a fire source.
- B. Care must be taken with powder around fires or possible sparks. — Stay away from fire pits, cigarettes, pipes, cigars, etc.
- C. Prepared cartridges will be stored at least twenty (20) feet away from any fire pit in a fire resistant container.
- D. No powder will be allowed in powder horns at any time.

III. Clothing Safety

- A. Care must be taken to pull back loose clothing around fires when ever possible.
- B. All clothes must be made of all natural materials.

IV. First Aid

- A. All members should be informed each day of an event who are the medically trained personnel present in the group
- B. All first aid must be given by a medically trained person when ever possible.
- C. Daily safety briefing must include the location of medical resources (first aid kit, AED, Ambulance).
- D. MLACWS leadership must have a list of members who have illnesses/medical conditions, and a list of medications take by each member. (This is for emergency personnel use.).
- E. Hydration is strongly encouraged at every opportunity.

VI. Alcohol / Controlled Substance

- A. All local, state, and federal laws on the consumption of alcohol apply at all events.
- B. No alcohol is to be consumed during the reenactment day (public hours of the event).
- C. Drunkenness or intoxication from the consumption of a controlled substance of any kind is an automatic safety violation.

Weapon Safety

I. Fire Arms Safety

- A. No weapon will be allowed into the field if it slips out of half cock when activated by the trigger on your finger (full weight of weapon on trigger or normal pressure applied).
- B. Inspection of all company weapons is required daily.
- C. All parts of the weapon must fit properly and tightly.
- D. Only black powder may be used in muzzle loading weapons. No smokeless powder should ever be used in these weapons.
- E. Pistols will be only carried or used by Officers.
- F. No unplanned hand-to-hand combat will be allowed.
- G. A safe distance of fifty (50) feet must be maintained between opposing forces when firing.
- H. When engaged with opposing forces, weapons must be elevated above the heads of the opponent when closer than one hundred (100) feet.
- I. Ram rods may be used only at the discretion of commander and never after the first round of a battle or tactical is fired.
- J. No individual firing of weapons in camp areas are allowed. When clearing weapons an NCO must be present.

II. Edged Weapons

- A. No edged weapon may be used on the field with the exception of swords used as command weapons by officers only. Care must be used with officer's swords. Bayonets may be used by order of your officer in charge. i.e. - a ceremony
- B. No edged weapon will be allowed to be carried if it is not in a proper scabbard. This includes swords, bayonets, knives, tomahawks, hatchets, or any other edged weapon. No one will engage in sword play at any time. (No steel on steel.)

III. Artillery Safety

- A. All members must know all the jobs of the gun and all the safety rules.
- B. Black powder only may be used in muzzle loading guns. No more than 4 ounces per inch of bore per charge may be used per round.
- C. The powder box must be fifteen (15) feet to the rear of the trails
- D. Artillery pieces may never be fired with anyone ahead of the bore, closer than one hundred (100) feet in a minimum sixty (60) degree arc from the bore. Common sense for larger guns must be used – the larger the gun the larger the distance from the gun.
- E. During artillery demonstrations, the public, since they might smoke, must be kept twenty (20) feet away from the powder boxes and in an area not to be forward of the end of the trails – twenty-five (25) feet away. The size of the gun should be considered during the decision for the distance of the public and powder box away from the gun.
- F. No one may be closer than one hundred (100) feet to the muzzle of a gun. Of course, the larger guns should allow more distance.
- G. The public viewing area must be roped off with the public on one side of the rope line and the cannon crew twenty-five (25) feet away on the other side of the line. Artillery must be fired away from the spectator rope line, but never towards the rope line.
- H. Cannons must be at least one hundred (100) feet away from a building. The larger the gun, the further the distance.