



Range Safety Rules 2026



Welcome to the East Texas Rifle & Pistol Club

The **Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Range Safety Staff, and Employees** of ETRPC sincerely hope you have a safe, responsible, and enjoyable experience while participating in the sport of shooting.

A Serious Responsibility

Shooting is an exciting and rewarding activity—but it is also inherently dangerous. Every time a firearm is handled, it demands your **full attention, training, and respect** for the rules of safe operation.

Despite our best efforts to design safety protocols, policies, and physical safeguards, **no system can predict or prevent every unforeseeable accident**. That's why **you**—the shooter—are always the **first and final line of defense** in maintaining a safe range environment.

Balancing Safety with Practical Use

Safety rules at ETRPC are carefully crafted to balance **necessary caution** with the **freedoms of responsible firearms use**. These rules are not meant to burden you—they are designed to **protect lives**, preserve the range, and ensure all members and guests can enjoy the sport for years to come.

A great deal of thought, experience, and dedication has gone into creating these guidelines. We strongly encourage you to read them carefully, understand their intent, and follow them at all times.

You Are Ultimately Responsible

No matter how many Range Safety Officers we have on duty or how many rules we post, **your personal conduct and attitude is the most important safety factor on the range.**

If you see unsafe behavior:

- **Politely address it** if you're comfortable doing so.
- Or, **immediately report it** to a Range Safety Officer, the Range Manager, or a Board Member.

If a member or guest is creating a situation that could cause serious harm to themselves or others, do not hesitate to **call 911**. The safety of all people on the range comes first.

Be Your Brother's Keeper

We take pride in a shared culture of safety, respect, and responsibility. At ETRPC, we believe in looking out for one another. When you're on the range, be proactive, be observant, and be willing to speak up if needed.

A Mindset of Safety

"There's no such thing as an accidental discharge—only negligent discharges."

"Accidents happen when people are uninformed, become complacent, or ignore the passage of time."

We urge all members and guests to adopt a **new attitude and judgment** when it comes to firearms. Shooting is serious. It requires discipline, maturity, and a willingness to learn and adapt.

Failure to follow our rules, use sound judgment, or act responsibly may result in:

- Suspension or termination of membership
- Permanent loss of range privileges
- Legal consequences in the case of injury or recklessness

In the worst-case scenario, someone's life could be changed—or lost—due to negligence.

I. The Inherent Risks of Shooting Sports

While we work diligently to make ETRPC as safe as possible, all members and guests must understand that **shooting firearms carries real, physical risks**. These risks are present any time a firearm is handled, regardless of the shooter's experience level or intent.

Some of the most common and serious risks include—but are not limited to:

- **Being shot**, whether by oneself or another person through negligence or unsafe handling.
- **Partial or total loss of eyesight or hearing**, often caused by failure to use proper personal protective equipment (PPE).
- **Firearm malfunction**, such as a catastrophic mechanical failure (e.g., barrel obstruction, overpressure round) that can result in burns, shrapnel injuries, or more.
- **Injury from flying or falling objects**, such as ricochets, spent brass, target fragments, or wind-blown debris.

Less obvious, but equally important risks include:

- **Lead and chemical exposure** from ammunition residues and cleaning solvents.
- **Slips, trips, and falls** on uneven terrain or in wet conditions.
- **Burns or cuts** from hot barrels, sharp firearm components, or mishandling tools.

II. Mitigating Risk Through Responsibility

Each person who sets foot on the range plays a role in reducing these risks. That means:

- **Always treat every firearm as if it is loaded.**
- **Keep your muzzle pointed in a safe direction** at all times—this is non-negotiable.
- **Keep your finger off the trigger** until your sights are on target and you're ready to fire.
- **Be certain of your target and what is beyond it.**
- **Wear eye and ear protection**—this is mandatory for everyone on the firing line, including observers.

Never assume others are being safe—**assume responsibility for your space, your firearm, and your conduct.**

III. Shared Responsibility and Reporting

If you observe an unsafe act or condition, you are encouraged—and expected—to take action:

1. **Politely inform the person** of the issue, if it's safe to do so.
2. **Report it to a Range Safety Officer, club employee, or Board Member.**
3. If there is **immediate danger to life or property**, call **911** and notify others on the range.

Your vigilance is not just appreciated—it's essential. We cannot afford complacency.

IV. The Serious Consequences of Negligence

Irresponsible behavior, careless firearm handling, or willful violation of ETRPC safety rules may result in:

- **Immediate removal from the range**
- **Suspension or permanent termination of membership**
- **Legal or criminal liability** in the event of an injury or violation of state or federal law
- **Psychological trauma** or life-altering injury to yourself or someone else

This isn't about punishment—it's about **protecting lives**.

II. Easy Targets for Complacency

At ETRPC, safety is more than following commands—it's about constant awareness of your surroundings. Even seasoned shooters are vulnerable to becoming too comfortable. Some of the **easiest places to let your guard down** include:

- **Spring-loaded target throwers** – High-tension mechanisms can activate unexpectedly and cause serious injury if not properly handled or maintained.
- **Mechanical steel targets** – These often have **pinch points, sharp edges, and heavy moving parts**. Always inspect before use.
- **Slippery firing lines** – Wet concrete, spent brass, and sand can all create slipping hazards. Wear appropriate footwear and watch your footing.
- **Loose or falling soil and rocks** – Erosion and unstable terrain can result in twisted ankles or falls, especially on berms or unmaintained trails.
- **Unimproved or uneven terrain** – Be cautious in rural and outdoor range areas; expect trip hazards and holes.
- **Stairs and steps** – Use handrails where available, and never rush while carrying firearms or gear.
- **Hazardous flora and fauna** – Be alert for poisonous plants, snakes, fire ants, wasps, and other wildlife, especially when retrieving targets.
- **Falling trees and branches** – Stay alert during storms or windy days; avoid setting up in areas with visibly damaged or overhanging limbs.

III. The Culture of Safety

Safety is not a single action—it's a **culture**. Everyone on the range must uphold and model responsible behavior at all times.

Always Remember the 6 Basic Firearm Safety Rules:

1. **All guns are always loaded.**
Never assume a firearm is unloaded—**check and confirm** every time you handle it.
2. **Never point a firearm at anything you are not willing to destroy.**
This includes your own body, another person, and any unintended object or animal.
3. **Keep your finger off the trigger and outside the trigger guard until you are ready to fire.**
4. **Be sure of your target and what's beyond it.**
Always know what you're shooting at, what lies behind it, and where the round may go if you miss.
5. **Keep firearms unloaded, actions open, and muzzles pointed in a safe direction when not shooting.**
6. **Use of eye and ear protection is mandatory** on all active ranges—for shooters, observers, and staff.

Additional Safety Expectations at ETRPC:

1. **Obey all federal, state, and local firearms laws.** Know and follow the law at all times.
2. **Never leave firearms unattended.** Secure them, especially when around minors or guests.
3. **Store firearms securely** when not in use to prevent unauthorized access.
4. **Do not consume alcohol or drugs before or while handling firearms.** This is strictly prohibited.
5. **Horseplay is never acceptable.** Joking around with firearms can have fatal consequences.
6. **Only use firearms you are capable of operating safely.** Seek instruction before handling unfamiliar weapons.
7. **Smoking is strictly prohibited when handling black powder.**
8. **Obey all posted speed limits within the ETRPC facility.** These are enforced to protect pedestrians, shooters, and property.

IV. Range Safety Officer (RSO) Authority and Responsibilities

Range Safety Officers (RSOs) are designated representatives of the East Texas Rifle and Pistol Club (ETRPC) Board of Directors. Their primary duty is to ensure that all activities conducted on the range are done in **strict accordance with club safety policies, legal standards, and common-sense firearm practices.**

All members and guests must comply with the directions of RSOs.

When it comes to matters of safety, **the RSO's word is final** for the day. Failure to comply with an RSO's instructions may result in removal from the range, suspension of privileges, or further disciplinary action by the Board of Directors.

A. Responsibilities and Authority of RSOs

1. First Point of Contact

RSOs are your first contact for reporting:

- Safety violations
- Accidents or injuries
- Property misuse or vandalism
- Unauthorized use of the facility

2. Suspension of Activities

RSOs have full authority to suspend or cancel any event, including:

- Club-sanctioned matches
- Special events or private use
- Informal shooting sessions

If an activity is deemed unsafe or not in compliance with ETRPC rules or policies, it will be halted immediately.

3. Firearm and Ammunition Inspection

RSOs may inspect any firearm or ammunition in use on the range to:

- Ensure equipment is safe and serviceable
- Confirm compliance with caliber and ammunition restrictions
- Investigate malfunctions or unsafe conditions

4. Verification of Identity and Membership

RSOs have the authority to:

- Request a **current government-issued photo ID**
- Request your **valid ETRPC gate card**
- Confirm that you are an **authorized member or guest**

Failure to present identification may result in removal from the property.

5. Gate Card Confiscation

If a safety violation occurs, RSOs may **temporarily confiscate the member's gate card.**

The member has the right to appeal the decision to the **Board of Directors**, who will review the incident and determine the appropriate course of action.

6. Vehicle and Traffic Regulation

RSOs are authorized to enforce traffic and vehicle safety, including:

- Adherence to **posted speed limits**
- Prohibition of **reckless or unsafe driving**
- Restriction of access to **muddy, flooded, or unstable roads**
- Prevention of **excessive acceleration** that damages roads or vegetation

7. Medical Incidents

RSOs are **not obligated** to administer first aid or perform rescue operations. In the event of injury, the standard protocol is to:

- Secure the area
- Call **911** for emergency assistance
- Notify club leadership

Members are encouraged to carry personal first aid kits and be trained in basic emergency response.

8. Range Reservation Signage

RSOs will ensure **range reservation signs** are posted in accordance with the club calendar:

- **Morning shifts** post signs for **same-day afternoon** events
- **Evening shifts** post signs for **next-morning** events

Remember:

The RSO is acting in the best interest of your safety and the integrity of the club. They are empowered to take immediate action to prevent accidents, enforce policies, and ensure that all members and guests enjoy a safe and respectful environment.

V. Responsibilities of Members and Guests

The safety, integrity, and reputation of ETRPC depend on every individual's responsible conduct—**members and their guests alike**. By entering the range, you agree to follow all safety protocols, club rules, and legal requirements.

A. Membership Access and Gate Card Use

1. Gate cards are non-transferable.

Under no circumstances may a member surrender, loan, or share their gate card with any other person—including family members who are not registered members. This includes providing gate access to others without being physically present.

2. Range access is limited to authorized individuals.

Only current members and their invited guests may use the range, with the exception of:

- Non-members participating in a **club-sanctioned competition or public event**.
- Individuals given temporary permission by the **Board of Directors** (e.g., contractors, special instructors).

3. **Members are responsible for their guests.**

A member must:

- **Accompany their guests at all times**—they must remain **on the same range**.
 - **Assume full responsibility** for their guests' behavior, including negligent, reckless, or even criminal actions.
 - Ensure their guests understand and follow all club rules.
-

B. Supervision of Minors

4. **Children under the age of 12** must be directly supervised—**at arm's length**—by a responsible adult at all times while on club property.

5. When a child is shooting:

- An adult must have **physical contact** with the child whenever a firearm is in their hands.
 - Each shot must be **intentionally supervised and controlled** by the adult to ensure safe and deliberate firing.
 - Children must only shoot on ranges deemed safe for their size, strength, and experience.
-

C. Pets and Property Conduct

6. **Pets must be under the owner's direct supervision and control at all times.**

- Aggressive or disruptive animals are not allowed.
- Pet waste must be cleaned up immediately—**leave no trace**.

7. **No unauthorized construction or alteration of club property is allowed.**

- This includes digging, moving targets, modifying berms, installing personal equipment, or removing any part of range infrastructure.
 - Any work or improvements must be pre-approved in writing by the **Board of Directors**.
-

VI. Firearms Possession Restrictions: Legal Prohibitions

ETRPC strictly follows all federal and state laws regarding firearms possession. **If you answer “yes” to any of the following questions, you are federally prohibited from handling or possessing firearms and are not allowed on club property.**

Prohibited Persons Checklist (Per ATF/Federal Law)

1. Have you ever been convicted in any court of a **violent crime**, misdemeanor, or felony involving force or weapons?
2. Are you currently under indictment for any felony offense?
3. Are you **addicted to or unlawfully using narcotics or controlled substances**?
4. Are you a **fugitive from justice**?
5. Have you ever been adjudicated as **mentally defective or committed to a mental institution**?
6. Have you been convicted of **domestic violence**?
7. Have you been **dishonorably discharged** from the U.S. Armed Forces?
8. Are you currently subject to a **restraining order** involving harassment, threats, or stalking?
9. Have you **renounced your United States citizenship**?
10. Are you residing **illegally** in the United States?
11. Are you a member of a **criminal gang or organization** that advocates violence or the overthrow of the U.S. government?

If any of the above applies to you, you must not be present on ETRPC property or engage in any shooting activity. Violations will result in immediate removal and notification of law enforcement.

VII. Member and Guest Conduct

ETRPC is proud to be a **family-friendly environment** that welcomes shooters of all genders, ages, and experience levels. With more women and children participating in shooting sports than ever before, it is the responsibility of **every member** to promote a safe, inclusive, and respectful atmosphere on the range.

Expected Conduct

All members and guests are expected to conduct themselves in a **disciplined, courteous, and professional manner** at all times. Abusive or inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

Strictly Prohibited Behavior

Avoid the following at all times:

1. **Consumption or possession of illegal substances or alcohol** anywhere on the property.
 2. **Foul or obscene language.**
 3. **Inappropriate jokes, gestures, or behavior**—this includes sexist, racist, or other offensive content.
 4. **Verbal comments or actions** that make others feel uncomfortable or unsafe.
-

VIII. Targets and Placement

Permissible Targets

Only the following types of targets are authorized:

- **Paper targets** attached to club-approved target frames.
- **Steel targets** that are provided by the range or installed for official club matches/events and approved by the Range Safety Officer.

Prohibited Targets

DO NOT shoot at any of the following:

1. Objects placed such that the bullet path does **not** terminate in a berm or backstop.
2. **Tin, aluminum, or beverage cans.**
3. Reactive targets **unless placed at the base of a berm.**
4. **Glass** objects or containers.
5. Pressurized or flammable containers (e.g., propane tanks, aerosol cans).
6. **Exploding or binary targets** (e.g., Tannerite).
7. **Living animals or birds**—this is illegal and unethical.
8. Scrap metal, junk materials, or unauthorized personal targets.

Improper Target Placement

Targets must not be placed:

- Where bullets may **strike the support structure** of the target frame.
- **Flat on the ground**, unless directly at the base of a berm.
- **Atop berms, target frames, or on range floor areas not aligned with a backstop.**
- **Outside designated firing lanes.**
- On **small surfaces or props** (e.g., shotgun shells, coins, bottle caps, or matches).

Do Not Shoot At:

- a. Flat ground.
 - b. Standing water.
 - c. Exposed rock within berms or backstops.
 - d. Structural components of target frames.
 - e. Any portion of the firing line including covers, benches, tables, or concrete pads.
 - f. Target weights, cables, or suspension wires.
 - g. Trees or vegetation serving as backstops.
-

IX. Controlling Projectiles

At ETRPC, the **safe containment of projectiles** is central to our mission. Our range is designed around three key safety features that serve as barriers to prevent stray rounds:

Primary Safety Structures

1. **Impact Berms** – Absorb and stop bullets behind the targets.
2. **Backstops** – The final energy-termination point for all rounds fired.
3. **Dividing Berms** – Separate ranges laterally to contain side-angle projectiles.

These structures **must be maintained and respected** at all times. **Do not climb, dig, or alter any berm or backstop.** Doing so weakens the structural integrity and increases risk of injury or uncontained rounds.

Three Key Factors in Projectile Safety

1. **Bullet Trajectory**
Always be aware of your barrel's elevation. Bullets follow an arc—**what goes up must come down**—and that “down” must happen **within the berm or backstop**.
 2. **Target Placement**
All targets must be placed to **ensure uninterrupted projectile path** into the berm or backstop.
 3. **Energy Termination**
Every bullet fired must come to rest **within an authorized containment area**. No bullet should ever leave the property or ricochet back toward the shooter.
-

Potential Hazards if Rules Are Ignored

1. **Rounds leaving the range**, risking lives and legal consequences.
2. **Ricochets**, which are unpredictable and dangerous.
3. **Bullet fragmentation**, causing injuries to shooters or bystanders.
4. **Secondary fragmentation**, where rocks, metal, or debris are projected by bullet impact.

Each of these risks is preventable through proper conduct and respect for range design.

Movement and Access Limitations

ETRPC is not a recreational park. It is a controlled access shooting facility.

Access is strictly limited to:

- **Range roadways and driveways** connecting different areas.
- **Designated parking areas.**
- **Shooting bays, berms, and safe walkways.**

Do not enter areas beyond berms or backstops. These are considered **secondary impact zones** and pose serious risk. Unauthorized access is a safety violation and may lead to disciplinary action.

X. Range Hours of Operation

General Use

- a. **The range is open 7 days a week @ 6:30** unless otherwise posted for maintenance or special events.
- b. **Shooting is permitted only during authorized hours** established by ETRPC and in accordance with local ordinances and safety requirements.
- c. **All shooting must cease by 8:15 PM**, and all persons must be off the premises by **8:30 PM** each day.
- d. **Firing is not permitted** if you cannot clearly see **your target and the backstop at all distances downrange** using **natural daylight or electric lighting**.
 - If there is insufficient visibility to positively identify a target, confirm the backdrop, or ensure a safe shooting environment, **do not fire—the range is considered closed**.
Night shooting is only authorized if the range is equipped with adequate lighting and has been pre-approved for after-hours use **by the Board of Directors or Range Safety Officer**.

Temporary Range Closures

Individual ranges or the entire facility may be **temporarily closed** for:

- Safety inspections
- Maintenance or repair work
- Training events
- Emergency response situations
- Other club-sanctioned activities that require safe exclusion zones

Closures will be posted in advance on the **ETRPC website, range bulletin board**, or communicated via email when possible.

Reserved Range Use

Certain ranges may be **reserved exclusively for scheduled matches, classes, or other club-sanctioned events**.

- During these times, those ranges will be **closed to general member use**.
- **“Range Reserved” signs will be posted** by the Range Safety Officer or event coordinator.
- Always check the **ETRPC calendar** before visiting to verify availability.

XI. Types of Ranges and the Correct Way to Use Them

The East Texas Rifle and Pistol Club (ETRPC) maintains a variety of purpose-specific shooting ranges designed to ensure the safe, effective, and enjoyable use of all types of firearms. Each range has unique restrictions and operational rules based on firearm type and target design. Members are responsible for knowing and following all range-specific regulations.

Please note:

Do not draw from a holster from behind any bench area. You may go out onto the upper range bays to conduct drawing and movement practice.

Pistol Ranges – Bays #5 and #6

Pistol Bays #5 and #6 are dedicated **handgun-only** ranges, purpose-built for safe short-range handgun use.

Permitted Firearms:

- Handheld pistols and revolvers
- Rimfire handguns

Prohibited Firearms:

- Shoulder-fired firearms of any kind
- AR/AK-style pistols or any handgun chambered in traditional rifle calibers (e.g., 5.56 NATO, 7.62x39)
- Magnum-caliber handguns including 10mm
- Pistol-caliber carbines

Range #5 & #6 (Steel Bay) – Special Rules Apply:

- **No firing from inside the bay.** All shots must be taken from behind the designated firing line. Violations will result in immediate **loss of membership**.
- **Downrange access is only allowed for painting steel targets.**
 - The range must be called "**COLD**".
 - All firearms must be **unloaded, benched or grounded** at the firing line with actions open.
 - All non-participating members must stand behind the **yellow safety line**.
- **Do not move or reposition steel targets.**

Only calibers listed below are allowed to protect from splatter and steel target damage. If you do not see your caliber listed here do not shoot it on these two ranges.

- .22 Short / .22 LR
- .25 ACP
- .32 Short / .32 ACP / .32 S&W Long
- .380 ACP
- 9x18 Makarov
- .38 S&W / .38 Special / .38 Special +P
- .44 S&W Special
- 9mm Luger / 9x19 Parabellum
- .40 S&W
- .45 ACP
 - **Eye protection is mandatory** at all times.
 - **There is to be no drawing from a holster on these ranges.**

- **Please take guns to the firing line to unbag and rebag. Do not walk around the bay with a firearm. Firearms are to remain on the firing line bench.**

Rifle Ranges

Rifle ranges are designed for the use of a wide variety of firearms, including rifles, pistols, and **shotguns firing slug ammunition only**. These ranges are suited for longer distances and precision shooting.

All firing must be from the firing line. There is to be no use of these ranges for movement drills of any kind.

Permitted:

- Centerfire and rimfire rifles (excluding high-energy calibers as noted)
- Pistols
- Shotguns with **slug-type ammunition only**

Prohibited:

- Any firearm chambered in **.50 BMG** or equivalent high-energy cartridges
- Fully automatic firearms, including those with **binary triggers** (only allowed on designated ranges with prior approval)
- Shotguns using **birdshot or buckshot**—patterning rounds are **not permitted** on rifle ranges

Ranges #1 & #2: Caliber Restrictions

Our previous rules state that ".50 BMG or similar calibers" are prohibited. To eliminate confusion, the Executive Committee has established a definitive limit based on muzzle energy.

- **New Limit:** The maximum allowable caliber on Ranges #1 & #2 is **.338 Lapua Magnum**.
- **The Standard:** This limit is based on a maximum commercial ammunition muzzle energy of **4,800 ft-lbs**.
- **Prohibited Examples:** You may **not** shoot calibers that exceed this energy threshold. Prohibited rounds include, but are not limited to:
 - .50 BMG
 - 700 Nitro Express
 - .378 Weatherby Mag
 - .416 Rigby / .416 Rem Mag / .416 Ruger
 - .458 Win Mag
- **Questions?** If you are unsure if your firearm complies, please contact a Range Officer or the main office before shooting.

Ranges #3, # 4 & #7: Steel Target Restrictions

We need your help preserving our steel targets on Ranges #3, #4, and #7.

- **The Rule:** Do not shoot steel targets with any caliber larger than a **.30-06**.
- **Paper Targets:** You are still fully welcome to shoot larger calibers at **paper targets** on these ranges.
- **Action Needed:** Please refrain from shooting the steel with heavy calibers to prevent unsafe pitting and damage.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our club safe and our facilities in top shape!

Rapid Fire Weapons Rules

Notice: Use of Binary, FRT, ART, and Full-Auto Firearms

Due to the increased popularity of Binary, FRT, and ART triggers, monitoring their use has become more challenging. While these firearms can be enjoyable to shoot, they also present elevated safety and liability risks.

Effective immediately, the use of these firearms, as well as full-auto firearms, is restricted to Range #3 on a first-come, first-served basis. They are no longer permitted on Range #7.

A table has been placed behind the berm for firearm staging. Shooters must remain visible from the firing line and must not engage steel targets. All firing must occur within 15 yards of the berm, as indicated by posted signage. We also recommend driving your vehicle down into the bay area if the gate is open. This will ensure that you will be noticed by other shooters looking for a spot.

Before shooting these firearms, please check in with the on-duty Range Safety Officer or the office.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding as we maintain a safe and responsible shooting environment for all members.

Shotgun Ranges

Shotgun ranges are reserved exclusively for shotguns using **club-approved target ammunition**.

Range 12 – Shotguns Only:

- **Slugs and buckshot** are permitted

5-Stand and Trap Ranges – Specific Rules:

- Only **target load** shotgun shells using **shot size 7½ or smaller** are allowed
 - **Not allowed:**
 - Buckshot or slugs
 - Heavy game loads
 - Rifles or pistols
-

Prohibited Ammunition and Devices – All Ranges

The following are **strictly prohibited** on all ETRPC property and shooting ranges:

1. **Ammunition Types:**
 - Armor-piercing (AP, Green Tip)
 - Incendiary
 - Explosive (entire or tipped)
 - Tracer (including phosphorous)
 - Non-conventional or experimental projectiles
2. **Devices and Equipment:**
 - Paintball guns
 - Airsoft
 - Bows and arrows
 - Fireworks or explosive devices

Reminder: All members are responsible for range safety. If in doubt, **ask a Range Safety Officer (RSO)** or consult the ETRPC Range Rules.

XII. Handling a Loaded Firearm Brought to the Range

While it is strongly recommended that firearms be transported to the range **unloaded and cased**, we understand that on occasion, a firearm may inadvertently arrive loaded. The following rules are designed to prioritize safety and avoid potentially dangerous mishandling.

1. What NOT to Do:

- **DO NOT** attempt to unload a firearm in the **parking lot** or **inside a vehicle**.
 - Even with the best intentions, the firearm cannot be safely pointed in a proper downrange or berm-safe direction in these environments.
 - Doing so creates a **serious safety violation** and could result in loss of membership.

2. Proper Procedure:

- Proceed immediately to an **unmanned range bay**, if available.
- Keep the firearm **holstered, cased, or pointed in a safe direction** at all times.
- At the firing line, carefully **unload the firearm** and make it safe while maintaining muzzle awareness.

3. "Safe to Handle" Areas:

- Designated **"Safe to Handle" stalls** are available on the upper ranges.
 - These stalls are for inspection, repair, or clearing of **unloaded** or **malfunctioning** firearms only.
 - **No ammunition is allowed** inside these stalls.
 - Use these areas to disassemble or troubleshoot firearms without risk to others.

XIII. Cold Range Protocol

ETRPC operates as a **Cold Range**, which means that all firearms must be unloaded unless the firing line is declared **HOT**. All shooters must strictly follow Cold Range procedures to ensure the safety of everyone on site.

Cold Range Declaration and Steps:

1. **Announce clearly:**
Call out: "**Make the Line Safe**" or "**Cold Range**"
All shooters must **acknowledge and agree** before anyone proceeds downrange.
2. **Unload Firearms:**
 - Remove all chambered rounds.
 - Remove magazines, clips, or feeding devices.
3. **Open Actions:**
 - Lock bolts, slides, or cylinders open.
 - Firearms must be **visibly clear** for inspection.
4. **Secure Firearms:**
 - Firearms must be **benched, racked, grounded, or holstered**.
 - All muzzles must remain pointed in a **safe direction** (downrange or vertical as applicable).
5. **Step Behind the Yellow Line:**
 - All shooters not inspecting or setting up targets must move behind the "**Yellow Ready Line**".
 - No one is allowed forward of the firing line until **full compliance** is confirmed.
6. **Line Inspection:**
 - Each shooter must visually confirm that all firearms are safe.
 - If needed, **politely correct** or assist others to ensure compliance.
7. **Proceed Downrange:**
 - Only when all firearms are confirmed safe and all shooters are behind the yellow line may movement downrange begin.
 - While downrange, **do not hide behind berms** or barriers—stay visible at all times.
8. **Bringing Equipment to a Cold Line:**
 - Shooters arriving at a Cold Line must **stage firearms and gear behind the Yellow Line** until it is called HOT again.
9. **No Loaded Firearms at a Cold Line:**
 - Loaded firearms **must not** be brought to a Cold Line under any circumstance.
10. **Concealed Handgun License (CHL) Holders and Law Enforcement:**
 - May approach the line with a **loaded, holstered firearm**.
 - The firearm must remain **holstered** and **untouched** until the line is declared HOT.

XIV. Preparing for a HOT Range

Before calling a range HOT, all shooters must work together to ensure the firing line and downrange area are secure.

1. **All shooters downrange must be safely behind the firing line** before HOT is declared.
 2. **Always scan downrange for movement.** If any movement is seen, immediately hold the range as **SAFE/COLD** until the cause is identified and resolved.
 3. Once downrange is confirmed clear, shooters may **approach the firing line** from behind the **Yellow Ready Line** and begin setting up equipment or firearms.
 4. Before declaring the range HOT, clearly announce the command:
"Eye and Ear Protection On!"
All shooters must visibly have protective equipment in place before a HOT range can be declared.
-

XV. HOT Range Procedures

Once the range is declared HOT, the following safety protocols apply:

1. **No loaded firearms** may be brought to the firing line.
2. Firearms are **not to be loaded** until the firing line is officially declared HOT.
3. Once HOT, **no one may move past the firing line.**
4. Shooters may now **handle, load, and fire** their firearms.
5. **Before firing**, inspect your firearm's **barrel and action** for obstructions. Ensure the **correct ammunition** is being used.
6. All shots must be fired with the **muzzle forward of the firing line.**
7. Handgun coaches may stand alongside a shooter but must avoid interfering with the RSO's view of the line.
8. Avoid **crowding around a shooter.** Non-shooters should be seated beside or behind the shooter.
9. During reloading, the firearm's **muzzle must always remain downrange.**
10. **No shooting behind the firing line.**
11. All firing must occur from the **established firing line**, even if a temporary one is designated.
12. Experienced shooters should **periodically scan the line** to check if others need to go cold for target work.
13. On hearing "**Cease Fire**", immediately stop shooting, clear your firearm, and help ensure the line is safe. If the situation isn't quickly resolved, **everyone must retreat behind the Yellow Ready Line.**
14. After finishing your shooting session:
 - **Unload your firearm**
 - Remove the magazine
 - Leave the action/cylinder/bolt open

- Either step behind the Yellow Line or remove the firearm in a safe manner with the **muzzle pointed in a safe direction**
 - 15. Firearms not in active use must be made safe:
 - **Holstered, racked, grounded, or removed**
 - **Actions open and muzzles pointed safely**
 - 16. CHL holders and Law Enforcement Officers must **reload and reholster** on a **HOT range only**.
-

XVI. Range Housekeeping

Each shooter is responsible for maintaining a clean and orderly range.

1. **Pick up spent brass or hulls** at the end of your shooting session.
 - Rifle and pistol brass may be left for others to reload. Please sweep from concrete.
 - All **shotgun shells must be picked up** and properly disposed of.
 - **Do NOT dispose of brass or live ammunition** in trash barrels.
 2. Remove **used paper targets** from frames and dispose of them in designated barrels behind the firing line.
 3. **No dumping of household trash** or unrelated debris on club property.
 4. If you bring it with you, take it back with you. Do not leave personal target stands or equipment at the range. It will be disposed of no questions asked. Small items left like magazines, bags, clothes etc. will be held at the office for 30 days and then disposed of. ETRPC is not responsible for your personal items.
-

XVII. Scheduled Club Matches and Special Events

The following rules apply during ETRPC matches and organized events:

1. **All range rules apply** during scheduled matches, regardless of attendance.
2. Deliberate violation of rules by **any member or guest** should be reported to a Club Officer.
3. All matches are run as **Cold Ranges**:
 - Firearms remain **unloaded** until the shooter is on the firing line and **instructed to load** by the match director.
 - A **180-degree rule** is enforced:
(Shooter facing downrange must not move their muzzle more than 90° left or right.)
 - **Exemptions to Cold Range protocols** for special events require **prior approval from ETRPC Officials**.
4. Shooters must be familiar with the **designated firing line** for the event.

5. **ETRPC Range Safety Officers (RSOs)** may adjust procedures as necessary to maintain safety.
 6. **Club-provided targets** are used during official matches.
 7. Matches and events must be scheduled through the **Range Officer** and posted via:
 - Club bulletin board
 - Club website
 8. **Ranges may close several hours prior** to event time for preparation or maintenance.
 9. Club matches are **open to both members and non-members**.
 10. **Scheduled events take priority** over general member use of the range.
 11. **All events**, including CHL classes, must be approved and scheduled with the **Range Officer and Executive Director** at least one month in advance.
 12. If **gift certificates** are awarded in youth categories, only **trophies** will be awarded to maintain eligibility under **UIL amateur rules**.
 13. All **special exemptions** must be **approved by ETRPC Officials**.
-

XVIII. Shotgun Range

All shotgun activities—including informal use and organized events—must adhere to these safety rules, posted at the Shotgun Storage Building:

1. **No alcoholic beverages** are allowed at any time.
 2. **Maximum permitted shot size is #7 1/2.**
 3. **No rifle or pistol use** is allowed on the shotgun ranges.
 4. All shooting must be done from designated **shooting stands**.
 5. Firearms must remain **unloaded with actions open** unless in the shooting stand and ready to fire.
 6. **No one is permitted in front of the shooting stands** until the round is complete and **all actions are open**.
 7. **Eye and ear protection is mandatory.**
 8. Do not enter the restricted area **behind the wall left of the 5 Stand**.
 9. **Pick up all hulls and trash.** Break down bulk boxes and dispose of all waste properly.
 10. If using **manual throwers**, be sure to **uncock the traps** before leaving the range.
-

Final Word

Take your responsibility seriously. Embrace the culture of safety that keeps our range operating. Learn, practice, and help others do the same. We're counting on you.

Stay safe. Stay sharp. Stay responsible

Thank You for Being a Member of the Premier Shooting Range in East Texas

Lower Ranges 1-6



Upper Ranges 7-12

