10 COMMANDMENTS OF FIREARM SAFETY

Accidents don't just happen - they are caused by ignorance or the disregard of safety rules. The following safety rules should be learned and practiced until they become a habit - yours!

I. TREAT EVERY GUN WITH RESPECT, AS IF IT'S A LOADED GUN.

II. WATCH THAT MUZZLE! Be able to control the direction of the muzzle even if you should stumble.

III. BE SURE THAT THE BARREL AND ACTION ARE CLEAR OF OBSTRUCTIONS, and that you only have ammunition of the proper size for the gun you are carrying.

IV. BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET BEFORE YOU PULL THE TRIGGER. Know the identifying features of the game you hunt.

V. UNLOAD GUNS WHEN NOT IN USE. Take down or have actions open. Guns should be carried in cases to the shooting area.

VI. NEVER POINT A GUN AT ANYTHING THAT YOU DO NOT WANT TO SHOOT. Avoid all horseplay when handling a firearm.

VII. NEVER CLIMB A FENCE OR TREE OR JUMP A DITCH WITH A LOADED GUN. Never pull a gun towards you by holding the muzzle.

VIII. NEVER SHOOT A BULLET AT A FLAT, HARD SURFACE OR WATER. At target practice, be sure that your backstop is adequate.

IX. STORE GUNS AND AMMUNITION SEPARATELY, beyond the reach of children and careless adults.

X. AVOID ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES BEFORE OR AFTER SHOOTING. Follow these rules and practice safe shooting!

(Information taken from A Hunter's Handbook, edited by Tim Ivins.)