

Summerhaven Shooting Facility

Range Use Procedures and Rules



Follow the Four Fundamentals of Safe Firearms handling:

- ✓ Always keep firearms pointed in a safe direction – at Summerhaven the safe direction is downrange.
- ✓ Always keep your finger off your trigger until you are ready to shoot at the target. (Finger should be outside the trigger guard until ready to shoot.)
- ✓ Always know your target and beyond.
- ✓ Always treat your firearm as if it is loaded and know the status of that firearm.



Northeast Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

Range Safety Officers (RSOs):



- Public use of the range is limited to times when an MDIFW approved Range Safety Officer is present to monitor shooting activity.
- RSOs can be identified by orange clothing (hats, vests, and/or shirts) with MDIFW logo and Range Safety Officer markings.
- All users of the range must comply with the directions and commands of the MDIFW Range Safety Officer.

Signing In:

- All visitors must sign-in with the Range Safety Officers (RSOs). It is suggested that you leave your firearms and supplies in your vehicle until the RSO has assigned you a lane.
- Visitors must familiarize themselves with all range rules and adhere to them.
- Any visitor under 18 years old, must be accompanied by a person 21 years of age and older. *Accompanied means that the adult supervisor must be in direct proximity to the shooter to create a safe shooting environment, including be able to control the muzzle if the young shooter loses control of the firearm.*
- To protect the overhead baffles, visitors that wish to use the 100-yard rifle bay, must first show that the rifle is "sighted-in" by first shooting at a provided target on a designated 25-yard lane.
- Lawfully carried firearms can be possessed in the facility, but these firearms may not be drawn, handled, or discharged from any location other than the established firing line. Prior to any use at that the range all firearms will be unloaded with the action open, a chamber flag installed, and rested on the bench.



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User Safety:

- Appropriate eye and ear protection is required to be worn inside the shooting bay fencing.
- Smoking, vaping, or smokeless tobacco use ("chewing") is prohibited in inside the shooting bay fencing. Designated outdoor smoking is currently allowed within the confines of the parking lot. *This is for the protection of users from inadvertently ingesting contaminated dust or lead particles. Litter from these activities must be contained and properly disposed of in appropriate receptacles.*



- No food or beverages (including water) are allowed inside the shooting bay fencing, regardless of container design. *This is for the protection of users from inadvertently ingesting contaminated dust or lead particles. Users are welcome to use the picnic area behind the archery bay or anywhere outside the shooting bay fencing to take a break for food or drink.*
- All visitors are responsible for safety. If a visitor sees an unsafe condition or behavior, they should call a cease fire and notify an RSO of the issue. Do not confront another visitor, simply call cease fire, and let the RSOs handle the situation.
- Consumption of alcoholic beverages, marijuana (or any of its derivatives), illegal drugs, or any prescription drugs or over the counter medication, that alters mood, vision, or hearing before coming to the range or during live fire is strictly prohibited.
- There will be no more than two (2) people at a firing line bench at any one time. *If this adult visitor is accompanied with more than one child, the other children must always remain behind the yellow line to allow the adult to have proper supervision of the children at the firing line.*
- Transferring of loaded firearms from one visitor to another at the firing line is prohibited. All firearms must be unloaded, cleared, and placed on the bench before another user can pick up the firearm.
- Novice firearm users and children < 18 years old may be limited from 1-3 rounds in the magazine at a time, at the discretion of the RSO evaluating the user skill level and safe firearm handling ability.
- Visitors must always maintain muzzle control while at the facility. This means that firearms should be kept horizontal (flat) and pointed down range toward the fire berm. *At this facility, "up" is not a safe direction because of the baffles, so particular care must be taken when loading/unloading firearms or investigating or clearing stoppages.*
- In case of a misfire or firearm malfunction, the shooter will keep the firearm pointed down range in a safe direction and raise their hand to alert the RSO. All misfire rounds must be deposited in the container on the range, not mixed with empty brass.

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Cold Range: *Indicated by the flashing overhead red warning light (or red flag installed)*

- A cold range means all firing must cease, firearms are emptied, chamber flag installed, and firearms are placed on the bench, and visitors are allowed to go down range at the direction of the RSO.
- When the RSO calls "cold range" and turns on flashing overhead red warning beacon, visitors will do the following:



- 1) Unload, make clear, and place firearm on the bench. The firearm will remain with the chamber open (and chamber flag installed), muzzle facing downrange, and magazines removed.
 - 2) Visitors will place the provided hi-visibility chamber flags in the open chamber of their firearm.
 - 3) Visitors will step behind the yellow "safety" line and wait for RSO instructions.
 - 4) When the range is clear, the RSO will give the go-ahead to go down range and inspect and maintain targets. *All other users will remain behind the yellow safety line. No firearm or ammunition handling will occur while range is "cold".*
- ❖ Note: this includes packing up to leave the range, this can only be done on a hot range.

Hot Range: *Indicated with no flashing overhead lights. (or green flag installed)*

- A hot range is when active shooting can occur at the direction of the RSO.
- Once the range is clear, the RSO will check with visitors and declare that the range is "Hot" and turn off the overhead red warning beacon.
- Visitors are now welcome to move forward of the yellow line, and begin handling their firearms, ammunition, and related equipment.
- Visitors are free to engage their targets.
- Visitors must not go beyond the firing line in front of the shooting benches at any time the range is declared "hot". *The firing line is painted red in the training bay and is at the edge of the concrete in 25-yard and 100-yard bays.*



Authorized Equipment and activities:

- ✓ Any firearm or archery equipment that is legally owned and possessed, can be safely operated, and is in good working order can be used at the range with the following conditions:
- ✓ Handgun use is limited to high compressed or low ready positions, drawing from or returning to a holster to fire at a target down range is prohibited on any of the firing bays.
- ✓ Lawfully owned and obtained automatic firearms can be used in semi-automatic mode only.
- ✓ Any device that allows for rapid succession of fire is prohibited **unless** operated in single fire mode, such as bump stock, or binary or forced reset triggers.
- ✓ Shotguns are restricted to slug or sabot rounds only. *There may be exceptions to this during special "patterning" events, see MDIFW Trainings and Programs for further information.*

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- ✓ Handguns and short-barreled rifles (SBRs) are not allowed to be fired on the 100-yard bay. *For the protection of the overhead baffle system*
- ✓ Black powder and muzzle loading firearm use may need to be limited when the range use is heavy, to limit interference with other users. *Note: The Department may hold special black powder shooting events.*
- ✓ Targets are restricted to paper or cardboard. A single target will be used at a time and should be attached in the central upper 1/3rd of the provided target stands *(some targets may have multiple points of aim; the goal is to have one appropriately sized target on the target frame at a time).*
- ✓ Use of steel targets is limited to Departmentally provided steel targets and can only be used at RSO discretion and must occur when range use is low, and the activity can be supervised by an RSO.
- ✓ Broadheads or hunting tips are not allowed on the Archery Range. *Note: The Department may hold special shooting events prior to hunting seasons for archers to practice with their equipment.*
- Each lane has a dedicated target stand, that can be moved to any of the established distance lines on each of the firing bays. Firing across lanes to another target is strictly prohibited.
- Each lane has a dedicated shooting bench and/or seat. Unless given specific permission by an on-duty RSO, shooting positions are limited to standing and seated. If a prone shooting position is allowed, it will be done from the top of two joined shooting benches, at the discretion of the RSO.
- Visitors are welcome to use shooting bags, rests, bipods, or other shooting aids. The Department has a few of these items for use upon request. Upon request the RSO will indicate which item was borrowed by the user on the sign-in sheet. All borrowed equipment will be returned after use.

Prohibited Activities:

- ⊗ .50 BMG (browning machine gun) caliber firearms are prohibited on the range.
- ⊗ Incendiary, tracer, marker, or penetrating (i.e., armor piercing, steel core, steel jackets, steel tips,) ammunition are prohibited.
- ⊗ Tannerite, other explosive targets, and fireworks are prohibited.
- ⊗ Rapid fire is prohibited, in other words, there will be a rate of fire no less than a one second interval between shots.
- ⊗ There is no advancing or retreating from targets during firing.
- ⊗ Excavating or removing materials (including spent projectiles) from any berm is prohibited.
- ⊗ Shooting of airborne targets is prohibited.
- ⊗ Purposeful shooting of baffles, structures, target frames, or non-authorized objects is prohibited.
- ⊗ The use of ATVs, dirt bikes, bicycles, snowmobiles, kites, model airplanes, and drones is prohibited.
- ⊗ No hunting or trapping is allowed within fenced portion of facility.
- ⊗ No golfing or driving golf balls.

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Range Hygiene:

- The Department provides decontamination wipes for public users to use prior to leaving the range or before they retire to eat, drink, or smoke. These decontamination wipes are specifically designed to attract and bind lead and other heavy metals to the soft towel and remove from the skin.



- All litter (including paper targets, ammo boxes, etc.) must be contained and properly disposed of in appropriate receptacles.
- All visitors are responsible for picking up their own spent cases and either taking them home or putting them in the appropriate provided receptacles, marked for brass, or steel/aluminum. Visitors are welcome to borrow the provided casing recovery tools provided (i.e., rolling magnet, brass egg roller, squeegee, etc.)

Emergencies:

- For all emergencies other than severe weather, the emergency rally point will be at the large rock at the fence line at the rear of the parking lot, near the portable toilets. For severe weather (high winds, tornadoes, etc.) after the RSO calls for a cease fire and makes the ranges "cold", the emergency rally point will be in the paved training bay.
- For medical emergencies or illness, make the RSO aware of the situation, so a cease-fire can be called, and the range made "cold".
- In the case of sudden or imminent severe weather or high winds, the range will be closed, until the conditions improve or for the remainder of the day, whichever is in the best interest of visitors and public safety.