

Firearm Handling Guidelines

1. Treat every firearm as if it were loaded.
2. Always keep your firearm pointed in a safe direction (muzzle control).
3. Prior to firing, be sure of your target and what is beyond it.
4. Always keep your finger off the trigger until you are on target and ready to fire.
5. Be sure your firearm is in a safe and operational condition (do your maintenance).
6. Know how to use your firearm and its safety features effectively.
7. Use only the correct ammunition for your firearm.
8. Never use drugs or alcohol before shooting (including some prescription medications that may dull your senses).
9. Always be sure the barrel and action of your firearm are clear of obstructions.
10. Always carry your firearm so you can control the muzzle, even if you trip and fall.
11. Unattended firearms should be unloaded and cased, with ammunition stored separately from the firearm.
12. Never shoot at a flat hard surface such as water or frozen ground. Bullets can easily ricochet.

***Howard County
Conservation Board***