



Before Opening Day – Make Safety Part of the Hunt

Hunting season is just around the corner. Before heading into the woods, take a few minutes to make sure your firearm is clean, inspected and handled safely.

Treat every firearm as loaded. Every time. Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction and keep your finger outside the trigger guard until you are ready to fire.

Cleaning? Unload first. Remove all ammunition and verify the chamber and magazine are empty before cleaning or inspecting the firearm. Keep ammunition away from your cleaning area.

The safety can fail. A mechanical safety is an extra layer of protection—not a substitute for safe handling. Even with the safety on, treat the firearm as if it could fire.

Misfire? Don't rush. If you pull the trigger and nothing happens, keep the firearm pointed in a safe direction. Do not immediately open the action or look down the barrel. Follow the firearm manufacturer's instructions for safely handling a misfire.

Inspect before you hunt. Check your firearm and other equipment for damage, excessive wear or anything that doesn't look right. Use only the correct ammunition for your firearm.

Slow down and stay focused. Don't handle firearms when distracted, impaired or in a hurry. Make sure everyone who may be around the firearm understands basic firearm safety.

A successful hunting season starts with getting home safely.

Treat it as loaded. Point it safely. Keep your finger off the trigger.