

SAFETY PRECAUTION
*******SPECIAL NOTICE TO REENACTORS*******

Events like Guyandotte Civil War Days are unique in that against all pretense of political correctness, friends and acquaintances load up large caliber firearms and shoot at one another in our event, in particular, a large number of civilians participate in the battle. Military units “shall” have in-place regulations, instructions and inspections designed, not only to prevent mortal accidents, but also painful and embarrassing incidents that can, at the very least, inhibit a friendship because many of them like to have them “loaded”.

*Under no circumstance should a firearm be carried un-inspected. It is so important that no accidents happen that would hurt someone or besmirch our safety record. Therefore, the Marshal, who is an accredited black powder safety specialist, and his staff will be able to inspect even “loaded” firearms for unwanted projectiles at the civilian meeting on Saturday morning. If one carries, one should feel comfortable doing so.

*Long guns are loaded with only powder. No wad of any kind should be ejected. Powder by itself can blind, burn, tattoo and sting when fired from a distance of up to fifty feet, therefore, safe re-enactors elevate their arms at about a 45 degree angle. Yes, I know, all of us have seen re-enactors firing “level”, however, if one were to be able to look down their sights, they would see that they are firing at a clear field. This is an old movie and stage stunt, if viewed in profile even an exaggerated “throw-off” can look as if the shot is fired “at point blank”.

*Pistols – If one is not going to be fired, it should be unloaded. If you want to exercise your prerogative and carry one loaded, this is the guideline: No more than 15 grains by volume for a .44, 10 grains for a .32 or .36.

*If a space between the powder was/is dictated, use cornmeal or flour. You would be amazed at the smoke and fire this will produce.

*Soft wads or lard to the top can then be used to seal the cylinder. In cold weather, hard wax shrinks and causes gaps. Gaps cause “chain-fire”. Picture a ball on fire on the end of your arm.

*Period firearms are designed only to shoot black powder or a black powder substitute. It says it on the container: “Black Rifle Powder” No! Pyradex or Smokeless Powder, Good Luck!