

Basic Weapon Safety

Rule 1

1 Treat every weapon as if it were loaded



When handling a weapon

- Never trust your memory
- Never make assumptions
- Check your weapon for ammunition whenever it has been out of your possession
- Always clear a weapon before handing it to someone
- Always clear a weapon that has been handed to you
- Never step in front of a weapon

Rule 2

2 Never point a weapon at anything you do not intend to shoot



When handling a weapon

- Be aware of:
 - Muzzle direction
 - Surroundings
- Never point your weapon in an unprotected direction
- Never point the muzzle at any part of your body
- Never point your weapon at any person or animal you don't consider to be a possible threat.

Rule 3

3 Keep weapon on safe until you intend to fire



When handling a weapon

- Use the weapon's own safety feature
 - The built-in safe position prevents inadvertent firing of the weapon

Rule 4

3 Keep your finger straight and off the trigger, along the trigger guard until your sights are up on target and you are ready to fire



When handling a weapon

- Your trigger finger is the single greatest safety feature common to any weapons system
- Tightening of the grip is a common reaction to shock or loss of balance
- Keeping your finger off the trigger can eliminate negligent discharges

Rule 5

5 Be aware of your target and consider its foreground and background



When handling a weapon

- Be aware of instances where the threat geometry is unsafe for effective target engagement, especially when
 - Covering other officers
 - Engaging a subject in a crowded area