

Event Safety Guidelines

1. General. While World War II reenacting commemorates the events and soldiers of the Second World War, the safety of reenactors, event staff and any spectators is paramount. The authentic portrayal of these events and soldiers involves considerable risk and is inherently dangerous. These guidelines are intended to mitigate risk by ensuring that participants are: properly trained; sufficiently and suitably equipped; capable of routinely identifying risks; and prepared to safeguard others, whether fellow reenactors or the visiting public. Unit leaders will devise and adopt measures which implement these guidelines.

2. Individual and Unit Requirements.

a. All participants must be registered as members, in good standing, of a recognized unit. **NO "FREELANCING"**.

b. Units will designate a competent safety officer.

c. Unit leaders will verify that registrants identified with their unit are members in good standing and sufficiently trained / experienced to safely participate in the event.

d. At a minimum, training / experience will include: basic weapons safety, vehicular safety (both mounted and dismounted), heat and cold weather injuries, symptoms of hypothermia, age or health limitations, environmental threats, identification of the unit safety officer and any qualified unit medical personnel, risk assessment, emergency response and serious incident reporting.

e. Unit leaders will ensure personnel are properly attired and equipped for conditions prior to movement to operational areas.

f. Helmets, as appropriate, will be worn during tactical operations.

g. Gloves should be worn, wherever appropriate, and personnel should be on guard for extremely hot or cold surfaces.

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h. Unit leaders will conduct periodic health and welfare checks of soldiers; at a minimum: during halts, after contact and prior to movement from / to the rear area.

3. Firearms and Munitions.

a. **Personal defense firearms and live munitions ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED.**

b. Period Firearms and Blank Firing Munitions.

(1). A condition of participation includes that individual reenactors who arrive with period firearms or blank firing only guns personally and individually certify their safety and operability. It is the responsibility of the participant to immediately remove from service any firearm or blank firing only gun and to keep it out of service until it can be certified to be safe and operable again.

(2). Blank munitions will be inspected on arrival.

(3). Firearms will be handled and safeguarded as if loaded at all times.

(4). Firearms will only be loaded upon direction of the unit leadership.

(5). Firearms will not be discharged in the direction of another individual within 20 feet.

(6). The use of hearing protection is strongly encouraged during blank firing.

(7). In garrison, units will be responsible for safely storing and securing firearms and blank munitions / pyrotechnics.

(8). In bivouac, individual soldiers are responsible for safeguarding and accountability of their firearm(s) and blank munitions / pyrotechnics.

(9). See Addendum for age requirements and details.

(10). No one may handle or operate a weapons system on which they have not been trained.

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(11). Only registered participants may handle firearms or munitions.

4. Vehicle Safety.

a. Always maintain three points of contact when boarding, while on or disembarking combat vehicles.

b. Beware of wet, snow covered, icy or oily surfaces on or around combat vehicles.

c. Ensure combat vehicle hatches / doors are secured, open or closed, prior to movement.

d. Ensure the immediate area of any combat vehicle is clear of personnel or equipment before moving.

e. Ground troops will maintain a minimum safe distance of 50 feet from combat vehicles during tactical operations and only approach a vehicle after gaining the attention of the vehicle driver and commander.

f. Attempts to approach or board a combat vehicle for the purpose of inserting or affixing a faux explosive or pyrotechnic device **ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED**.

g. Attempts to use one's person or equipment to impede the movement of a combat vehicle **ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED**.

h. Use ground guides and limit speed to 5 MPH in motor pools, assembly areas, confined spaces and within 50 feet of dismounted troops.

5. Garrison and Bivouac Safety.

a. Garrison Safety.

(1). Prior to issue of a barracks or building, units will apprise the event staff of any issues regarding hygiene or safety prior to acceptance. Correction or adjudication to the mutual satisfaction of all parties will occur prior to the unit accepting the barracks or building.

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(2). Upon acceptance, the unit will implement measures to sustain or improve conditions in the barracks or building to ensure the health and safety of occupants.

(3). Latrines and washing / bathing facilities will be regularly inspected. Floors, sinks and commodes will be kept free of debris.

(4). Common areas and walkways will be kept clear of equipment and trip hazards.

(5). Smoking, open flames and cooking are strictly prohibited in any barracks or building.

(6). Units will control access to their barracks or building at all times.

b. Bivouac Safety.

(1). Ensure bivouac sites are clear of high traffic areas and coordinate their location with local mechanized / motorized units.

(2). Fires, if permitted, will be monitored at all times and a means to extinguish the fire will be readily available.

(3). Smoking and open flames of any kind are not permitted in tentage.

(4). Units will maintain the security of their camp at all times.

7. Emergency Response.

a. Adverse Weather. Units will cease operations, move to their designated rally points, establish accountability for: personnel; weapons; and sensitive items and follow instructions from the event staff.

b. First Aid. In the event of an emergency requiring immediate medical attention, administer first aid until help arrives, identify the nearest qualified first responder, call

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911 for life or limb threatening injuries and alert the unit / event chain of command.

8. Drugs and Alcohol.

a. Underage drinking is illegal and **strictly prohibited**.

b. Anyone visibly intoxicated or under the influence of drugs who presents a hazard to himself or others will be reported to the event staff and may be remanded to the local / installation Police.

c. The possession, use, sale or distribution of illegal drugs is strictly prohibited and will be reported to the local / installation police.

9. Accident Reporting.

a. Units will immediately report all accidents to the event staff.

b. Based upon the nature and severity of the accident, event operations may be temporarily or permanently halted at the discretion of the event director.

c. Effected unit(s) will support the event safety officer in the preparation of an accident report and any subsequent report(s) of investigation.

10. Expulsion from the Event.

a. Acts or behavior that violates event rules may result in expulsion from the event.

b. Violation of safety rules WILL result in expulsion from the event.

c. Articulated failure of unit leadership to control their personnel will result in exclusion from subsequent events hosted by event leadership.

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