HISTORIC FORT WAYNE – FIELD SAFETY RULES

All participants, including non-combatants, should read these field safety rules. Attendance by a Unit Representative at all safety briefings and walk-throughs is compulsory. Any unit that is not represented will be asked to stay in camp.

BLACK POWDER

1. Black powder must be kept a minimum distance of **eight (8) yards** from open fires. When not in use powder must be secured and out of reach of children or visiting public.
2. Any theft of black powder must be reported to site staff whether actual, suspected or attempted.
3. Preparation of ammunition should be done **before arrival**. Artillery unit members will remove wool coats and period footwear when preparing charges in the fort powder lab.
4. If disposal of black powder is necessary, it is to be done by designated staff.

FIREARMS

1. Only proofed reproduction firearms can be used.
2. All ammunition and firearms will be subject to examination by designated site staff.
3. Firearms must use black powder in **pre-measured paper cartridges**. Loading from a powder horn/flask or other bulk container is not permitted. Revolver chambers should be pre-loaded and reloading will be done with paper cartridges.
4. All firearms should be in proper working order and have a functioning half-cock mechanism.
5. No firearm, loaded or unloaded, shall be pointed towards another person including spectators or re-enactors on the site.
6. No member of the public (including press) shall handle a firearm, loaded or unloaded.
7. All firearms must be secure at all times, either held in hand or locked away.
8. Any necessary licenses or permits should be readily available.
9. No alcohol 8 hours prior to a tactical or demonstration.

EDGED WEAPONS

1. All edged weapons including bayonets, knives, swords, tomahawks, etc., must be sheathed on the field with the exception of approved weapons during demonstrations with no opposing sides.
2. No edged weapons may be thrown at any time with the exception of approved weapons during demonstrations with no opposing sides.

TACTICAL DEMONSTRATIONS / SIMULATED BATTLES

- The safety of the viewing public and re-enactors is paramount and will be the determining factor in the location and extend of demonstrations.
- No alcohol 8 hours prior to a tactical or demonstration
- Any person found violating stated rules and regulations will result in his/her immediate expulsion from the site during the remainder of the program.
- Any unit that does not abide by the rules or cannot control their unit members will be removed from the program and will not be invited to future re-enactments at the site.

FOR PUBLIC SAFETY, POLICE TAPE AND BARRIERS ESTABLISH VIEWING LINES.

NO Firing, in any direction, within **seven (7) yards** of viewing lines.
NO Firearm or Artillery piece is to be discharged towards or over viewers.
NO Participant will cross viewing lines during demonstrations.
ALL Unit Commanders must clear and safety check their unit's firearms before leaving a demonstration area. All units must check their area for cartridges and percussion caps.

FIRST AID – Trained Site Staff are on and around the field with water and first aid kits. Safety Access Routes will be indicated. If you are a medical or emergency professional it would be helpful if you identified yourself at registration or officer call.

INFANTRY

1. During any opposed side demonstration, firearms will **not** be deliberately aimed at enemy forces', regardless of distance/range to the opposing line.
2. Ramrods are not to be used at any time **during** a tactical demonstration. At the beginning and end of a demonstration they will be used to ensure the firearm is unloaded.
3. Firearms must use black powder in **pre-measured paper cartridges**. Loading from a powder horn/flask or other bulk container is not permitted. Revolver chambers should be pre-loaded and reloading will be done with paper cartridges.
4. No projectile, including wadding, may be fired from a firearm at any time.
5. Firing will cease within **twenty-five (25) yards** of two units and no closing with edged weapons is allowed. Any closing must be pre-determined with Safety Officers and Opposing Force Commanders.
6. Firearms will be unloaded – **fired or the powder dumped** – before crossing obstacles.
7. No demonstration of rapid fire or speed loading will be permitted.
8. All flintlocks must have **frizzen covers** (hammer stalls) to prevent accidental discharge. **Flashguards** fitted to priming pans are required. **Earplugs** are strongly recommended.
9. All mounted units must keep their horses under control at all times.
10. On the word of command **STANDFAST**. All participants will stop marching and stop firing until cleared by Safety Staff to continue.
11. Infantry will stay a minimum distance of **fifty (50) yards** from artillery.
    Infantry will **not** advance on a gun position with a misfired artillery piece.

ARTILLERY

1. Firing and loading intervals of at least three (3) minutes will be confirmed by Site Safety Officer.
2. All artillery blank charges will be made of aluminum foil, rolled and formed with a distinct bottom and top.
3. No projectile, including wadding, may be fired from a gun at any time.
4. Each artillery piece, its implements and the gun detachment's drills will be inspected by the Site Safety Officer.
5. Detachments will double worm and double sponge for all blank firings.
6. Loaded artillery pieces will not be moved.
7. Any misfire will be cleared in place. After a minimum of five minutes, the detachment will be given the opportunity to prime and attempt firing a second time.
8. Artillery pieces will be spaced a minimum of **ten (10) yards**.
9. Artillery will not be fired if there are any re-enactors within **fifty (50) yards**, inside a **left and right arc of forty-five (45) degrees**, from the muzzle of the piece.
10. Artillery will be placed a minimum of **seventeen (17) yards** in front of or to the side of the viewing public. No person will be within the arcs and minimum safe range of a piece.
11. On the word of command **STANDFAST**. All participants will stop marching and stop firing until cleared by Safety Staff to continue.
12. Earplugs are strongly recommended.

Recommendations For Gunners – Certified personnel in black powder. Spare firing implements and equipment. Charge forms fit to the breech of your piece. Flashlights for night firing, appropriate clothing and footwear for work in powder lab (i.e. small clothes and rubber soled shoes). Gun drill will be assessed for safety and not precision appearance.