

BASIC RULES OF

**FIREARM
SAFETY**



**IMPORTANT - READ BEFORE USING
YOUR STEYR FIREARM!**

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BASIC RULES OF FIREARM SAFETY

Properly used, a well-made firearm can provide a lifetime of enjoyment and safe recreational activity. It can also be a valuable tool for hunting, pest control, or the protection of yourself and your loved ones. However, **responsibility and common sense** must go hand-in-hand with your possession and use of firearms. As a law abiding gun owner and user, **you** must assume responsibility for the safe handling, safe use, and safe storage of your firearms.

Reading this safety booklet is a good start. You must also read and understand the **Owner's Manual** provided with your STEYR firearm. Unless you are already experienced with firearms and have had hands-on instruction in their use, **you should take a class in firearms safety, storage and handling from a certified instructor BEFORE you load, fire or use your new firearm.** Contact your local shooting range, gun dealer, police department, or the National Rifle Association at 703-267-1000 to find out where such classes are offered in your area.

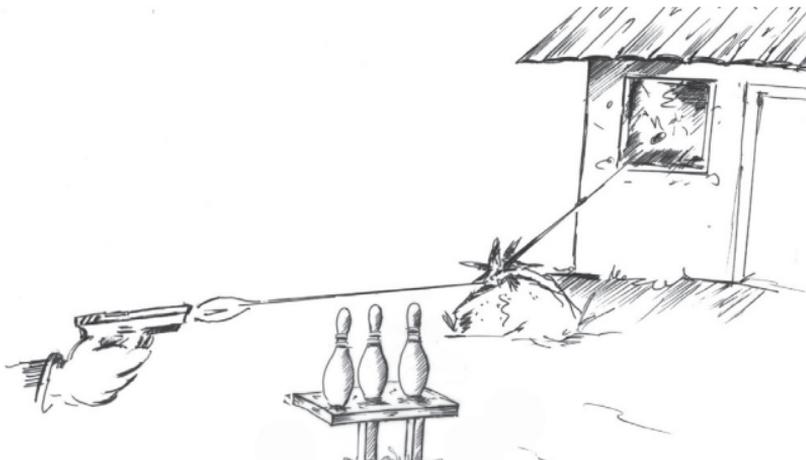
Safety **cannot** be produced by the mechanical safety devices on your firearm, or by your firearm's quality or cost. **Firearms safety depends on YOU!**

1. Handle all firearms as if they were loaded, at all times.



Handling a gun carelessly for even an instant can result in serious injury or death. Once a careless shot is fired you cannot call it back, and the results of your carelessness may be tragic and permanent. By always handling firearms as if they were loaded, at all times, you will never have to plead the lame excuse, “But I didn’t know the gun was loaded!” Make safe gun handling a habit from which you never deviate, even for an instant. Even after you check visually and physically to confirm that a gun is unloaded (following the procedure for your particular gun explained in the Owner’s Manual), continuing to handle the firearm as though it were loaded will ensure that you never cause injury to yourself or anyone else.

2. Keep the firearm pointed in a safe direction at all times.



A “safe direction” is one where there will be **no injury** to anyone if the gun is fired. At the very least, **never point** a gun (whether loaded or “unloaded” – see Rule 1 above) at or even in the general direction of yourself or anyone else. In selecting a safe direction, you must take into consideration that a bullet can ricochet, or glance off, almost anything it strikes, and that bullets can penetrate completely through walls, ceilings, floors, windows, furniture and other objects, with enough remaining force to injure or kill someone on the far side. Even if your firearm has a manual safety (and many types of firearms do not), do not allow your firearm to point in an unsafe direction, or engage in other careless behavior, just because you believe the safety is “on.” A mechanical safety, like any other mechanical device, may fail, or you may be mistaken about whether it is “on” or “off.” By keeping your gun pointed in a safe direction at all times, then even if it were to be accidentally discharged, there would be no injury to yourself or anyone else.

3. Keep your finger off the trigger and outside the trigger guard until your sights are aimed at a safe target and you have decided to fire.



By keeping your finger completely outside the trigger guard until you are aimed at the target and have decided to fire, you ensure that any shots you fire will go safely toward your intended target. As soon as you stop firing or lower your gun from alignment with the target, take your finger out of the trigger guard. **DON'T let your finger casually remain on the trigger or inside the trigger guard as you hold or carry the firearm! ONLY put your finger inside the trigger guard when you intend to fire the gun.** Being startled, or losing your balance, or exerting muscular force with either hand or arm could make the muscles of your fingers and hands contract, causing you to fire a gun you are holding if your finger is on the trigger, or inside or near the trigger guard. Keeping your finger well outside the trigger guard, and bracing it safely along the frame or slide of the gun whenever you are not firing, will greatly reduce the chance of an unintentional discharge of this sort. Well-made, modern guns don't "go off" by themselves; except in the case of a mechanical defect (which is very rare), the trigger must be pulled for the gun to fire. By keeping your finger outside the trigger guard until you are on target and have decided to fire, you ensure that your gun will only fire when you want it to!

4. Be sure that your target, and what's around and behind it, are safe before you fire.



Never fire at a movement, a noise, a rustling bush, or a quick glimpse of something you have not positively identified. Remember that once you fire the bullet, you cannot call it back, so you must **positively identify your target BEFORE you fire!** Be sure there is nothing that can be injured in your intended direction of fire. Also remember that a bullet can travel over a mile (several miles for rifle bullets), and can injure or kill someone so far away you can't even see them. Because of this, you must have a **safe backstop** that will contain any bullet you fire. Never fire at something on the crest of a hill, up in a tree or in the air, where a missed shot can come down miles away.

Properly constructed shooting ranges have backstops specially designed for this purpose, such as bullet traps on indoor ranges, or high, steeply-sloped mounds of soft earth, free of rocks or other hard objects, on outdoor ranges. If you are shooting anywhere other than at such an established shooting range, **YOU** must ensure that the backstop is safe **BEFORE** you fire. Take into consideration that a bullet can ricochet (glance off) almost any surface, including but not limited to rock, pavement, metal, wood, ice, frozen or hard ground, or even soft earth or the surface of water if the bullet hits it at a shallowly glancing angle. In addition, a bullet, fragment or “splashback” coming back toward you (or in the direction of someone else) after the bullet strikes a steel target, metal target frame, or other hard object can cause serious injury or death. If in doubt about the safety of your intended target or backstop, **do not fire** until you have consulted your firearms instructor, range safety officer, or other qualified individual.

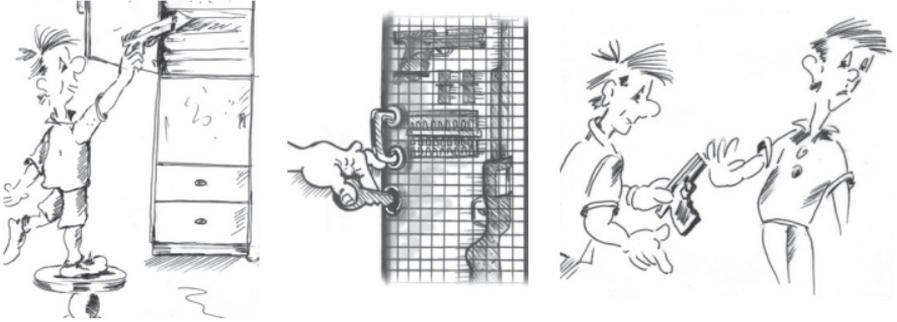


5. Whenever you handle a firearm, the first thing you should do (while keeping it pointed in a safe direction and keeping your finger outside the trigger guard) is to open the action to determine whether or not the firearm is loaded.



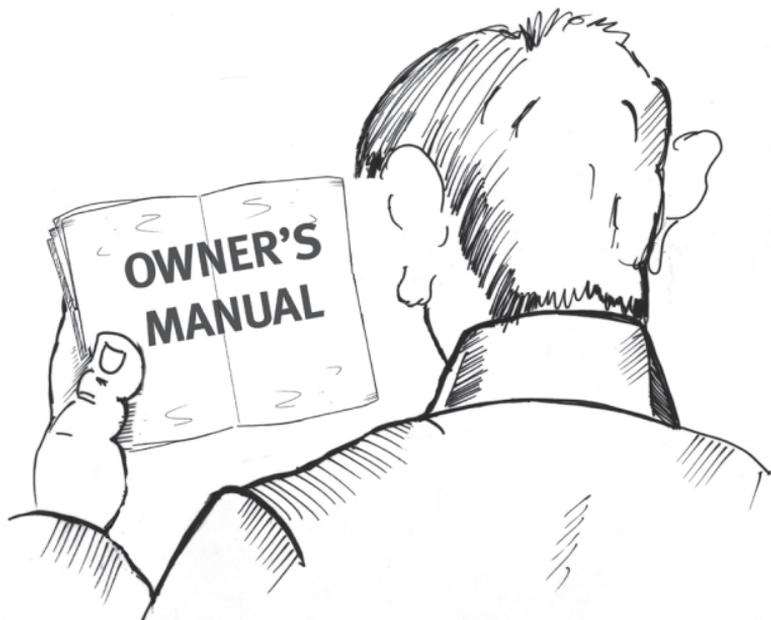
Don't trust your recollection that the firearm was unloaded the last time you handled it. If it has been out of your sight or direct control since then, even for an instant – **check it again, NOW!** If you don't know the proper way to open the action of a particular firearm, don't experiment. Instead, **before** handling the firearm, consult the Owner's Manual, your local gun dealer, or a knowledgeable shooter. The proper way to hand a firearm to someone else is unloaded, with the magazine removed and the action open. If someone offers to hand you a closed firearm, politely ask them to unload it and open the action before you accept it from them.

6. All firearms should be stored unloaded, secured so they are inoperable or inaccessible to children and other unauthorized persons.



Tragic accidents can occur when gun owners leave firearms where children and other unauthorized persons can get them. Guns are naturally attractive to children and others. Even very young children can load, operate and fire guns. The safest way to store firearms is: (1) completely unloaded; (2) in a locked gun safe or locked gun case kept out of sight and reach of children and others; (3) with the key or combination secured so that it is accessible only to authorized users; and (4) with all ammunition safely secured in a separate location. Quick-access locking gun boxes are commercially available for those wishing to keep a gun readily accessible for self protection. Alternatively, a wide variety of cable locks, trigger guard locks, and other safety devices are available from gun dealers, hardware and sporting goods stores, mass retailers, and by mail order and the internet. If properly locked on an unloaded gun, well designed locks of this sort can render the gun inoperable. **Remember, it is YOUR responsibility to keep your gun safely secured from children and others who are not trained or authorized to handle it!**

7. Read and understand the complete Owner's Manual provided with your firearm.

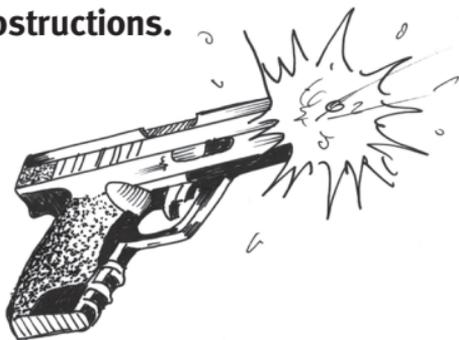


Never use any firearm unless you fully understand its operation and safety features. Many firearms have unique features; just because you know how to use one gun, doesn't mean you know how a different model of gun operates. If you do not have an Owner's Manual, contact your dealer or the manufacturer to obtain one. If there is anything in the Owner's Manual you do not understand, or if you experience any problems in using your firearm, contact your dealer, the manufacturer, or a qualified gunsmith or instructor for assistance.

8. Get hands-on instruction in the use of your firearm from a qualified source.

No one is born knowing how to use firearms. Unless you are already experienced with firearms and have had hands-on instruction in their use, you should **take a class in firearms safety and gun handling BEFORE you load, fire or use your firearm.** Contact your local shooting range, gun dealer, police department, or the National Rifle Association at 703-267-1000 to find out where such classes are offered in your area. **Important Note about defensive use of firearms:** The use of firearms for self protection, or by security, military or law enforcement personnel, and the carrying of loaded firearms for such purposes, is subject to strict legal restrictions, and involves significant dangers and risks far beyond those which apply to the ordinary recreational use of firearms. The defensive or tactical use of firearms, including the use of holsters and the drawing of loaded handguns from them, is beyond the scope of this safety booklet and your STEYR Owner's Manual. Law enforcement, security and military personnel and private individuals who intend to use firearms for tactical or self-defense purposes should first undergo thorough, tactically-oriented training and qualification from a certified instructor, as well as ongoing retraining and requalification at regular intervals. Consult the sources listed above for appropriate training schools and academies.

9. Before firing, always make sure your firearm is in good working condition and that the barrel is clear of dirt and obstructions.



When a gun is fired, the pressure inside the barrel can exceed 35,000 pounds per square inch (even more for rifles). The bore (inside of the barrel) of any firearm needs to be clean and completely free from obstructions. Any obstruction, such as a bit of mud, gun grease, excess gun oil, water, rust, or accumulated lead (“leading”) or a forgotten cleaning patch, can cause a dangerous increase in pressure during firing, possibly resulting in the barrel bursting and causing serious injury or death to the shooter or others nearby. Before firing, safely inspect the barrel and/or run a cleaning rod and patch through it to be sure it is unobstructed and safe to fire. Clean and lubricate your firearm in accordance with the manufacturer’s directions. If recommended by the manufacturer, have your firearm inspected and serviced periodically by a qualified gunsmith or factory-authorized service center. Never allow anyone other than a qualified gunsmith or factory-authorized service center to service, repair or “work on” your firearm. If you experience functioning problems with your firearm, or suspect that it is not working properly or may be in need of repair, **DO NOT LOAD OR USE IT** until you have had it inspected and, if necessary, repaired.

10. Use only high-quality ammunition recommended by the firearm's manufacturer, and be certain that the ammunition is the proper caliber for your gun.



Most firearms are intended to fire one caliber of ammunition only. The caliber designation is stamped into the barrel, slide or frame of most modern firearms. The box of ammunition you intend to use should bear the exact same cartridge designation – for example, “.40 Auto” or “.38 Special.” Most centerfire cartridges also have the caliber designation stamped into the base of the cartridge case. Just because a cartridge fits in your gun doesn’t mean it is safe to fire. Attempting to fire even a single improper cartridge can ruin your gun and cause serious injury or death. Some handgun ammunition is designated as “+P” (meaning it exceeds industry standard pressure limits) or even “+P+.” Before using “+P” or “+P+” ammunition, be sure the manufacturer designates your firearm as safe to use with such ammunition. If in doubt, consult your gun dealer, gunsmith or the manufacturer before using questionable ammunition. Never use corroded, dented, damaged or otherwise “suspect” ammunition. Handloaded, reloaded, “remanufactured” or poor-quality military surplus ammunition may deviate from factory specifications, and may have dimensions or produce pressures that are unsafe in your firearm. Accordingly, many manufacturers state that using any ammunition which is not commercially manufactured from all new components will void the firearm’s warranty.

11. Always wear proper ear and eye protection when shooting or observing.



Exposure to the sound of gunfire – sometimes even one or two shots -- can cause permanent hearing damage if proper, commercially manufactured ear protection is not worn. A wide variety of ear plugs and earmuff-type protectors are available, and should be worn whenever shooting or observing. Shooting glasses, preferably wraparound type or ones with side panels, can help protect against eye injuries from ejected shell cases, fragments bouncing back from the targets, target frames or backstop, or even from a burst cartridge case or gun barrel. Eye protection should meet or exceed current ANSI standards (usually stamped on the package and/or on the glasses themselves). Wearing tightly-fitting eye protection when disassembling and cleaning your gun can also help prevent eye injuries from flying springs or other parts, as well as from aerosol or other solvents and lubricants. You can purchase both ear protection and eye protection for less than the cost of a single box of centerfire ammunition. Your eyes and ears must serve you for your entire life – **protect them by wearing proper eye and ear protection whenever shooting or observing!**

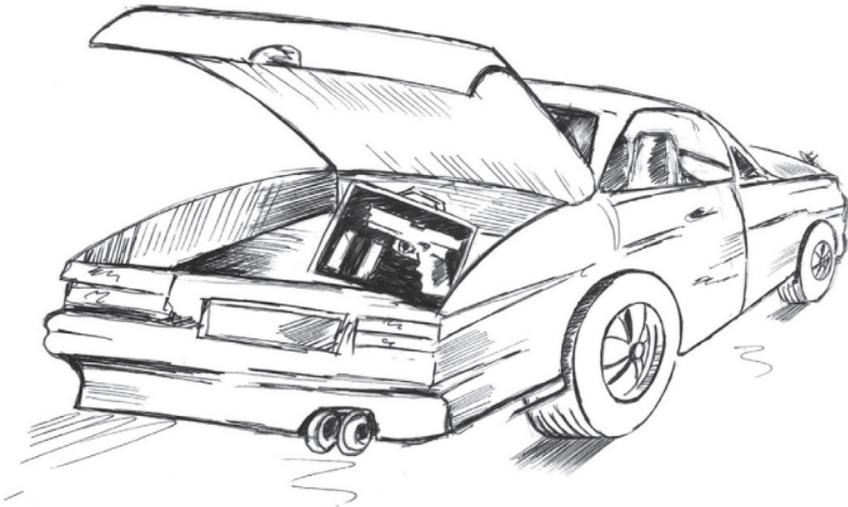
12. Lead and Other Health Hazards.

Lead from bullets and primers is toxic. When guns are fired, tiny particles of lead and other toxic heavy metals are discharged into the air. Shoot only in well-ventilated locations. Wash your hands and face with soap and lukewarm water after shooting or handling guns, ammunition or fired cartridge cases and before eating or drinking. Do not eat, drink, smoke or chew tobacco or gum on the shooting range, as such “hand to mouth” activities can cause you to ingest (swallow) toxic lead. Avoid bringing lead-contaminated clothing and range bags into living, sleeping, food preparation and eating areas of your home. Remove and wash your range clothing promptly after leaving the range. Gun cleaning solvents and the lead that becomes dissolved in them can also be harmful if absorbed through your skin or if the vapors are inhaled. Follow the solvent manufacturer’s directions regarding ventilation, and wear rubber gloves if appropriate. Children, pregnant women and their unborn fetuses are particularly susceptible to the hazards of lead and other toxic substances. Pregnant women should consult their physicians regarding the possible hazards of lead poisoning, as well as the potential effects of gunfire noise and recoil on themselves or on the fetus.

13. Never use firearms while under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or when exhausted or ill.

Using a firearm safely requires your complete, unimpaired attention, alertness and judgment. Never use firearms when you have consumed alcohol, or while under the influence of prescription or other drugs or medicines that can make you drowsy, slow your reaction time, or negatively affect your normal abilities or judgment. Avoid using firearms when you are ill, exhausted, upset or otherwise unable to focus your complete attention and best abilities on safe gun handling.

14. Transport your firearms in a safe, unloaded condition, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.



The transportation of firearms is regulated by federal, state and local laws, as well as by Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and airline regulations. The applicable laws and regulations vary from one country, state or province, and city to another. Learn and follow the laws and regulations that apply to the areas through which you will be traveling.

15. FINALLY,

remember that no set of safety rules – even these – can cover all possible situations. Accordingly, you must **THINK** and **USE COMMON SENSE** when firing, handling or storing any firearm. **FIREARM SAFETY DEPENDS ON YOU!**

NOTES:

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