

Old City Park: The Historical Village of Dallas

Black Powder Procedures

For

Interpreters, Reenactors and Organizations using museum facilities

January 2002

PROCEDURES FOR ORGANIZATIONS USING BLACK POWDER OR EDGED WEAPONS AT OLD CITY PARK OR DURING PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY OLD CITY PARK

A. POLICY

Old City Park: The Historical Village of Dallas shares your concern for the safe presentation of our heritage to the public. Tactical weapons activities, especially those which involve opposing forces, can result in problems of crowd control, coordination and weapons accidents due to the movement and confusion inherent in these activities. These procedures are intended to address these problems.

Events at museum facilities that involve the use of black powder or edged weapons must conform to the museum's Procedures as outlined in this document.

B. PARTICIPANTS

All individuals participating in these activities who personally engage in the use of firearms must be (16) years of age or older. Participants 16 – 18 years of age must have direct parental control.

All activities using tactical weapons must be approved and authorized by the Facilities Director. All staff participants must have received safety training (provided by the museum) and have been signed off by the museum Safety Manager, and either the Curator of Interpretation or the Facilities Director. For all encampments and tactical demonstrations, the Facilities Director may designate one organization commander as Demonstration Coordinator. The Facilities Director and the Curator shall plan the activities, establish safety controls, and delineate areas for spectators, demonstrations, camps and weapons clearing.

C. BLACK POWDER

Black Powder brought onto museum grounds must be in the form of prepared cartridges, priming tubes or powder horns for firearms. No Bulk Powder will be permitted (i.e. Tin can, plastic bottle). Musket cartridges shall be of paper, rolled in the appropriate 19th century manner, secured in a period fashion. Foil, staples, coin wrappers or plastic tubes are not permissible.

It shall be the responsibility of each organization or group to insure that all cartridges, priming tubes and other explosives are maintained in a secure area or areas designated by the Facilities Director during the time the organization or group is on museum property. No cartridges or other explosives shall be accessible to the public.

The Facilities Director and Curator shall insure that no explosives are unsupervised.

D. FIREARMS

It is the responsibility of each Organization Commander to insure that the members of his organization are properly trained in the safe handling, loading and firing steps for the weapons being used. Additionally, inspection for safe condition before each demonstration will be the responsibility of the Organization Commander. It is the responsibility of the Facilities Director to assure the same for staff members involved in museum programs that use firearms. Every Black Powder firearm is a weapon, regardless of the manner to which it is used. All weapons will be regarded as loaded and treated as such when on museum grounds. No lead or wax castings may be used. If castings are being shown as part of a demonstration then they must be of a caliber bigger than any bore to prevent any possible loading on museum grounds.

It shall be the responsibility of each active participant to secure firearms during the time they are on museum property.

No firearm shall be pointed toward another person, and no weapon shall be discharged toward or over people except as outlined and approved by the Safety Manager and the Director of Facilities.

No person other than Old City Park staff and members of organizations approved to participate in special events on museum property shall be permitted to discharge firearms during such events.

No member of the public shall be permitted to handle a firearm until a member of the organization or authorized staff member has inspected the weapon to insure that it is not loaded. This inspection shall include visual checks of priming pan or percussion cone, and use of the ramrod to verify an empty bore.

No demonstration of "rapid fire" or speed loading.

Flintlock firearms shall be equipped with a hammerstall (frizzen cover) of leather, and tight, well fitting metal flashguards.

There will be no use of Artillery on Old City Park grounds.

E. EDGED WEAPONS

All replica knives, axes, tomahawks, polearms, swords and bayonets used for passive demonstration shall have dulled edges and blunted points.

Throwing of tomahawks, axes or knives is not permitted.

The public shall not be permitted to handle any edged weapon.

THE FACILITIES DIRECTOR AND/OR THE CURATOR MAY REMOVE ANY ORGANIZATION OR INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANT FROM THE EVENT IF SAFETY GUIDELINES ARE VIOLATED OR IF GENERAL CONDUCT WARRENTS SUCH REMOVAL.

F. VISITOR SAFETY AND EMERGENCIES

Visitors must be kept at a safe distance whenever weapons are fired. Minimum distances for visitors behind demonstration weapons shall be five (5) yards (15 feet) for firearms. A staff member, or member of a participating organization who is not involved in the program, should be present to monitor the activity to insure the range is clear, visitors understand and observe safety limits, and that in case of misfires or accident, visitors are kept under control until the situation is resolved. If an observer is not available, it is the responsibility of the Facilities Director to insure that all safety measures are observed before and after weapons are discharged.

Every effort should be made to have emergency personnel standing by on site during activities employing tactical weapons. Facilities staff should be aware of procedures to follow in case of an emergency and participating organizations should be briefed on emergency procedures before the event.

PARTICIPANT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT

I hereby acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Old City Park "Procedures for Black Powder Weapons" and that I can request clarification of anything contained herein from the Facilities Director.

I agree, as a condition of participation in the museum program, to abide by these procedures.

Date Signed _____

Signature _____

Facility Name _____

Facility Director initials _____

Date Filed _____

TABLE OF MAXIMUM LOADS

<u>WEAPON TYPE</u>	<u>CALIBER</u>	<u>MAXIMUM BLANK LOAD</u>
	<u>Firearms</u>	
"Brown Bess" Musket	.75	120 Grains ffg
Charleville Musket	.69	120 Grains ffg
Rifles	Varies	100 Grains ffg
Pistols	Varies	60 Grains ffg
U.S. Rifle, 1841	.54 or .58	80 Grains ffg
Rifled Muskets	.58	80 Grains ffg
Percussion revolvers	.36 or .44	50 Grains ffg

On Site Procedures for Off Site Organizations

These procedures are for groups or individuals participating at an event where black powder weapons will be on show or in use. All weapons participants must follow these rules to help insure safety for our visitors at Old City Park.

- 1) All rifles, muskets, and pistols are to arrive on site UNLOADED and in working order to be ready for full inspection by park staff before the beginning of an event.
- 2) All weapons brought in will be inspected or they will not be allowed on site that event day. The refusal of any inspection may result in the owner being asked to leave.
- 3) Cream of wheat, wonder wads, and cloth patches are the only acceptable wadding for Old City Park events.
- 4) All event forms and inspections will be taken seriously and filled out properly the morning of each event.
- 5) Once inspected and the proper paperwork completed, you must keep your inspection form on your person during the event.

The Old City Park staff members who may be inspecting shall either be the Safety Manager, Director of Facilities, or Curator. Please be patient and help them so they may make the inspection quick and easy. Thank you.

Old City Park Weapons Inspection Papers

Printed Name: _____

Name of your unit:

Number and type of pistols in your possession:

Number and type of rifles in your possession:

Inspected by: _____ OCP Staff

Date: _____

Owner's signature: _____