



## INSTRUCTOR GUIDE

### LESSON 3: FIREARMS SAFETY

V. 2/2017

#### Basic Hunter Education 2014 Standards – Section 2

#### Objectives 8, 11, & 36

##### Instructor Notes



This lesson introduces the students to the knowledge and skills needed to handle firearms safely. This lesson corresponds with multiple sections of Chapter 3 (pages 29-46) in the student manual. Teach this lesson to the entire class.

##### **Teaching Methods Used In This Lesson**

- **Lecture**
- **Discussion**
- **Small group work**

##### Time Suggested



60 Minutes

##### Materials Required



- Firearm safety incident cards (see Addendum A)
- Alan Madison's "The Master" DVD
- Audio visual equipment (DVD player, projector, & screen)
- Ten Basic Rules cards and Twenty Points handout (one for each student; included in course materials)

**Station**  
**Set-up**



10 minutes

1. Set up AV equipment with “The Master” DVD. Select the “Firearms Safety and the Hunter” video from the main menu.
2. Stage the laminated firearm safety incident cards and the instructor version (Addendum A) readily accessible.
3. Distribute a Ten Basic Rules card and Twenty Points handout to each student.

**Vocabulary**  
**Builder**



Note: Do not read the vocabulary to the students. These are terms commonly used during this lesson, and the definitions are for instructor reference only.

**Barrel obstruction** – Any object or substance lodged in the barrel of a firearm creating an unsafe condition.




**Obstacle** – A physical barrier that should not be crossed with a loaded firearm.


**Sky-lined animal** – A game animal that is on top of a hill or in such a position that there is nothing behind the animal to stop a bullet in case of a missed shot.


**What lies beyond** – The knowledge that the entire path of a shot, including the area beyond the target, is safe.

**Zone of fire** – The direction in which each hunter in a group will fire, to be agreed upon before beginning a hunt.

## LESSON PLAN

<p><b><u>PART A:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Focus Activity</u></b></p>  <p>1 minute</p>	<p>The purpose of the focus activity is to get everyone focused on the lesson. Ask: “What do you think is the most common type of firearm related hunting incident in Massachusetts?”  <i>(mistaken for game during the shotgun deer season)</i></p>
<p><b><u>PART B:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Objectives</u></b></p>  <p>1 minute</p>	<p>State the learning objectives to the students. “At the end of this lesson, you will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identify common causes of hunting and shooting-related incidents;</li> <li>• apply the basic rules of firearm safety;</li> <li>• and identify reasons for avoiding alcohol and drug consumption prior to and during the hunt.”</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>PART C:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Teaching Method</u></b></p>  <p>22 minutes</p>	<p>Say: “There are some basic rules of firearm safety that all hunters and shooters need to follow. We call these the ten rules or twenty points of firearms safety. We’re going to begin with a video that discusses the ten rules, and then we have an exercise for you that will help put the rules in context.”</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Select the “Play Movie” option of the “Firearms Safety and the Hunter” chapter. This video has a run time of 18 minutes.</li> <li>2. Following the video, reiterate the four basic rules of firearm safety (the video ends by summarizing 3 of the 4): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• always treat the firearm as if it is loaded (cardinal rule)</li> <li>• control the muzzle by keeping the firearm pointed in a safe direction</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• keep your finger off the trigger until ready to fire</li> <li>• be sure of the target and what lies beyond</li> </ul> <p>3. Ask the students to try and identify the four most common types of hunting incidents and relate each incident back to the four basic rules of firearm safety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• hunter judgment mistakes</li> <li>• safety rule violations</li> <li>• lack of control and practice</li> <li>• mechanical failure</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>PART D:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Student</u></b> <b><u>Exercise</u></b></p>  <p>30 minutes</p>	<p>4. Proceed with the student exercise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• divide the class into small groups (4-5 students) and give each group a laminated firearm safety incident card</li> <li>• explain that they are to read the card and collectively identify which of the ten rules/twenty points of firearms safety were violated leading to the incident</li> <li>• give them 5 minutes to complete the exercise</li> </ul> <div data-bbox="402 1203 1419 1320" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>Note: Ensure that incident card #1 is used during this exercise to cover learning objective 36.</p> </div> <p>5. Call on groups one by one to read their card aloud and share their findings with the rest of the class. Discuss the answers with the class.</p> <p>Students are not being tested at this stage; they are gaining new knowledge. Your role as the instructor is that of a facilitator/coach to help the students learn the material. Lead the students through the discussion, and ensure everyone thoroughly understands the information and vocabulary.</p>

<p><b><u>PART E:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Student Summary</u></b></p>  <p>3 minutes</p>	<p>Ask students to recall the important topics that were covered in the lesson. It is important for students to be able to verbalize these points. Use questioning strategies to flesh out answers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Which of the four basic rules would prevent injury even in the event of an incidental discharge?</li> <li>• Can prescription drugs be used prior to hunting or shooting?</li> <li>• Why's it important to identify your target and what's beyond?</li> </ul> <p><b>END OF LESSON</b></p>
<p><b><u>Addendum A</u></b></p>	<p><b>FIREARM SAFETY INCIDENT CARDS – Instructor Version</b></p> <p>The Team Leader will provide laminated copies of the firearm safety incident cards to be issued to the students during the student exercise. Below are the same cards the students will receive, with the addition of the appropriate firearm safety rules that were broken listed for each.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Shooter discharged a shotgun while checking the safety mechanism. An obstruction in the barrel caused a small piece of the muzzle to lodge in the shooter's ankle. Shooter was intoxicated at time of incident. What actions should have been taken to prevent this incident?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>#1: Treat every firearm as if it were loaded.</li> <li>#2: Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.</li> <li>#3: Keep the action open and unloaded.</li> <li>#4: Keep the safety "on" and your finger off the trigger.</li> <li>#5: Be sure the barrel of the firearm is clear of</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

	<p>obstructions.</p> <p>#6: Check the chamber and magazine every time up pick it up.</p> <p>#20: Never use alcohol or drugs that can impair your judgment before or while shooting.</p> <p><b>2. Victim (age 10) laid a .410 shotgun next to a six-year old who consequently pretended to be a hunter and pulled the trigger. The shot hit the victim in the arm. What actions should have been taken to prevent this incident?</b></p> <p>#1: Treat every firearm as if it were loaded.</p> <p>#2: Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.</p> <p>#3: Keep the action open and unloaded.</p> <p>#4: Keep the safety “on” and your finger off the trigger.</p> <p>#8: Never point a firearm at anything you do not intend to shoot.</p> <p>#16: Unload firearms when not in use, leaving the action open.</p> <p>#19: Store firearms and ammunition beyond the reach of children.</p> <p><b>3. Shooter had his firearm in a vehicle and was getting it out from the back seat when he carelessly discharged his rifle. The bullet ricocheted and struck the driver with a nonfatal wound. What actions should have been taken to prevent this incident?</b></p> <p>#1: Treat every firearm as if it were loaded.</p> <p>#2: Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.</p> <p>#3: Keep the action open and unloaded.</p> <p>#4: Keep the safety “on” and your finger off the trigger.</p> <p>#16: Unload firearms when not in use, leaving the action open.</p> <p>#17: Transport and carry firearms unloaded and cased when traveling to and from the field or target practice.</p>
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- 4. Victim was injured from an apparent ricochet by a member of his own hunting party. The shooter and the victim were in dense cover and the victim was standing on a stone wall. Shooter shot once at a deer. The shooter never saw a person or hunter orange prior to discharging his shotgun. What actions should have been taken to prevent this incident?**

#10: Positively identify your target and what lies beyond.

#14: Be aware of the potential for ricochet.

#15: Never shoot at a hard, flat surface or water.

- 5. Victim was attempting to shoot swallows, protected wildlife, with a .22 rifle. When unsuccessful he then attempted to knock the swallow's nest off of the bottom of a bridge using the butt of his gun. As the firearm hit the nest it discharged and shot the victim in the upper chest leaving a self inflicted gunshot wound. Besides refraining from the obvious illegal/unethical activity in which the shooter was engaged, what actions should have been taken to prevent this incident?**

#2: Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.

#3: Keep the action open and unloaded.

#6: Check the chamber and magazine every time up pick it up.

#8: Never point a firearm at anything you do not intend to shoot.

#13: Never pull a firearm toward you by the muzzle.

#16: Unload firearms when not in use, leaving the action open.

- 6. Victim was carrying a muzzleloader over his right shoulder and holding the barrel. He tripped and fell forward. He put his hand out to catch himself. The gun went off and the bullet entered the lower bicep of his arm. Wound was self inflicted. What actions should**

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**have been taken to prevent this incident?**

#1: Treat every firearm as if it were loaded.

#2: Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.

#12: Unload your firearm when climbing a tree, crossing fence, jumping a ditch or traversing slipper or steep terrain.

#13: Never pull a firearm toward you by the muzzle.

**7. Victim was hunting and placed a 20 gauge shell in a 12 gauge shotgun. They then discharged a 12 gauge shell behind the 20 gauge shell and the barrel blew up. They received an injury to their forward hand. What actions should have been taken to prevent this incident?**

#5: Be sure the barrel of the firearm is clear of obstructions.

#7: Only carry and use ammunition appropriate for your firearm.

**8. Shooter discharged a shotgun as he was picking up his gear getting ready to leave for the field. Shot struck a fellow hunter from his party in the arm. What actions should have been taken to prevent this incident?**

#1: Treat every firearm as if it were loaded.

#2: Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.

#3: Keep the action open and unloaded.

#4: Keep the safety "on" and your finger off the trigger.

#16: Unload firearms when not in use, leaving the action open.

**9. A pheasant hunter was shot by another hunter in the same party. Victim and shooter were walking in a straight line with several other companions when a pheasant flushed. Victim was shot by shooter swinging on game. It was a non-fatal injury with 5 pellets to legs and forearm. What actions should have been taken to**



	<p><b>prevent this incident?</b></p> <p>#2: Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.</p> <p>#8: Never point a firearm at anything you do not intend to shoot.</p> <p>#9: Agree to safe fields of fire for yourself and hunting companions and never swing beyond your area.</p> <p>#10: Positively identify your target and what lies beyond.</p> <p><b>10. A deer hunter shot himself in the right foot. Investigation showed that the victim was playing with the hammer on his single shot 16-gauge shotgun while walking with a party of five hunters. The shotgun discharged striking the victim on the top of his right foot with buckshot. It was a non-fatal injury with one buckshot pellet through his right foot. What actions should have been taken to prevent this incident?</b></p> <p>#1: Treat every firearm as if it were loaded.</p> <p>#2: Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.</p> <p>#3: Keep the action open and unloaded.</p> <p>#4: Keep the safety “on” and your finger off the trigger.</p>
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