

Safety Inspectors

Fort Ticonderoga appoints knowledgeable and experienced reenactors to serve as safety officers at each event. Fort-appointed safety officers are distinguished by a yellow sash or armband and are authorized to rule on all questions involving the safety of event participants and visitors.

Safety officers have the final say in all tactical situations.

Safety Inspections

Armies will be assembled for this purpose on its grand parade in camp, ready for inspection and action. Unit commanders will inspect their units under the direct supervision of Fort staff and/or Fort-appointed inspectors. Inspectors may, if they wish, conduct personal inspections of any unit or equipment. Arms found at this inspection to be unfit for service may not be used or carried in the tactical demonstration.

Units that repeatedly appear on the grand parade unprepared for inspection, or with unfit arms, may not be allowed to participate in the current or future Fort Ticonderoga living history events.

Black Powder Weapons in General

1. The firing of small arms and artillery will take place only in designated areas and only in pre-arranged demonstrations, supervised by Fort staff and/or Fort-appointed safety officers.
2. Only sporting grade black powder made for use in replica muzzle-loading weapons can be used at Fort Ticonderoga.
3. Black powder can only be brought onto Fort Ticonderoga property in the form of premade small arms cartridges, artillery cartridges, and priming tubes or “quills.”
4. The sale of black powder in any form is prohibited.

Black Powder Weapons and Ammunition - Small Arms

1. Only replica 18th-century muzzle-loading firearms may be used in demonstrations at Fort Ticonderoga.
2. Pistols may be carried, but may not be brandished, loaded or fired in action by land forces or naval forces serving on land. (Exception: mounted troops serving on horseback may brandish, load and fire blank loads from pistols in action, but only when specifically permitted to do so by designated Fort staff, and subject to the same guidelines that regulate the use of muskets.)
NOTE: New York State Penal Law Article 265, Definition 14 defines flintlock pistols as “Antique Firearms.” Under this definition flintlock pistols may be possessed within the State of New York and are not required to be registered with the State of New York as long as the possessor does not possess shot of a caliber that can be fired from the pistol.
3. The minimum acceptable barrel length for muskets / carbines / fusils used on land is 37 inches. Blunderbusses may not be carried, loaded or fired in tactical demonstrations by land forces or naval forces serving on land.

4. Every firearm, whether or not it will be fired, must be fitted with a substantial and securely attached steel or brass flash guard and leather hammer stall.
5. Maximum loads for small arms cartridges are restricted to following quantities and granulations of powder:
Musket: 125 grains of ffg or 100 grains of fffg.
Rifle: 90 grains of ffg or 75 grains fffg.
6. Blank cartridges for muskets and rifles should be made of paper, rolled in an 18th century manner, folded, glued or tied, without staples or tape.
7. Cartridges may not be carried in thin cloth bags, in clothing, or loose in a cartridge pouch.
8. Cartridges must be carried in a leather cartridge box or pouch appropriate for the period being interpreted containing a wooden block drilled to accept individual cartridges. Tin canisters as appropriate may be used for Revolutionary War period demonstrations.
9. Spare cartridges should be kept in a wooden box, similar to those used to carry artillery cartridges (see Black Powder Weapons and Ammunition - Artillery), or in modern military surplus steel ammunition boxes kept out of site at all times.
10. Nothing but powder may be put into the barrels of muskets or rifles during tactical demonstrations.
11. Small arms rammers may not be drawn for any reason during tactical demonstrations.
12. Small arms, when fired, should not be leveled at opposing forces or at visitors.
13. Unit commanders will order their men to search arms (spring rammers) and dump unburned powder out of muskets immediately after each tactical demonstration, before they march their units back to camp.
14. Powder horns may be carried but must not contain any powder.
15. Ball, shot or bullets of any kind must not be brought to an event at Fort Ticonderoga that includes a tactical demonstration.

Black Powder Weapons and Ammunition - Artillery

1. Only replica muzzle-loading artillery pieces conforming to 18th century design may be used in demonstrations at Fort Ticonderoga.
2. The bore of iron guns should be lined with seamless mechanical steel tubing with a minimum 3/8-inch wall thickness and a yield strength of 85,000 PSI or greater and have a vent of no more than 1/4 inch in diameter.

3. A gun crew is to consist of no fewer than three trained artillerists.
4. Each gun should be equipped with the following implements kept in good working condition: sponge bucket, secure haversack made of substantial leather for transporting ammunition from the ammunition box/chest to the muzzle of the gun (an empty cartridge box may be substituted as long as the cartridges, block and tray have been removed), leather thumbstall, worm, sponge and rammer, linstock, priming wire, lockable ammunition chest, trail handspike, muzzle tompon, slow match, apron of lead sheet or heavy leather, tube box, ear plugs, and heavy leather gauntlets for gun crew whose hands will be near the muzzle.
5. Portfires and tin priming tubes may not be used. Powder horns may be carried but must not contain any powder.
6. Artillery cartridges will be restricted to the following quantities and granulations of powder:

Pdr.	Bore	FFA	FG
1	2.00"	4 oz.	2 oz.
2	2.50"	6 oz.	4 oz.
3	2.90"	8 oz.	6 oz.
4	3.20"	10 oz.	8 oz.
5	3.40"	12 oz.	10 oz.
6	3.66"	16 oz.	12 oz.

7. Mortar and howitzer charges will be determined by the chamber dimensions of the piece.
8. Artillery cartridges are to be made of heavy-duty aluminum foil and shaped with a wooden form $\frac{7}{8}$ the diameter of the bore (See the sources listed at the end of the *Guidelines* for instructions in making artillery cartridges). The Master Gunner may, if he wishes, open cartridges to inspect them.
9. Fixed ammunition should not be brought to events.
10. Ball or shot may not be brought onto the tactical field, but may be part of a static display.
11. Musket balls must not be brought to an event at Fort Ticonderoga that includes a tactical demonstration, even as part of a static display.
12. Ammunition may not be carried in fixed side boxes.
13. Blank ammunition should be kept in a removable or separate chest, made with a canvas covered, lockable lid. The canvas must overhang the lid and the lid must be made so that it closes automatically when a cartridge is removed.

14. Guns should be primed with paper priming tubes or “quills.” Guns may not be primed with loose powder.
15. No wadding of any kind may be used in loading a gun.
16. A loaded gun must not be moved under any circumstances.
17. The maximum rate of artillery fire shall be no greater than one shot every two minutes.
18. Crossed implements over a cannon barrel indicate that a gun is loaded.
19. Gun crew commanders will see that the apron and tompon are put back in place after each tactical demonstration.
20. In case an artillery piece misfires:
 - a) If the primer ignites but the gun fails to fire, wait one minute from last observed smoke before attempting to reprime and fire. If this is not effective, repeat one more time.
 - b) If the gun fails to fire after a total of three attempts, pour water from the sponge bucket down the up-turned barrel and into the vent. Allow to stand and soak for five minutes.
 - c) Proceed to worm the piece to remove the charge and clear the vent placing the charge in the sponge bucket. Secure the piece, lower the muzzle as low as possible, and lay down the implements to indicate that the gun is out of service.