



Safety Tips for Use of Firearms

- ⇒ Use simulated or dummy weapons whenever possible.
- ⇒ Treat all guns as if they are loaded and deadly.
- ⇒ Unless you are actually performing or rehearsing, the property master must secure all firearms.
- ⇒ The property master or armorer should carefully train you in the safe use of any firearm you must handle. Be honest if you have no knowledge about guns. Do not overstate your qualifications.
- ⇒ Never engage in horseplay with any firearms or other weapons. Do not let others handle the gun for any reason.
- ⇒ All loading of firearms must be done by the property master, armorer or experienced persons working under their direct supervision.
- ⇒ Never point a firearm at anyone including yourself. Always cheat the shot by aiming to the right or left of the target character. If asked to point and shoot directly at a living target, consult with the property master or armorer for the prescribed safety procedures.
- ⇒ If you are the intended target of a gunshot, make sure that the person firing at you has followed all these safety procedures.
- ⇒ If you are required to wear exploding blood squibs, make sure there is a bulletproof vest or other solid protection between you and the blast packet.
- ⇒ Use protective shields for all off stage cast within close proximity to any shots fired.
- ⇒ Check the firearm every time you take possession of it. Before each use, make sure the gun has been test-fired off stage and then ask to test fire it yourself. Watch the prop master check the cylinders and barrel to be sure no foreign object or dummy bullet has become lodged inside.
- ⇒ Blanks are extremely dangerous. Even though they do not fire bullets out of the gun barrel, they still have a powerful blast that can maim or kill.
- ⇒ If the director or property master shouts, "Put the gun down", place the piece gently on the ground with the barrel pointing in a safe direction and step back quickly.
- ⇒ Never attempt to adjust, modify or repair a firearm yourself. If a weapon jams or malfunctions, corrections shall be made only by a qualified person.
- ⇒ When a scene is completed, the property master shall unload the firearms. All weapons must be cleaned, checked and inventoried after each performance.
- ⇒ Live ammunition may not be brought into the theatre.
- ⇒ If you are in a production where shots are to be fired and there is no qualified master, go to the nearest phone and call Actors' Equity Association. A union representative will make sure proper procedures are followed.
- ⇒ State and federal safety laws must be honored at all times.