

Fifth New York Regiment

Safety Manual and Regulations



by: James. K. Burr/Safety Officer-5thNY regiment.

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~Material Source recognition~

The information contained herein was in part, taken from the safety material and writings of the BAR (Brigade of the American Revolution), the Continental Line, the 10th Regiment (UK) and NYS office of Parks and Historic Preservation.

Articles mentioned herein (from Click to Bang by Norm Fuss) as well as any member’s respective State Laws regarding the handling, transportation and storage of Black Powder are considered vital parts of the overall safety regulations and are also “required reading”. Each member is encouraged to seek out and avail themselves of this information for their own, and other’s safety.

Any member wishing to obtain copies of the mentioned articles can access them at the 5thNY’s website at www.5thny.org, or may request it from the safety officer .

Disclaimer: The 5thNY Regiment recommends and requires all members to read and abide by the rules and regulations contained herein. The 5thNY Regiment however cannot and will not be held in liable for their application and/or use outside of the immediate membership of the 5thNY Regiment.

Safety Regulations of the 5thNY Regiment

The 5thNY Regiment portrays a military organization, and as part of this portrayal, “Officers ” and “Non-Commissioned Officers,” (“NCOs”), will issue “commands” and give “orders.”

These commands and orders, however, are similar to lines in a theatrical production.

First and foremost, all members of The 5thNYRegiment are responsible for their own safety and the safety of those about them.

All members are expected to refuse an unsafe direction and to initiate a halt to activities when an unsafe condition is observed.

Accordingly, if following the direction of an Officer or NCO would compromise safety, each member has an affirmative duty to point out the danger, and has complete discretion to fall out of ranks.

The following safety provisions should be followed by every member of the 5thNY Regiment. These rules, however, are not comprehensive, and your good sense must always be your guide.

All members should be aware of all local, state, and federal laws concerning the transportation and possession of their muskets.

All musket carrying members will read the article “from click to bang” (by Norm Fuss) which is available online at 5thny.org, or can be obtained through the Safety Officer. It contains imperative maintenance and safety information for the musket. This is also a musket carrying requirement.

All members of the 5thNY Regiment will read these Safety Regulations and will certify that they have done so by signing the form stating that they have read the regulations, that they understand them, and that they commit to abide by them. Family members as well as arms carrying members are included in these requirements.

Furthermore it is required to have all fyreams initially inspected (even if it has been in use) and subsequently recorded as inspected and passed.

~ To the Man-at-Arms ~ Regulations for the Musket ~

- Members must never bring a weapon into ranks that has not been officially sanctioned and /or inspected by The Regiment's assigned Safety Officer and/or Staff officers. It is expected that each man's weapon is fully cleaned, oiled, and that flint, hammer stall and flash guard are in good working order and tight. Bayonets should fit snugly and securely.**
- At NO time is a member of The Regiment to surrender control of a musket to a member of the public. Likewise, edged weapons must remain under control of the member.**
- At NO time will any member of the public be allowed to fire a weapon.**
- Any member demonstrating a firing sequence in camp is required to get prior approval and will have a "spotter" assigned for safety reasons.**
- Members shall never demonstrate the firing sequence of their musket if the musket has recently been fired and not yet cleaned. It is highly recommended that following field maneuvers, all fyrearms are cleaned upon returning to camp, and before stowing in the Bell-of-Arms.**
- Members must take special care that their muskets and cartridge boxes are placed in a safe location while at an event attended by the public, preferably in the Bell -of-Arms.**
- Rammers will be carried, but they may not be drawn or used when firing with live cartridges.**
- Wadding of the powder charge with the empty cartridge paper is not recommended.**
- Hammer-stalls must always be set upon the Hammer, removed only to fire the weapon.**
- Flash Guards of Steel shall always be employed, attached at two points and tight.**
- No loose ball, or ball-loaded cartridges of any type, may be carried when live firing is involved.**
- No cartridge shall be fastened with anything that may fall into the barrel while firing. (e.g. a staple).**
- Members shall never discard cartridges that contain any amount of black powder. Before discarding, every member must ensure that the powder has been thoroughly removed from the cartridge.**
- If so ordered, troops may have to retain their empty paper cartridges after firing. {If this is the case, used cartridge paper shall be placed in the haversack or a coat pocket}**

~Recommendations and Guidelines for all Camp Personnel~

18th Century Camps are a flurry of activity at times and certain precautions should become second nature to all in attendance. The possibility of Fire and personal injury from burns, falling over misplaced equipment, tripping on tent and cook fly ropes and tent pegs, are ever present and need to be addressed.

- When axes, shovels and hatchets are not in use, they must be sheathed and secured and out of the reach of the public. Preferably, any tool with a sharp edge should employ a sheath.

-When fetching firewood and water, it is recommended that two people join up, a loader and a spotter, to prevent strain from carrying too much, and to help avoid falls from tent ropes, stones or uneven ground.

-It is advised to make a physical or “psychological” barrier around the camp-fire, to prevent injuries from falls, and to keep the public at a safe distance.

-All encampments require a wool blanket and full bucket of clean water be placed near the camp’s fire for extinguishing a flame on tents and clothing. One of the major causes of death in the 18th century was from burns.

-When starting a fire, it is recommended that the setup be placed away from the fly line by 30 feet minimum.

-It is NOT recommended to use enhancements (gunpowder, lighter fluid, wax) to assist in starting the fire. Flint & Steel are the best, along with a dry kindling or toe, and some char-cloth.

-At least one Adult must always be present in camp to tend the fire.

-In the event of a fire it is recommended a cry of “fire-fire” be used to summon aid.

-Lighting should be a candle lantern of tin, or wood & glass. Burning lanterns are not to be brought into the tents nor left unattended in the tent-line or company street. Open candle holders are not safe and should be avoided.

-Small children should be discouraged from playing near any fire pit or engaging in games in the general camp area, where they may be obliged to run to fetch a ball or such.

**-Where boys are involved, playing with actual weapons is highly frowned upon.
(swords , pikes, muskets, etc.)**

-Running through camp is strictly forbidden.

Rules Governing Battle engagements

- No “hand-to-hand” combat shall be portrayed unless it is part of a scripted battle.
- No “bayoneting” of “wounded enemies” is permitted.

- Weapons may not be fired when opposing forces are closer than 30 yards. In all circumstances, the barrels of the muskets must be elevated over the heads of the opposing forces.

- If an artillery piece (gun) is to be overrun according to a scenario, the gunners shall indicate that the piece is unloaded and safe by leaving the rammer inside the barrel of the cannon, while the gunners lie “wounded” under and around the piece.

- No member should ever walk or march in front of a “hot” gun. That is, loaded and ready to fire.
{When a gun has crossed rammers resting on the end of its barrel it must be considered “hot.”}

- No member’s musket should be loaded during a bayonet charge. If a charge is ordered, and the member is loaded, he should immediately dump the charge.

- When the musket is loaded, and an order is given to “order firelocks,” it is imperative that members do not place their hands over the muzzle of the barrel.
{It is always inappropriate for a member to place his hand over the muzzle of the barrel }.
- Before appearing in ranks, each member should inspect his own musket, running the rammer down the barrel, making sure the rammer “pings,” indicating a clean barrel.
- No weapon should fire when pressure is applied to the trigger while the musket is at the “half cock” position.
- No member shall appear in ranks with a musket that he feels is unsafe. All muskets must be well-cleaned, oiled, and kept in complete and thorough repair.
- The signal to cease-fire is communicated by a hat held atop either a pole-arm or sword, or by the cease-fire beat of the drum. (All members must become familiar with this drum beat.)
- When a cease-fire is sounded, all members must immediately cease firing and come to the shoulder position.

