

## **Inspection Rules for British Brigade Events**

**Unit Level Inspection.** All units are to be inspected each day, prior to the General Assembly of the Brigade. This inspection should be conducted by the CO or ranking NCO of the unit. The following procedures should be part, but not necessarily all, of the unit level inspection:

1. Poise firelock. With firelocks at the poise, the inspector shall check each weapon to ensure that the lock is tightly seated in the stock, the flint is tight in the jaws, the pan is clean, the flash guard is tightly secured, a hammer stall is present, all parts of the lock are workable, and the touch hole is clear.
2. Secure firelock. The inspector causes the weapons to be placed in the Secure position (their muzzles angled toward the ground) to ensure that no musket has loose powder in the breach.
3. Search firelock. With the soldiers holding their ramrods poised in the barrels of their muskets, the inspector causes each in turn to drop the ramrod into the breach to “ping” the barrel and demonstrate that the weapon is free of debris.
4. Hang firelock. The inspector causes the soldiers to suspend their muskets by the trigger to demonstrate that they will not go off half-cocked.
5. Cartridge inspection. The inspector checks to ensure that no cartridges are loaded with ball and that all conform to British Brigade guidelines (i.e., constructed of sturdy paper; no tape, no staples).
6. Uniform and accoutrement inspection. The inspector will ensure that the soldiers’ uniforms are appropriate for the unit, that their footwear and any eyeglasses are appropriate for 18th century soldiers, that none is wearing facial hair inappropriate for that soldier’s impression, and that canteens are filled with water.

**General Assembly of the Brigade.** The battalion serjeant majors assemble the units into their assigned battalions. Once assembled, the battalions will be ordered to open ranks for inspection. At least two safety inspectors will be assigned to each battalion. These inspectors are recruited from the corps of officers, sergeants, or other personnel knowledgeable of the inspection process and approved by the Brigadier or Deputy Commander. The battalions are inspected simultaneously, with inspectors making thorough, but expeditious safety checks. Ideally, safety inspection at the General Assembly will take no more than ten minutes.

1. Safety inspectors will inspect each unit at Poise, Search, and Hang Firelock; repeating the checks made at unit level inspection.
2. Serjeant majors will select random soldiers in their respective battalions for spot checks of their uniforms and accoutrements and to ensure the safety of the cartridges they are carrying. They shall additionally have those soldiers secure their firelocks.

The General Assembly is the serjeant majors’ parade. Officers not acting as inspectors are to remain

off the parade until after inspection is complete. Unit officers who wish to observe the inspection are to stand behind their units.

Any discrepancies found by an inspector at General Assembly will be identified to the unit's CO and senior NCO. Safety infractions must be corrected and the corrections approved by the Deputy Commander or the Adjutant General before the soldiers involved go onto the field.

Upon completion of the Brigade inspection, the serjeant majors will order the battalions to close ranks. After being ordered to shoulder arms, the troops will be turned over to the Adjutant General. The Adjutant General then orders the officers onto the parade to take their proper positions. The Brigade is now ready for the day's activities.

On each day of a Brigade event, the General Assembly and safety inspection occurs as outlined above, at the time designated in the Orders of the Day.

### **British Brigade Safety Regulations**

Every member unit is required to have a unit Safety Officer. This individual must have a thorough knowledge of the British Brigade Safety Regulations. This individual is directly responsible for the unit's weapons and/or artillery pieces and how they are used by the members of their own unit. This individual is answerable to the British Brigade for any compromise or violation of these SAFETY REGULATIONS, and has signed a statement declaring such.

**Response to Unsafe Acts.** Any participant who violates these articles or who otherwise poses a danger to our members will be expelled from the event at the discretion of the Deputy Commander, Camp Major, or the Provost. Any unsafe action during a tactical demonstration will result in suspension of the demonstration until the problem has been resolved. Any unit commander may call for suspension of activities. Persistently unsafe people will be permanently barred from attendance at future events.

**Invited Units.** In order to control the safety of any public event we sponsor, the British Brigade will not hold open events or invite organizations whose safety practices are unknown to us. Applicant units may be invited to events, and placed under the authority of their sponsoring organization. Safety officers will be appointed to remain with the unit and control its actions, until such time as it has demonstrated securely its understanding and complete adherence to our safety policies.

At most of the events at which the British Brigade fields, it is opposing units of the Continental Line and/or the Brigade of the American Revolution. When performing tactical battlefield demonstrations with either the Continental Line or the Brigade of the American Revolution, the American forces can be depended upon to have safety standards, command, and control equal to the British Brigade. Whenever the Brigade participates in an event not controlled by the British Brigade, the Continental Line, or the Brigade of the American Revolution, it shall be the responsibility of the Brigade safety officers to ensure that the opposing forces have read these safety regulations and have signed the agreement that they are aware of and intend to adhere to these safety regulations.

### **Camp Safety.**

1. Camp Kitchens. The camp kitchen areas shall be separate from the company and officer streets. At least 10 yards will separate the boundaries of the kitchen and remainder of the camp. Fire pits shall be dug only in the designated kitchen area, and only where indicated by the Quarter Master General. Fires may be built only in these pits. (At some sites, heavily insulated raised platforms may be established rather than pits.) A fire must never be placed closer than 20 feet from any tent (flies excepted). Tents may be set up in the kitchen area for storage of supplies, but may not be used for sleeping quarters. Fire pits shall be filled in and returned to original condition at the conclusion of an event. Turf is to be stored face down and kept moist for return to original position. An area five feet around will be clear of combustibles at each firepit. Depending on weather and dryness, the Quarter Master General may increase the area to be cleared. Fires will be no larger than is necessary for cooking, though they may be used as gathering and social areas after meal times. No member of the public shall be allowed within 10 yards of a firepit. If a rope barrier is not provided, create your own between your fire and the public. Use a table, bench, firewood, cooking equipment or anything else at hand to create a physical or at least psychological barrier. No soldier carrying powder will be allowed within the boundaries of the camp kitchen area.

2. Kitchen Fire Safety. Every fire must be attended at all times by an adult. A bucket full of water, a wool blanket, and a shovel must be kept at each fire. The water in the bucket is not be used for any purpose but extinguishing fire. Children may not start or tend fires (fetching

wood is permitted). Persons tending fires should always have another adult present in case of an emergency. Persons working with an open fire should wear tightly woven garments of wool or linen, since these are least likely to flare up or burn vigorously. Children are never to run through or play in any location where fires are present. Young children must not be allowed to use knives or sharp instruments in any camp area.

c. Personal Fire Emergencies. Use the “Stop, Drop and Roll” technique as advocated by fire safety authorities, if your clothing catches fire. If someone near you catches fire, help them to “Stop, Drop and Roll”, and smother their clothing with a wool blanket. In the event of a clothing fire, send a third party to summon medical aid. Do not leave a person with burn injuries unattended. If a person with burn injuries goes into shock, have them lie down, elevate their feet, keep them warm, shade them from the sun, and do not handle the burned areas or attempt further treatment unless you are an EMT, nurse or physician (who is both qualified and aware of the potential liability).

4. Tent Fire Safety. No lit candles are permitted in a tent unless the tent is free of straw, or the candle is securely mounted in an enclosed metal lantern that has a door with a fastening mechanism.

5. Tent Fire Emergencies. In the event of a tent fire, immediately determine if anyone is in the burning tent. At the same time raise the cry of “Fire, Fire!”, to summon aid. If the fire seems likely to spread down a row of tents, move a few tents away from the one on fire and collapse a tent to slow the fire’s progress. Knock out the upright poles to collapse a tent quickly. Collapse more than one tent if needed. Advise the Provost Marshal immediately.

6. Animals. Animals in camp are the sole responsibility of the owners. This includes dogs as well as horses and any other animals. Dogs shall be kept on a leash at all times. Horses, when not being ridden or led by their riders, shall be kept in the Horse Park, securely tethered or corralled. No person not involved as a part of an event with horses may enter the Horse Park. No members of the public shall at any time be allowed inside the Horse Park.
7. Artillery Park. Artillery ammunition shall be kept in the Artillery Park, in fire-resistant containers, and under constant guard. No one who is not a member of an artillery unit shall come within 10 yards of an artillery ammunition storage or loading area. There shall be no fire pits within 40 yards of an Artillery Park.
8. Individual Ammunition. Individual cartridge pouches, or infantry with ammunition containers, shall never be left unattended by individual soldiers unless under the supervision of a designated sentry. Loose powder is forbidden in the camp. All loading of cartridges must be done away from the event location. Load where you have full control, plenty of time, and are not subjected to the errors of others. If loading is allowed at an event, it will be only at a selected and secured location designated by the Provost Marshal in consultation with the Quarter Master General. Loading will be supervised by the Provost Marshal or a designee

from his staff. No person not authorized to handle weapons as part of their role may load cartridges or carry ammunition.

9. Discharge of Weapons. There will be no discharge of weapons inside the camp. Flashing pans is permitted if done under the supervision of a noncommissioned or commissioned officer. Test firing or training firing must be done only in a selected and secured location designated by the Provost Marshal in consultation with the Quarter Master, and with the concurrence of the Chief Safety Officer(??—see my note) as to time and volume. No loaded weapons shall be carried inside the camp. (The sole exception to this policy will be at those times that the camp itself is intentionally included as a part of the tactical demonstration scenario, and prearranged with the site coordinators). Sentries inside the camp shall not carry loaded weapons. Sentries posted outside the camp may carry loaded weapons at the discretion of the Chief Safety Officer (??), with the concurrence of the site coordinators.
10. Unprotected Weapons. There will be no bayonets fixed, unsheathed swords carried, or polearms carried in any way except in a vertical position in the camp. Sentries are the sole exception to this rule, and they will have bayonets fixed.
11. Live Cartridges. Live cartridges will not be exposed to any member of the public, whether they are smoking or not. If you wish to display a cartridge for interpretive purposes, it must be a “dummy”, filled with sand or other inert powder substitute.
12. Knife Throwing. No throwing of knives, hatchets, axes, or other weapons for sport or competition may be done within the boundaries of the camp. At some events, it may not be permitted at all. If it is permitted, with site coordinator concurrence, a location with a clear background will be selected by the Provost Marshal in consultation with the Quarter Master. No

members of the public will be allowed within 30 yards of any such activities.

13. Children. Minor children, meaning anyone not yet eighteen years of age, including soldiers, are the responsibility of a parent or legal guardian. In the absence of either, the commanding officer of the unit to which they belong shall be considered to be in loco parentis both factually and legally. Children in camp are expected to be dressed authentically. If a child is deemed a behavior problem or is not dressed appropriately, the matter should be reported to the Provost.

### **Handling of Individual Firearms and Ammunition**

Black Powder is the most fickle and dangerous of all propellants. Do not let familiarity breed contempt for it. It must be treated with the greatest respect. A spark or static charge from plastic clothing, from someone else's discharge, or struck off of loading equipment will ignite it with potentially disastrous results. The enviable safety record of the British Brigade and other highly-trained, seasoned reenactment units is due solely to their great care in handling weapons and charges. Read the following material carefully and live by it. Remember that it is not comprehensive, and that your good sense must be added to these rules gained by past experience.

1. Ramrods will be carried but may not be drawn and used. No charges are ever to be rammed down when loading. This is to instill confidence in both the opposition and the public that nothing except raw black powder is being placed into the muzzle. Those on the other end of the discharge must be absolutely confident that nothing is coming their way except some flame and smoke.
2. Cartridge paper is never to be put into the muzzle even when not ramming. This action would defeat the purpose of not ramming. No material other than paper may be used for musket cartridges. Cartridges may be sealed by twisting, gluing, or waxing. No staples or other solid closures may ever be used.
3. Loading will not be done on the march, no matter what the reason or temptation. Loading will only be done when the unit is at a full halt for that purpose.
4. In the event that a weapon does not fire when the trigger is pulled off, the weapon is to be kept pointed downfield for a minimum of 10 seconds. It may be reprimed, however, no further powder may be poured down the barrel. An unfired musket may not be cleared by firing it after dispersal. All muskets are to be cleared by dumping contents and opening pans at final formation. Safety officers are to inspect all arms before dismissal.
5. All muskets should be kept well-cleaned and oiled. They should be kept in complete and thorough repair. Every weapon should be able to be held on the safety or half-cock position without firing when a normal amount of pressure is applied to the trigger. A recommended musket inspection checklist is attached as an appendix.
6. No loose powder may be carried on the battlefield in horns, priming horns, or any other container except pre-made cartridges of proper pattern and construction. Cartridges may only be

carried in approved cartridge boxes or metal storage containers. They may never be carried loose on oneself. Although powder horns and flasks may be carried as appropriate, they must be empty and they may not be used.

7. Under certain conditions, with certain powders, there is a slight possibility that a spark may remain in the bore, and this is the reason you are always advised to keep the muzzle away from your face, and from your mates, when pouring in the charge.
8. Occasionally, troops will be told to order their firelocks while loaded. It is imperative, especially if given a “rest” command, that they not place their hands over the muzzle of the barrel.

i. Only Eighteenth Century, replica, flintlock weapons of a type actually used by the unit being portrayed may be carried and fired. All muskets or rifles must have flash guards and frizzen covers. All artillery pieces, especially iron tubes, must be properly sleeved.

10. At some events, sponsors have a requirement that a 45 degree angle be maintained. Troops must be instructed and drill before the tactical to maintain this angle. 90 degrees is vertical, and 45 degrees is halfway to vertical. This is the minimum elevation that will be used at these sites. Frequently this is necessary because we are firing towards the public or with them in close proximity to our flanks and we want to instill confidence in them.
11. 100 grains is the maximum charge for a Brown Bess musket. Heavily loaded cartridges are dangerous due to noise production (which doesn't hurt your ears, it is the guy next to you or in front of you that suffers), are unnecessary for effect, and produce an elongated, dangerous flame. The situation compounds when a double charge is inadvertently loaded. (Purposeful loading of doubles for effect is absolutely forbidden and will result in expulsion of anyone known to do it.)
12. No loose ball of any type or ball-loaded cartridges of any type may be carried on their person for any reason.
13. If so ordered, troops may have to retain the paper cartridge after pouring powder down the muzzle. In this case, these empty rolls shall be placed in a haversack or pocket.
14. Only two types of weapons may be fired by member units: muzzle loading black powder flintlocks, and full-scale muzzle loading cannons. Pistols may NOT be fired in demonstrations except by Mounted Troops with approval of the Field Commander and the Master of Horse.
15. Only two types of weapon demonstrations are permitted. These are “Individual Demonstrations” and “Tactical Demonstrations.” Each may be performed only following all the safety regulations listed for their type. Individual demonstrations are demonstrations during which a single weapon is loaded and fired by a member or, in the case of a cannon, a crew of members. Tactical Demonstrations” are those during which two or more weapons are loaded and fired under simulated battle conditions. This includes, but is not limited to, reenactments in

which opposing forces face each other.

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### **Tacticals.**

a. Physical Combat. The British Brigade does not engage in physical combat. Participants are not to, at any time, with any object, or with hands, touch any member of the opposing forces. The sole exception is that mounted troops may cross swords with other mounted troops when called for in the scenario. There may be no simulated bayoneting of wounded, mock hand-to-hand combat, or any other actions which result in physical contact.

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Bayonets. The British Brigade frequently fields with bayonets fixed. All member units of the Brigade are expected to be able to maneuver and fire, in double rank, with bayonets fixed. However, if in the opinion of a commander or Safety Officer a unit is not capable of doing this safely, or if a unit is not comfortable with doing this, it will not fix bayonets on the battlefield. There are occasions and circumstances in which bayonets will not be fixed and these include:

Whenever the conditions of the ground, due to weather or terrain, would make it dangerous

When storming a wall that is too high to easily step over, climbing ladders, riding in wagons or in boats.

If the agreed upon scenario specifically prohibits it.

Any other circumstances deemed significant by the Safety Officers. In all cases, the bayonets shall only be fixed upon the specific order of the Officer in Command of the British Brigade at an event, and then only by those units specifically so ordered. Whenever bayonets are fixed all member of the Brigade must be constantly aware of where the bayonet is pointing and what is near that point. All of the above apply equally to swords and pole arms. Hatchets or axes may NEVER be unsheathed on a battlefield.

Pistols. Although pistols may be carried on the battlefield by anyone whose role would realistically have permitted it, the only persons who may load and use pistol are MOUNTED troops, and then only from horseback. Mounted troops may use light wadding to keep pistols loaded when in their pistol buckets. However, when discharging pistols they must always be aimed upwards at a forty- five degree angle.

Artillery. Artillery shall follow all safety regulations as laid down by The British Brigade. Artillery

shall not fire when opposing forces, or anyone else is within 50 yards of the muzzle of the piece and within its cone of danger; an arc extending at a 45-degree angle to each side of the piece. When artillery is being attacked and is obviously either in accordance with a scenario, or due to a tactical maneuver about to be overrun, safety immediately becomes the responsibility of the gunners. If the piece is loaded, and opposing forces are either unaware or dumb enough not to care, Gunner #3 (Ram and Sponge) and Gunner #4 (Worm and Loader) will step back until they are even with the wheel hubs and cross their implements over the center of the gun tube. This is the signal for an unsafe condition on an artillery piece. This is the same procedure that will be used in the event of ANY unsafe condition on an artillery piece, including misfires.

If the piece is to be overrun, in accordance to a scenario, the gunners shall indicate that the piece is unloaded and safe by having a Gunner depress the barrel.

***No loaded Artillery piece shall ever be moved.***

No captured gun may be served by anyone except its own crew.

Weapons may not be fired when opposing forces are closer than 30 yards. When opposing forces do get close, officers shall order their troops to elevate over the opposing forces heads. Whenever a weapon misfires, if it cannot be made to fire on the next round, the soldier shall fall out behind the lines to make repairs. Whenever a unit is closing with, or being closed with by opposing

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forces, for any reasons, once the opposing force is within 10 yards all the weapons shall be brought to the vertical and shall remain there until either the opposing force is passed through, passes through, or, if an error has been made, the mess is sorted out. This is of particular importance when a bayonet charge is being driven home, in accordance with scenarios. If it looks like someone has made a mistake, stop, come to the shoulder, and stand there until the problem fixed. The common sense of each participant is required to get us out of potentially dangerous situations.

6. THE SIGNAL TO CEASE FIRE IS THE CEASE FIRE BEAT OF THE DRUM TO WHICH ALL TROOPS ARE TRAINED, OR A HAT HELD ON TOP OF A SWORD OR POLEARM. WHENEVER THE CEASE FIRE BEAT IS HEARD, OR THE HAT ON TOP OF A SWORD OR POLEARM IS SEEN, EVERYONE STOPS, SHOULDERS ARMS, AND WAITS FOR ORDERS. The "Cease Fire" beat will be reviewed for all troops at the first formation at each event.
7. An individual who operates a muzzleloaded black powder weapon in a Tactical Demonstration must be trained and the weapon inspected prior to use by a Safety Officer. A unit participating in a Tactical Demonstration (including reenactments) must have present, during the demonstration, at least one member who is a Safety Officer.

**Individual Demonstrations.**



1. The only weapons authorized for Individual Demonstrations are muzzleloaded black powder shoulder arms. These include flintlock muskets, rifles, musketoons, and carbines. Pistols may be demonstrated only by Mounted Troops.
2. A minimum of two members must be present for an Individual Demonstration-- one to operate the weapon and another to provide crowd control and watch for safety. Either member may address the public. Each must be at least 16 years old. All individual demonstrations must have prior approval of a safety officer.
3. The weapon being demonstrated is subject to inspection by a Safety Officer using the appending checklist.
4. Blank charges are not to exceed the maximum load designated in the Table of Maximum Loads for the particular weapon used.
5. Wadding is permitted for individual demonstrations but NOT in tactical demonstrations.
6. The demonstrator must carry cartridges in an authentic leather or leather and wood block cartridge box, worn well around on the he right hip. The demonstrator must take care that the flap is kept down except when the cartridge is being withdrawn. Extreme care must be taken when carrying a belly box.
7. Rifles may be loaded with powder from horns, however, the powder of the main charge must first be poured into a powder measure conforming to the Table of Maximum Loads, then poured into the muzzle. The main charge must never be poured directly from the horn into the barrel. Riflemen must carry loose powder in a well maintained horn that is kept stoppered.
8. When loading and firing, the demonstrator will follow the correct manual for the type of weapon being fired. Riflemen who do not have a prescribed manual will follow safe procedures.