

U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service		1. WORK PROJECT/ACTIVITY Firearms	2. LOCATION USDA, USFS, Region 5	3. UNIT
JOB HAZARD ANALYSIS (JHA) References-FSH 6709.11 and -12 (Instructions on Reverse)		4. NAME OF ANALYST Thomas W. Catchpole	5. JOB TITLE Forester / Culturist	6. DATE PREPARED Feb. 15, 2000
7. TASKS/PROCEDURES	8. HAZARDS	9. ABATEMENT ACTIONS Engineering Controls * Substitution * Administrative Controls * PPE		
Qualifications and Training	Unsafe actions by unqualified or untrained user	Firearms users must have completed a firearms safety course (4 hour minimum) that meets Health and Safety Code (FSH 6709.11) standards and must demonstrate proficiency for each type of firearm used. Users must have written authorization from the Forest Supervisor on each forest where shooting will take place. Users must be included in the Executive Order 12564, Drug-Free Federal Workplace (drug testing) Program.		
Loaded Firearms	Unsafe situations due to loaded firearms	Loaded firearms shall not be permitted in buildings or vehicles. Firearms will remain unloaded with actions open, until user is in position to shoot. Use only proper good quality ammo that matches the firearm being used. The firearm should be in good working condition, clean and free from rust.		
Firearm Use	Unsafe situations due to improper use of a firearm	<p>ALWAYS treat a firearm as if it were loaded. Point firearms only at things you intend to shoot. When carrying or loading a firearm, keep it pointed up and away from others. NEVER point a firearm at anyone, even if you know it's not loaded. Never engage in horseplay or practical jokes while handling firearms. When sighting-in a firearm, use standard targets and if possible go to a formal target range or in an area that has a high safe dirt bank as a backstop which is free of flat rocks, metal debris or other hard objects. Be sure that nobody is in your line of fire. Watch and listen for indications that other people are in, or may be entering, the area. Do not shoot a firearm across a road. Keep the safety on unless actively shooting.</p> <p>When there is potential for foreign material to get into the muzzle, take extra care to keep the muzzle pointed away from the source of foreign material. The best method is to keep the firearm in the case in very dirty situations. After taking a fall, dropping a firearm, walking in a snow storm, or going through very dense brush, check the barrel for obstructions prior to loading the firearm. Be certain that the firearm is unloaded before checking the barrel for an obstruction. Any obstruction in the barrel can cause the firearm to explode when fired, causing injury or death to the shooter. It is unsafe to store or carry the firearm with an oiled cleaning rag or piece of tape over the muzzle to keep out dirt. It is easy to forget to remove these barriers before shooting or they can be forced down muzzle and cause the firearm to explode when fired. When you get a misfired cartridge, keep the muzzle in a safe direction and wait for 45 seconds since it could be a hang fire and go off. Next carefully remove the misfired cartridge and dispose of it in a safe place. Sometimes with a rim fire cartridge you can rotate and rechamber it so the firing pin hits in a new area and it will fire, if not follow the misfire procedure.</p> <p>Be familiar with the area where you are shooting a firearm. Know the range of your firearm. Determine the directions where there is a greater likelihood that people may be present, and avoid shooting in those directions. When collecting materials from a tree, try to set up where the bole of the tree will provide a backstop behind your target. Use a shooting rest to improve accuracy and conserve ammo. Load and fire only when your zone of fire is safe. Assume a rate of fire that allows you the most accuracy and fire only within 'your' effective range.</p>		

<p>Personal Protective Equipment</p> <p>Care of Firearms</p> <p>Storage of Firearms and Ammunition</p> <p>Walking through the forest while working with the firearm.</p>	<p>Injury due to lack of proper PPE</p> <p>Unsafe situations due to improper, or lack of proper, care of firearms</p> <p>Unsafe situations due to improper storage of firearms</p> <p>Unsafe situations when there is rough ground, slash, unsure footing</p>	<p>Always wear hearing and eye protection when using a firearm. In addition, wear the proper PPE for field work, e.g. hardhat, long pants, long-sleeved shirt, sturdy non-skid tread boots or tree climbing footwear.</p> <p>Keep firearms clean and in working order. Red tag any firearm that is not working properly until that firearm is repaired or properly disposed of. All repair work shall be accomplished by a qualified gunsmith. Firearms should be cleaned often, after each days use if possible, especially in wet weather. Continually check firearms to ensure that they are clean and in working order. Firearms should be in a proper gun carrying case (hard side cases are best) when not in locked storage, while transporting them in vehicles and when not in actual use in the field. Carrying cases protect the sights and keep the firearm clean.</p> <p>Always store firearms in a securely locked, clean, dry place. Clean firearms before storing them. Be sure that firearms are unloaded when stored. Whenever possible, store firearms and ammunition separately. A check-out/check-in system shall be a part of the storage arrangement. All firearms must be unloaded at all times while on administrative sites.</p> <p>Always unload the firearm when walking in rough terrain to a job site or when climbing a fence or tree; jumping a ditch , creek or log; or when walking on areas with unsure footing like wet rock slabs, when in meatbee habitat or dry soil on road cuts and fills. Never pull a firearm towards you by the muzzle. When crossing fences lay the unloaded firearm on the ground with action open on the other side of the fence with the muzzle on your hat or a safe surface, then cross the fence away from the firearm. Never run with a loaded firearm, ie such as when you step into a meatbee nest.</p>
10. LINE OFFICER SIGNATURE	11. TITLE	12. DATE

Previous edition is obsolete

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