

Fort Foster Historic Site/Florida Park Service Re-Enactment Safety Guidelines

Please note: FPS safety guidelines will be strictly enforced by the park staff, event volunteers, and re-enactors.

Special Notice: Under the coordination and oversight of the Florida Park Service staff. Volunteers will load pre-rounded paper cartridges on site, using the powder provided and to the recommended safe load specifications. Upon completion of all programs, unused cartridges will be returned to FPS staff.

Thank you.

General Event Information

- All battle re-enactment participants must attend the mandatory re-enactor safety meeting, held during Saturday Morning. Another will be held Sunday morning for late arrivals.
- All weapons, cartridge boxes and pouches, must be inspected prior to the battle re-enactment to ensure compliance with safety procedure. All powder horns or flasks must be empty. No one will take the field without having their arms and accouterments inspected for safety.
- Park visitors and battle re-enactment spectators are not permitted to handle re-enactor weapons.
- Alcoholic beverages will not be consumed during normal park hours. Any intoxicated person will be removed from the event.
- Soldier and Seminole commanders are responsible for the conduct of all re-enactor participants in their units during the event. They must ensure that all are aware of these safety guidelines, and abide by them.
- No weapons will be carried during the course of the event by re-enactors less than 16 years of age.

- Re-enactors must demonstrate proper weapons handling. Always point the muzzle upward and away from yourself and others.
- Sale of black powder at this event is prohibited, per federal explosives laws.
- All camp fires must be above ground level. No digging is permitted to protect the archaeological resources of this historic site.
- No projectiles, bullets, musket balls, or loading blocks will be carried by any participant during the event.

Battle Safety

- Among the troops, only officers may carry single-shot pistols.
- No hand-to-hand combat or similar theatrics during the battle.
- Opposing forces should approach no closer than 15 yards apart of on another during the balance of the skirmishing.
- Do not aim directly at individuals in firing. Elevate your muzzles at closer ranges. When loading, keep the muzzle away from your face, and charge cartridges safely so as not to endanger your face or hands in loading.
- All ramrods will be left in camp, with the exception of selected persons, for the purpose of inspecting muzzles prior to the battle.
- All arms must be loaded with pre-rolled paper cartridges, made by park staff.
- No wadding, double-charging, or ramming permitted.
- Cartridge boxes or pouches should contain only cartridges, and will be inspected to ensure no objects which might be transferred to the bore are in them.

Maximum Powder Charges for Paper Cartridges MUST be in accordance with Florida DEP Black Powder & Historic Weapons Safety Guidelines.

- The term “**MEDIC**” will only be used during the event in case of actual medical emergency. When heard, all event activity must be ceased, and the problem attended to.
- No persons younger than 14 years on the battlefield during the re-enactment. Children 12 or older who play fife or drum may act as such. Children will not be employed as color bearers, water carriers, runners, etc.

Historic Weapons Firing Demonstrations

- All re-enactors wishing to demonstrate their weapons to the public outside of the battle re-enactment are to follow these procedures.
- No firing should be done in the camps or in the vendor area.
- During firing demonstrations, the firer must be accompanied by another re-enactor to ensure a free and clear field of fire.
- No firing demonstrations should be done without the knowledge of the event safety coordinator.
- Before firing, the non-period term “Fire in the Hole!” should be called out to warn persons nearby. Visitors with hearing aids or small children should be cautioned regarding the noise.
- Should your weapon misfire, please continue the demonstration, explaining the procedures to the visitors, while keeping them at a safe distance while the arm is discharged. If the arm will not fire after repeated attempts, remove it to a secluded area to render it safe.

*****These guidelines conform to the Florida DEP Black Powder & Historic Weapons Safety Guidelines.**