



Theatre Safety

Special Props – Firearms

Special props, such as weapons, add realism and excitement to productions. They also increase the risk of injury to the cast, crew, and audience.

Discharged wadding of blank rounds can cause injury and death. The noise levels produced by the discharge of firearms can cause hearing damage. Take firearms safety seriously

Prior to Use

1. Obtain written permission for the use of weapons before weapons are obtained or used.
2. Notify Campus Law Enforcement when weapons will be used in any production or training.
3. Designate and identify trained and authorized weapons handlers/managers and users.
4. Follow a weapons checklist each time a firearm is used to ensure weapon requirements are met.
1. Only use weapons designed for stage combat as these weapons are constructed to be strong enough not to break into dangerous pieces during use.

Use and Handling

1. Treat all firearms as though they are loaded.
2. Never use live ammunition. The use of live ammunition is prohibited.
3. Never load any firearm until actually ready to use it.
4. Never permit a performer to handle a firearm except during supervised training, supervised rehearsals, fight calls, and performances.
5. Always follow safe handoff procedures:
 - a. Make eye contact
 - b. State whether the firearm is “unloaded” or “loaded”
 - c. Offer the firearm grip first with the muzzle point down
 - d. Wait for the recipient to have control of the firearm prior to releasing it
6. Never cock or ready a firearm for discharge until it is called for onstage.
7. Maintain all safety devices in place until ready to use the firearm.
8. Always keep your finger outside of the trigger guard until ready to pull the trigger.
9. Never point-blank fire or dry fire a weapon.
10. Never point the firearm directly at another person.
11. Wait 15 seconds after a misfire before ejecting or clearing the unfired blank from the firearm.
12. Immediately engage the safety devices after discharging the firearm.
13. Use proper personal protective equipment when firing a weapon.
14. Never leave a firearm unattended.

Storage

1. Store weapons in locked cabinets and/or storage rooms.
2. Store blank rounds and shells in a separate container from the firearm.