

Chapter 4

Range Safety Plan and Standard Operating Procedures of the Palo Alto Gun Club

(To be reviewed by all members and volunteers, as posted at the range and on the PAGC website).

Safety at Palo Alto Gun Club gun ranges at Sportsman Recreation Area is based on several false assumptions, especially since range usage may be unmonitored by safety officials. For example, Palo Alto Gun Club and Palo Alto Conservation Board management assumes that:

- all shooting automatically takes place in the direction of the targets,
- members, the general public or customers will always keep their firearms unloaded and actions open when arriving or departing a range,
- firearms are always unloaded except when the shooter is in position on the firing line,
- members, the general public, or customers will use only those firearms with which they are familiar, and
- members, the general public, or customers will always use the correct ammunition.

Because these assumptions are not true, they become the basis for this Safety Plan. Further, it must be assumed that most range users, the general public or customers and many times the membership may be unskilled in the proper use of firearms (safe gun handling and basic marksmanship). It is not the responsibility of Palo Alto Gun Club officers and members, Palo Alto County Conservation Board employees, or Palo Alto Law Enforcement to personally instruct and coach range users in the basic range design parameters; i.e., letting them know precisely how the facilities must be used, which will be dictated by for what type of shooting the specific range was designed. Range users assume all risks associated with personal and private firearm usage while on Palo Alto Gun Club and Palo Alto Conservation Board premises. Risks dramatically increase because no corrective action may be directed at the time when necessary to reduce them since certified range safety officials may not be present.

This Safety Plan and Standard Operating Procedure document is provided and made available so that each member, the general public, or customer understands what is and is not permitted on each range they desire to use.

Safety is not complete without enforcement. Enforcement is the glue that holds the entire safety plan together. Without it, this plan (or any plan) is worthless. Range users must continually be reminded that ranges are only as safe as the manner in which they are used. It is the duty of every range user to be on the alert for safety violations, and point out and correct improper gun handling or range operations as they see it, and report them to proper officials.

Palo Alto Gun Club officers and Palo Alto County Conservation Board personnel have the authority to monitor safety and to enforce established rules and regulations. This may include disciplinary action, such as temporary or permanent suspension or revocation of range privileges, which may be necessary to correct errant behavior, including but not limited to behavior with or without a firearm. Palo Alto Gun Club officers and Palo Alto County Conservation Board personnel have the authority to terminate a shooter's use of a range for cause, and the responsibility to report said action immediately to management or Law Enforcement Officers for appropriate disciplinary action if warranted. The Club's Board of Directors shall be the final authority concerning what disciplinary action will or may be imposed for any given safety violations by any individual shooters. The consequences of a person's failure to comply with the provisions of this safety plan may result in additional instruction, a warning, the suspension of range privileges for a specified period of time, permanent suspension of range privileges, or legal actions.