

Exercise 1- Firearm Status Check Treat Every Firearm as if It Is Loaded

Objective: Students will safely handle a firearm when checking it to assess whether it is loaded or unloaded. Students will know how to safely transport a firearm in a gun case.

Time Allotted: 10 minutes

Materials: Three - dummy firearms with different actions and matching dummy ammunition. . Gun cases, at least one hard. Saf-T-Plugs for shotguns. Alternative mock firearms in case real firearms cannot be used.

Preparation: Firearms are loaded with dummy ammo, with safeties left off, and put in cases (bolt action in hard case) and place on top of table.

Introduction: Ask class, "Why is it wise to treat every firearm as if it is loaded?"

Presentation: This section may be easier to read if the statements were bulleted or numbered. Indicate cased firearms and ask class, "So how does that apply to this situation?" "What should I do?" If answers are correct, follow their direction, if not interject.

Choose the case with a bolt action rifle. Tell students that first, before opening the case, it should be pointing in a safe direction.

First, open the case.

Second, visually inspect the action, "It's closed and could be loaded."

Third visually inspect the safety, "It's off, so I'll put it on."

Fourth, take firearm out of the case. "I'm going to take the firearm out of the case, keeping my fingers outside the trigger guard and muzzle pointed in a safe direction"

Fifth, open the action. (Note: Some firearms must have the safety off to open the action) Dummy round ejects. "It was loaded".

Dummy round ejects.

It was loaded.

"Now, I'm going to show you how to safely case and transport a firearm."

Make sure the firearm is safe by checking to see if magazine is empty . (Open and close action 2 times)

"I'm going to visually check the magazine and the chamber to make sure both are clear."

Now I'm going to remove the bolt.(If demonstrating with a rifle.)"

If the magazine is detachable, remove it, too. (If demonstrating with a rifle.)

Put it back in the case with muzzle pointed in a safe direction. .

Place the bolt and magazine where they won't come in contact with each other or the firearm.

"Now anyone opening this case can see immediately that this firearm is unloaded."

Activity: Call a student up to remove the next cased firearm. Call up another student to assist. Instructor should make necessary corrections to both students. Have the students switch roles for last firearm inspection. For shotguns, give them a Saf-T-Plug to place in the firearm before putting it back in its case. .

Evaluation: Assess students actions while handling the firearms, i.e. Muzzle pointed in a safe direction and finger outside the trigger guard. Assess whether students can locate and operate safeties and actions. Check that they inspect chamber and magazines.

Summary: Ask class, "Why is it wise to treat every firearm as if it is loaded, even one in a case?" Restate ways to safely case firearms and get them ready for transport. Additional information can be added about what they would do if they encountered a firearm with which they were unfamiliar? Would it be safe to figure it out without help? If the firearm was unsecure what would they do? Find and report to responsible adult and/or owner.