

Recommended Calibers

(Where can we find this information?)

**SECTION 3: SAFETY, STORAGE & MAINTENANCE**

**Opening**

(To be written)

**10 commandments**

The *Ten Commandments of Firearms Safety* should be etched in your memory forever. Let them govern your actions wherever and whenever you're involved with firearms. In the woods. On the range. Or in your home. Please take time to review and understand these rules.

*Commandment 1:* Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. That means away from anything you don't want to see a hole in. And that goes double for when you're loading or unloading – always treat every gun like it was loaded, and make it a habit to know where your gun is pointed – all the time.

*Commandment 2:* Firearms should be unloaded when not actually in use. Unload as soon as you're finished shooting – before you walk to the car or the camp, before you do anything else – and make sure it is completely unloaded – no shells in the chamber or magazine. Never let a loaded gun out of your sight or out of your hands. Always check a gun that you are handed or pick up – don't just assume it is unloaded.

*Commandment 3:* Don't rely on your gun's safety. Your gun is a mechanical device and it could fail. Don't touch the trigger until you are ready to fire – take special notice of where your hands are on your gun when loading or unloading. And don't pull the trigger when the safety is on – or in between safe and fire.

*Commandment 4:* Be sure of your target and what's beyond it. Too many hunters have had accidents by being short-sighted - not paying enough attention to what was behind that prize buck. Never shoot at a sound, or movement or a patch of color. A hunter in camouflage has too many times been mistaken for a target by a shooter too quick on the trigger. A bullet goes great distances at great speeds. Pay attention to where your bullet will go and what it will hit if it overshoots your target or ricochets.

*Commandment 5:* Use proper ammunition. It only takes one shell that's the wrong size to hurt or kill someone or destroy your shotgun. Make sure you know the exact gauge your gun takes, and never mix ammunition. Read your gun's instruction manual and all the instructions on a box of ammo. Make sure you look at your shells closely before loading and make absolutely sure you're loading only the caliber your gun will take. Also, never use ammunition that has been reloaded by someone else. Many shooters handload as a hobby or to save money. Handloaded ammunition that doesn't meet factory standards can be very dangerous – you could severely damage your gun or get hurt with ammunition that has the wrong powder, too much powder or the wrong load. Be very careful!