



Coalition of Historical Trekkers Safety Guidelines May, 2004

Introduction: In any organization such as ours, which deals routinely with firearms, explosive black powder, edged weapons, open fires, etc., safety must be a primary concern. It must take precedence over all other considerations. This document, and the attached lists, establishes basic safety rules and guidelines for various events and activities sponsored by the Coalition of Historical Trekkers (CoHT).

Applicability: This regulation applies to all members of the CoHT, their family members, and guests, who are participating in activities at any event sponsored by the CoHT.

A. GENERAL SAFETY GUIDELINES

- 1) As the group is a part of the CoHT, it is the desire of the organization that the group complies with the safety regulations of the organization that sponsors the event. All persons listed above are expected to read and comply with the CoHT regulations and rules, as included herein.
- 2) All participants are responsible for their own unsafe acts as well those of their minor children.
- 3) Any member who observes an unsafe act or a potentially dangerous situation is obligated to shout, "As you were!" (or some other appropriate warning) which will be the signal to stop all activity until the problem is corrected.
- 4) First Aid: At least one first aid kit shall be present at all CoHT events and the location of that kit be made known to all participants.

B. SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR CAMPS

- 1) Abide by all precautions set forth in the CoHT General Trekking Safety Guidelines.
- 2) Firearms & weapons:
 - a. No loaded firearms are permitted in camp except as stipulated under the "Hunting Treks" guidelines.
 - b. The use of any weapon shall take place a safe distance from the camp.
- 3) Fires:
 - a. Campfires must be set in a safe location and due consideration made for tents, awnings, underbrush, powder storage, and other potentially flammable items.

- b.** Candles and candle lanterns must be placed and maintained in a manner that mitigates the potential to kindle a fire.
- c.** A fire suppression system must be readily apparent and accessible to anyone that may need to employ it. This suppression system shall consist of no less than two gallons of water but may be a modern fire extinguisher inside a period correct cover.
- 4)** All participants shall apply safe handling practices in the use of chopping, cutting and hammering tools. Due regard for the safety of themselves and others shall be exercised.

C. TREKKING SAFETY GUIDELINES

The CoHT is NOT responsible for injuries, accidents, or loss of property due to a lack of basic common sense or common safety practices on the part of any participant.

C.1. GENERAL TREKKING SAFETY GUIDELINES

- 1)** The following guidelines and rules are applicable to all CoHT sponsored treks. A CoHT sponsored trek is defined as: an historical trek organized or attended by CoHT members and others, and covered by the CoHT's insurance policy.
- 2)** All participants shall be informed of these guidelines and rules prior to the beginning of the trek.
- 3)** A written trek plan shall be provided to a responsible person that is not attending the event. The plan will include, start point, end point, general route, estimated times of arrival, mode of travel, and known number and age of participants.
- 4)** An appropriate first aid kit shall accompany the trekkers. All participants shall be made aware it's location.
- 5)** All participants shall stringently practice safe weapon handling and are required to meet all local weapons regulations and laws. Any participant may freely address any violation of safe weapons handling. Compliance with weapons laws and regulations is the responsibility of each individual participant. Consequences resulting from failure to abide by laws and regulations are the responsibility of the participant.
- 6)** Due regard shall be paid to trekking within the bounds of the law. Trek organizers shall ensure they have proper legal authority for the presence of their party in the area they plan to trek.
- 7)** In the event an impromptu activity is decided upon at some point during the trek, (i.e. shooting match, tactical, or any other competition), the activity should be guided by the CoHT Safety Guidelines or Rules relative to that type of venture.
- 8)** The trek organizer shall submit a post-trek report to the State Rep or Territorial Governor. The contents shall include to length, type, and number of persons attending the event. Injuries to any person shall be reported in the same way.

C.2. GUIDELINES FOR BOAT TREKS

- 1) Abide by all precautions set forth in the CoHT General Trekking Safety Guidelines.
- 2) A Coast Guard approved wearable Personal Floatation Devices (life jackets) be must worn or readily accessible and of the correct size for the user. A Coast Guard approved Type IV throwable PFD (seat cushion with straps is the most common) must also be present in the vessel and ready for immediate use.
- 3) Compliance with boating, fishing, firearms, and hunting laws is the responsibility of the participant.

C.3. GUIDELINES FOR TREKS WITH ANIMALS

- 1) Abide by all precautions set forth in the CoHT General Trekking Safety Guidelines.
- 2) Owners of animals must maintain positive control of their animal throughout the trek. Liability for damage to, or by, an animal rests on the owner or participant responsible for that animal.
- 3) Compliance with applicable laws and regulations are the responsibility of the participant.

ADVISEMENT

The CoHT insurance policy states the following: "This insurance does not apply to "bodily injury" to, or "medical expenses" for, any person while saddling, riding, mounting, or dismounting any saddle animal."

C.4. RULES FOR HUNTING & TRAPPING TREKS

- 1) Abide by all precautions set forth in the CoHT General Trekking Safety Guidelines.
- 2) Compliance with all applicable hunting, trapping, and firearms regulations is the responsibility of the participant.
- 3) Firearms and other weapons:
 - a. All weapons must be in safe and serviceable condition
 - b. All weapons must be pointed in a safe direction at all times
 - c. Loaded firearms must be un-primed while in camp. Un-primed flintlock guns must have the touchhole plugged in a manner that is apparent to all. A leather frizzen cover is also recommended.
 - d. No hunting/shooting within 50 yards of camp
- 4) Minors- In addition to meeting applicable state/federal regulations minors must meet the following CoHT standards:
 - a. Minors under 18 years of age who are hunting must have passed a certified safety course.
 - b. Minors (under 18) may participate with written permission from their parent/guardian and under the constant supervision of an adult member at least 21 years of age.
- 5) Any participant may address safety violations at any time.