



Shooting Sports Primer for New Shooters

© 1999 published by the National Firearms Association, all rights reserved

Welcome to the exciting world of firearms and shooting!

This "Primer" will give you information on several areas of firearms and shooting that will help guide you into Canada's recreational firearms community.

In Canada at present, there are an estimated seven million firearms owners. These people might be hunters, target shooters, firearm collectors - firearm owners come from all parts of Canada and from many different backgrounds.

There is however one very important thing each member of the firearm community has in common - firearm safety.

The safe handling of firearms is the **most important** part of becoming a firearm enthusiast.

When using any firearm, always follow these NFA rules:

1. **Always treat every firearm as if it were loaded** - even when you think it is not.
2. **Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.**
3. **Always keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.**
4. **Keep the action of the firearm open** except when actually shooting or storing the firearm.
5. **Use only the right ammunition for your firearm.** Carry only one type of ammunition to be sure you can not mix different types.
6. **Be sure of your target** - and beyond your target. Identify your target, and then look at what is past the target - **BEFORE** you shoot.

7. **Alcohol and drugs do not mix with firearms.** Alcohol and drugs can impair your judgement. Keen judgement is essential to safe shooting.

8. **Know how to use the firearm you are shooting safely.** If you are not sure, find out more about that firearm from someone competent.

These are the basic rules of firearm safety. These rules have been used by generations of hunters and shooters. Keeping these rules in mind whenever you are around firearms or using firearms can insure not only your safety, but the safety of everyone around you.

Regardless of what type of shooting you are interested in, these basic rules remain the same.

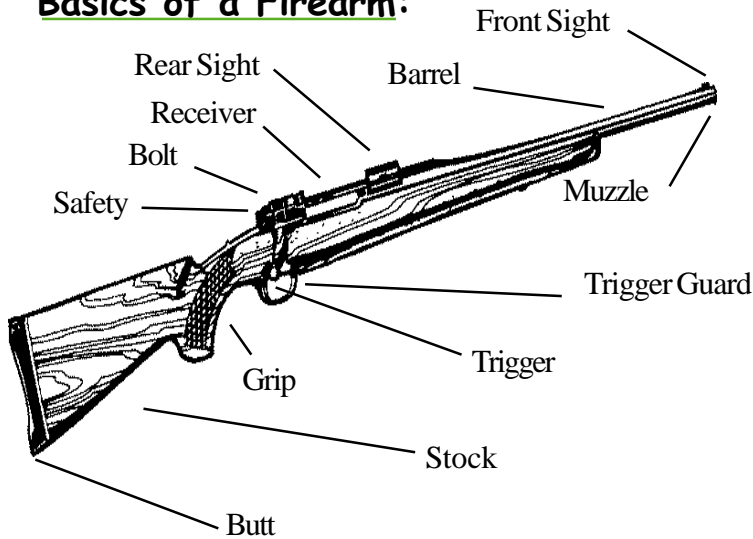
Now, let's look at the various types of firearms you might be interested in trying...

Visit the NFA Online

www.nfa.ca

There are three basic types of firearms: rifles, shotguns and handguns. Each type may have different kinds of actions. Knowing about different firearms is a part of firearm safety. Also, depending on the type of shooting you want to do, you will want to choose a firearm that is suitable.

Basics of a Firearm:



Firearm Actions:

Bolt Action



A bolt action is usually operated by a lift and pull motion on the bolt similar to opening a gate bolt. However they may be a "straight pull" action. Some bolt action rifles have a magazine which stores ammunition. Others are single shot firearms.

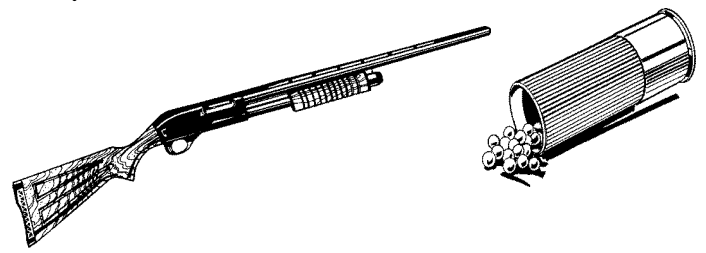
Hinge or Break Action this type of firearm is operated by moving the release lever, allowing the barrel to open by hinging.

Lever Action



If you have watched a western movie, you have likely seen a lever action rifle. The lever is pulled down and away from the stock and then returned to load a cartridge.

Pump Action



Pump action firearms are operated by moving a sliding forestock back to remove a spent cartridge and forward to load a fresh cartridge or shell.

Semi-Automatic (Self Loader)



These firearms use the energy of each shot fired to cycle the action and reload.

Revolver this type of action uses a revolving cylinder which contains cartridges in individual chambers. Each time the hammer moves to the rear, the cylinder turns and brings a chamber with a fresh cartridge in line with the barrel and firing pin.

Muzzleloader the gunpowder and ball or shot are loaded from the muzzle end of the firearm.

Types of Firearms:

Rifles, are named for the rifling in the barrel, spiral grooves are cut into the barrel to impart "spin" to the bullet as it travels. Just like a spiral football is more accurate so is a rifle bullet. Depending on your target, from shooting big game, like a moose or a bear, to "plinking" at tin cans or paper targets, your choice of a rifle will vary on the calibre of ammunition you wish to shoot.

Shotguns, unlike a rifle, a shotgun usually has a smooth bore (the inside of the barrel). Shotguns fire numerous pellets, the size of which depend on the planned target. Sometimes however a solid slug is used. Shooters hunting ducks, geese, and upland game will choose shotguns, so will trap and skeet shooters.

Handguns, while not presently allowed for hunting in Canada, handguns are a popular choice for target shooters, Cowboy action shooting and collecting among many other options.

Now let's look at ammunition...



Ammunition

Your choice of target will determine your choice of ammunition. Provincial regulations may also determine your choice of calibre of ammunition. Make sure that the ammunition you are using is suitable for the type of shooting you are planning and is proper for the firearm you use.

On the barrel of your firearm should be the information on the type of ammunition you can use in that firearm. You must make sure that this matches the information of the cartridge you are using.

There are many different bullet weights and types of bullets that can be used in each calibre of cartridge. The hobby of reloading ammunition is one that many shooters dedicate many long hours to. They enjoy greater flexibility and accuracy, but must do it properly.

Types of Ammunition

Rimfire: 22 cal. rimfire ammunition is the most common example of this type. The primer for this ammunition is located along the rim of the cartridge. An excellent choice for target shooting, plinking and small-varmint control.

Centrefire: For big game or target shooting at longer distances, centrefire ammunition is the choice. This larger calibre ammunition is fired when the firing pin of the rifle or shotgun hits the primer located in the centre of the cartridge base.



Now, let's take a look at one of the more important components to shooting: **YOU!**

Becoming a good shooter requires **safety training**, learning proper **shooting skills**, and then developing those skills. Fundamentally, successful shooting combines hand-eye coordination, proper stance and balance, breathing control, practice, and patience.

There are many sources you can go to to develop your skills in firearms, shooting and hunting, or any other part of the shooting sports you may wish to get involved in.

If becoming a successful hunter is your goal, you will need to learn about the game you wish to hunt, along with tracking skills and bush survival skills. You will also require a reasonable degree of physical fitness. Tracking a deer, moose or bear takes endurance!

There are regulations that govern firearm ownership in Canada along with provincial regulations that regulate hunting. You will need to take a firearm safety course in order to get a firearms licence. To get a hunting licence, there is a provincial Hunter Education Course you will need to take. Do not think, however, that these courses, or any other single course will teach you everything you will need to know.

The National Firearms Association, your provincial Fish and Game or Wildlife Association, your local Gun or Wildlife Club are good places to learn more about shooting.

To help develop your shooting skills, you may wish to check out the National Firearms Association's PATCHES Program. This is a firearm skills development program that you can proceed with at your own pace.

For information on this program, call (403) 640-1110 or e-mail Patches@nfa.ca or visit www.nfa.ca

The shooting sports are sports that are available to a broader segment of our population than any other sport. There are people who are handicapped, in wheelchairs and even blind who can participate and develop skills in various areas. There are more types of shooting available than we can hope to list in this space. You can find one or more that you will find enjoyable.

You are starting on a path of learning that depending on your degree of interest may never end.

Welcome to Canada's Firearm Family!

Bear of a Lifetime

I was very excited because my father, Chris Delaney, had decided to take me on my first spring bear hunt. The hunt started off when we had reached the Whipsaw Lament Forest Road in Princeton at about 6:30 am and the sun had just come up so we got the guns and started hunting. It was 7:00am when we saw a good size black bear. I had just gotten out of the truck and it ran off. I was a bit depressed but suddenly I saw a small black bear on the top of the hill and it was the cub of that black bear, and I was glad I didn't shoot the bear.

We went back to Kennedy and saw a small black bear. I wanted to shoot it, but my dad wouldn't let me and I felt a bit sad. Then we got on a main logging road and saw deer everywhere. Then we saw that big cinnamon bear again but it was so fast I couldn't even get out of the truck. About an hour later I saw a small cinnamon black bear and decided it was too small. In all the day all we saw was deer and 9 elk.

The next day I got up and headed out. We saw a lot of deer everywhere, but about 7 o'clock we saw the mother with her cub again. All through the day we saw a lot of deer and two more elk, and that was it for a long day.

The very next day we went out and saw so many deer

I couldn't believe it and a bear that ran down a gully and it was gone. My dad said the bears sure seem skitterish around here. Then about 12 o'clock we saw a bear with a blonde colored back and brown legs. It looked like a small grizzly bear.

We put binoculars on it and my dad said it was a black bear and I scoped it and fired my 308 *Savage* at it. It ran up a hill towards us and I couldn't see it so I ran along the trail and spotted it running straight toward me. I fired again and it stopped and then started tumbling down the hill. We went down to see if it was dead. It was and I was so happy I was dancing and jumping. In the middle of the skinning Victor and Bo arrived and helped pack the bear out. Then we went to Dairy Queen to celebrate.

Then we went home and my sister was grossed out of her mind but the rest of the family was so happy for me.

William Delaney, Age 11

This article was written by William Delaney. William and his father Chris are NFA Family Members. Reading this article, you can see the patience, skills and firearm safety that Chris is teaching his son. These skills are a part of Canada's shooting and hunting heritage that all firearms users owe to future generations of hunters, shooters and collectors.

Membership Application for the National Firearms Association

Mail this form to NFA, Box 4384 Station C, Calgary, Alberta T2T 5N2 or fax it to (403) 640-1144

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ Prov: _____ Postal Code: _____

Ph.: (____) _____ Fx.: (____) _____ E-mail: _____

Regular (\$30) Senior (\$25) Family (\$40) Business (\$50) Life (\$500) _____

Club; \$45 or \$3 per member (whichever is greater) _____

NFA Liability Insurance* (\$4.75 per person) Five Million Dollars coverage _____

I would like to make a donation to help the NFA fight to protect our firearm heritage! _____

Visa/Mastercard _____ Expiry: _____

Name on Card: _____ Total: _____

