

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Banner Shooting Range

Range Safety Rules and Operational Procedures – General Public Use



The Iowa Department of Natural Resources Shooting Sports Program welcomes you to the Banner Shooting Range. Whether you are an experienced target shooter or are brand new to the shooting sports, you will find your experience at Banner Shooting Range a safe and fun experience!

Safety at Banner Shooting Range is EVERYONE's responsibility. The range has NRA Certified Range Safety Officers (RSO's) to help educate users and enforce rules but ultimately **firearms safety depends on YOU!**

Rules at shooting ranges can be different from facility to facility. This document is intended to outline the basic safety rules specific for Banner Shooting Range. If you have any questions on these safety rules, please don't hesitate to call us at 515-961-6408 and speak directly to a Range Safety Officer.

General Information

- Shooting is permitted only during normal operating hours. [Visit our website](#) or contact the range for current hours.
- Banner Shooting Range requires that all firearms be completely unloaded and either cased or holstered at all times off the firing line.
- Eye and ear protection are mandatory at all times for everyone in the designated shooting areas. Eye and ear protection are highly recommended at all times while on the range complex.
- All shooters must check in at the range office prior to shooting and receive a verbal range safety briefing from the RSO on duty. Current season and/or express check-in pass holders must also check in at the office prior to shooting.
- Once checked-in and given a verbal safety briefing, RSOs on duty will direct you where to shoot.
- Range fees for paper targets and range time are paid prior to departure. All ammunition must be paid at the time of purchase. Ammunition sales are final. Current rates can be found in the [range informational brochure](#) or by contacting the range.
- Cash, check (payable to Iowa DNR) or credit cards are accepted.

Main Rules of Firearms Safety

- **Always keep your gun pointed in a safe direction** - this is the primary rule of gun safety. A safe direction means that the gun is pointed so that even if it were to go off it would not cause injury or damage. The key to this rule is to control where the muzzle or front end of the barrel is pointed at all times. Common sense dictates the safest direction, depending on different circumstances.
- **Always keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot** - when holding a gun, rest your finger on the trigger guard or along the side of the gun. Until you are actually ready to fire, do not touch the trigger.
- **Always keep your firearm unloaded until ready to use** - whenever you pick up a gun, immediately engage the safety device if possible, and, if the gun has a magazine, remove it before opening the action and looking into the chamber(s) which should be clear of ammunition. If you do not know how to open the action or inspect the chamber(s), leave the gun alone and get help from someone who does.
- A **“CEASE FIRE”** announcement indicates everyone should immediately stop shooting, completely unload their firearms and step away from the bench. **ANYONE** can announce a cease fire if they witness a safety violation in progress. Anyone announcing a cease fire should then immediately report the incident to the Range Safety Officer on duty.
- For additional safety information, go to: <http://nssf.org/lit/FSDOY.pdf>

Youth at the Range

Banner Shooting Range and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources support and promote youth participation in the shooting sports. Below are rules and state laws pertaining to youth at Banner Shooting Range and are enforced for the safety of everyone on the range.

- Youth must be seven (7) years old to be on the shooting range property
- A parent, guardian, spouse who is eighteen years of age or older, or another with the express consent of the minor's parent or guardian or spouse who is eighteen years of age or older may allow a minor to possess a rifle or shotgun or the ammunition therefor which may be lawfully used ([Iowa Code 724.22.3](#)).
- Youth under the age of 14 must be under direct supervision (within arm's reach) at all times while on the range.
- Youth under the age of 14 are prohibited from possessing handguns or their ammunition at the range ([Iowa Code 724.22.5](#))

- A parent or guardian or spouse who is twenty-one years of age or older, of a person fourteen years of age but less than twenty-one may allow the person to possess a pistol or revolver or the ammunition therefore for any lawful purpose while under the direct supervision of the parent or guardian or spouse who is twenty-one years of age or older, or while the person receives instruction in the proper use thereof from an instructor twenty-one years of age or older, with the consent of such parent, guardian or spouse ([Iowa Code 724.22.5](#)).
- Range Safety Officers on duty may direct that minor children be removed from the range or not participate in shooting activity if in the RSO's sole opinion there are health or safety risks to the minor or other range users due to presence of and/or participation of the minor.

Safety Information - Rifle and Handgun Range

- The rifle/handgun range is available to all legal civilian (non-offensive) firearms (see [Iowa Code 724.1](#)).
- There are currently 7 standing position and 13 bench rest position firing points on the range. Permitted shooting positions are standing and sitting (bench-rest) at the respective positions.
- Two of the standing lanes are dedicated to steel targets for use with non-magnum handguns only. Steel target surcharge applies to these lanes in addition to standard fee.
- The rifle/handgun range runs on a hot/cold schedule. Approximately every 20 minutes the range will be made cold by the RSO on duty. There is a lighting system in place to remind shooters when the range is hot and when the range is cold. When the red lights are ON, the range is HOT (RED=HOT=SHOOT). When the lights are off, the range is COLD.
- You will hear a buzzer and an announcement when the range is to be made COLD.
- When the range is made COLD, all firearms must be IMMEDIATELY and completely unloaded (external magazines may be loaded but must be removed from the firearm) with actions locked in the OPEN position. Muzzleloaders may have a charge in the firearm however the capping device must be removed and the hammer placed in the down position.
- When the range is made COLD, the RSO on duty will inspect the line for compliance prior to letting shooters go down-range to check/change targets.
- When the range is COLD and firearms are made safe, all shooters must step away from the shooting bench (stand or sit by the black fence) and are not permitted to touch and/or handle their firearm for ANY reason. Removable magazines and ammunition may be handled during COLD periods ONLY by the black fence.
- The RSO on duty will thoroughly inspect the downrange area to ensure all shooters have returned to the firing line before making the announcement the range is HOT and turning the red lights ON.
- Rapid firing and/or bump firing is not permitted.

- Drawing and firing from a holster is not permitted.
- Incendiary, tracer and armor piercing ammunition are prohibited.
- Targets are limited to paper targets or range-provided steel targets. Targets with humanoid/photographic images are prohibited. Targets are available for purchase at the range.

Safety Information - Shotgun Range

- The shotgun range is limited to legal civilian (non-offensive) firearms (see [Iowa Code 724.1](#)) shotguns gauges 10 and smaller.
- Shot size is limited to target shot sizes 7, 7.5, 8, 8.5 or 9 only. Larger shot sizes, slugs and buckshot are strictly prohibited on the shotgun range.
- Shotgun patterning will be accommodated on the rifle/handgun range. The Range Safety Officer on duty can assist you in setting up your targets.
- Targets are limited to standard (108mm), midi (90mm) or mini (60mm) clay targets only and must be projected by using the provided Lincoln clay target traps.
- No more than two clay targets may be thrown simultaneously.
- Persons releasing clay targets must stay behind the clay target trap and must keep all body parts clear and outside of the yellow safety ring. Unattended traps must be in the “un-cocked” position. A RSO can give you a demonstration if necessary.
- All shooters must be inside the shooting station with muzzle downrange prior to loading their shotgun.
- No more than 2 shells at a time are permitted in the shotgun while at the shooting station
- Prior to exiting the shooting station, shotguns must be completely unloaded and the actions must remain open when outside of the shooting station. Fixed breech (over/under, side-by-side, and single barrel guns) may be closed in the gun rack but MUST be open at all other times.