

NRA Range Safety Officer Course

- LESSON I: Welcome
- OBJECTIVES
 - Understand the purpose of the RSO Course
 - Explain procedures for becoming an RSO

Student Introductions

- Full Name
- Relevant experience
 - Shooting
 - Training / Certifications
 - Competition
 - other
- NRA involvement
- Occupation
- How will you use your RSO training?

About Your Instructor

- Full Name:
- Experience & NRA:
 - NRA Training Counselor
 - NRA Chief Range Officer
 - NRA Certified Instructor
- Occupation:

INTRODUCTION

- No Live Ammo in Classroom
- Schedule of Events
- Facilities
- Security

COURSE GOAL

- To develop NRA Certified Range Safety Officers who possess the KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, and ATTITUDES essential to organizing, conducting and supervising safe shooting activities and range operations.

COURSE LESSONS

- Defining the Role of the RSO
- Purpose of range Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
- Procedures for checking out a range prior to live fire
- Range Safety Briefing
- Emergency Procedures
- How to safely unload firearms
- How to correct firearm malfunctions

CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Attend the entire course.
- Participate in discussions and exercises
- Demonstrate Knowledge, Skills and Attitudes appropriate for RSO
- Pass the exam with a 90% or higher
- Submit an application and fee to NRA.

LESSON II – The Role of the RSO

- OBJECTIVES
 - Understand the role of the Range Safety Officer
 - Understand the purpose for range SOPs

The Role of the Range Safety Officer

- The Range Safety Officer (RSO) supervises shooting activities as prescribed by the range Standard Operation Procedures (SOPs).

The Role of the Chief RSO

- The Chief Range Safety Officer (CRSO)
 - Trains RSOs
 - Has responsibility for entire range premises
 - Develops Range SOPs with range owners

How to Become a Chief RSO

- Become an NRA Certified Instructor
- Teach for at least 2 years
- Become an NRA Range Safety Officer
- Become an NRA Training Counselor (TC)
- $TC + RSO = CRSO$
- There is no stand-alone CRSO course
- NRA Training Dept can also promote RSO to CRSO by special application

Range Standard Operating Procedures

- Contents determined by range owner
 - Organizational Information
 - Range Capabilities
 - Range Operations
 - Shooting Range Rules and Regulations
 - Emergency Response Plans

LESSON III – Range Inspection and Range Rules

- OBJECTIVES

- Explain basic inspection procedures for an indoor range
- Explain basic inspection procedures for an outdoor range
- Explain four types of shooting range rules and how each type applies to the handling and use of firearms

RSO Range Check-in Procedures

- Check in at the range office
- Pick up equipment & materials
 - Range handbook (SOPs)
 - First aid kit
 - Communications equipment
 - Keys, etc.
 - Range Flags

Range Inspection

- Facility SOPs provide inspection procedures
- Ensure that each item is checked
- Each range is unique
- Check the SOPs for the specific range
- Use your own GOOD judgment.

Indoor Range Inspection

- Condition of range on arrival: clean or dirty?
- Lighting set correctly?
- Air-flow system working properly?
- Impact area functional and free of personnel?
- Target carriers working properly?
- Targets ready?
- Communication and backup system(s) working?
- Safety briefing prepared?
- Emergency procedures reviewed and checked?

Outdoor Range Inspection

- Condition of range on arrival: clean or dirty?
- Impact area functional?
- Downrange area free of personnel?
- Target holders working properly?
- Targets ready?
- Communication and backup system(s) working?
- Safety briefing prepared?
- Emergency procedures reviewed and checked?
- Baffles and berms checked?

Firearm Safety

- Shooting incidents are very rare on ranges!
 - Suicides at commercial ranges that rent guns
 - Negligent gun handling
 - Unsafe range facilities
- How can RSOs help prevent problems on the range?
 - Educate users.
 - Provide direct range supervision.
 - Enforce shooting range safety rules.

Categories of Range Rules

- NRA Gun Safety Rules
 - 3 Fundamental Rules for Safe Gun Handling
 - 8 Rules for Using or Storing a Gun
- General Range Rules
- Site-Specific Range Rules
- Administrative Rules

NRA Gun Safety Rules

Three Fundamental Rules for Safe Gun Handling

1. ALWAYS keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.
2. ALWAYS keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
3. ALWAYS keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.

NRA Gun Safety Rules

Eight Rules for Using or Storing A Gun

- 1. Know your target and what is beyond.**
- 2. Be sure the gun is safe to operate.**
- 3. Know how to use the gun safely.**
- 4. Use only the correct ammunition for your gun.**

NRA Gun Safety Rules

Eight Rules for Using or Storing A Gun

5. **Wear eye and ear protection.**
6. **NEVER use alcohol or drugs before or while shooting.**
7. **Store guns so they are NOT accessible to unauthorized persons.**
8. **Be aware that certain types of guns and many shooting activities require additional safety precautions.**

GENERAL Range Safety Rules

- Know and obey all range rules.
- Know where others are at all times.
- Shoot only at authorized targets.

GENERAL Range Safety Rules

- Designate an RSO when none is present or assigned.
- Do not handle a firearm or stand at the firing line where firearms are present while others are downrange.
- Stop shooting immediately upon the command “CEASE FIRING”.

GENERAL Range Safety Rules

- Hygiene Guidelines (shooting & cleaning)
 - Refrain from eating, drinking, smoking, applying makeup, or placing your hands in proximity to your mouth or nose while on the range or cleaning a gun.
- Change and wash clothing after a shooting or gun cleaning session to minimize exposure to airborne particulate lead or solvent and cleaning product residues.

GENERAL Range Safety Rules

- Special Concerns
 - Pregnant women, children under seven years of age, and others who have concerns should consult a physician before visiting shooting ranges.
 - For young children and pregnant women, lead exposure is the primary risk factor. Amniotic fluid protects the child in the womb, and manufacturers produce child-size hearing protectors and safety glasses.

SITE-SPECIFIC Range Safety Rules

- Tailored for a specific shooting range
- Specifies authorized firearms, calibers and limitations
- Provides rules for special types of shooting events e.g., muzzleloading

ADMINISTRATIVE Range Safety Rules

- Provide policy rules of the range
 - Govern how the range facility operates
 - Hours of operation
 - Parking policies
 - Schedule of activities

Enforcement of Range Rules

- The range SOPs guide the RSO and users
 - Educate to reduce incidents
 - Warning
 - Penalties
 - Removal from range
 - Loss of range access

BAYOU RIFLES INC. RANGE RULES

1. NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ON THE JULIFF PROPERTY. (CITY ORDINANCE)
2. NO CENTER FIRE RIFLES, MAGNUM RIFLE RIFLES, OR PISTOLS CHAMBERED FOR NON-APPROVED CARTRIDGES ARE PERMITTED ON THE ADDICKS PROPERTY.
3. NO RIFLES LARGER THAN .22 CALIBER LONG RIFLE RIFLE PERMITTED ON THE SMALLBORE RANGE. NO PISTOLS, SHOTGUNS, OR OTHER RIFLES.
4. PISTOLS ONLY ON THE PISTOL RANGE. ONLY APPROVED CALIBERS AND BLACK POWDER PISTOLS ARE PERMITTED. NO RIFLES, SHOTGUNS, OR PISTOLS FIRING NON-APPROVED CARTRIDGES.
5. NO FULLY AUTOMATIC WEAPONS ON ANY RANGE AT ANY TIME.
6. NO INCENDIARY, TRACER, EXPLOSIVE, OR ARMOR PIERCING AMMUNITION ON ANY RANGE.
7. ALL FIRING MUST BE DONE FROM THE REGULATION FIRING LINES EXCEPT ON SPECIAL OCCASIONS WHICH MUST BE APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE IN CHARGE.
8. ALL FIRING MUST BE AT REGULATION PAPER TARGETS MOUNTED ON FRAMES PROVIDED FOR THIS PURPOSE AT STANDARD RANGES. ALL TARGETS MUST BE PLACED IN FRAMES IN SUCH A MANNER THAT BULLETS WILL NOT HIT THE FRAMES. *All firing must be done so that the bullets are stopped by the backstop.*
9. FIRING AT TIN CANS OR BOTTLES WILL NOT BE PERMITTED UNDER ANY CONDITIONS.
10. ALL GUNS MUST HAVE ALL AMMUNITION REMOVED AND THE BOLTS, SLIDES, OR CYLINDERS OPEN EXCEPT WHEN ACTUALLY FIRING FROM THE FIRING LINE.
11. WHEN A GUN IS BEING LOADED, AFTER IT IS LOADED, AND WHILE IT IS BEING UNLOADED, IT MUST AT ALL TIMES BE POINTED TOWARD THE TARGET.
12. SHOTGUN FIRING ONLY AT DESIGNATED AREAS AND DIRECTIONS AT ADDICKS AND JULIFF.
13. ALL STANDARD NRA SAFETY RULES, AND SPECIAL RULES OF EACH RANGE MUST BE OBEYED.

RANGE RULES

1. ALWAYS TREAT A WEAPON AS IF LOADED.
2. ALWAYS KEEP MUZZLE POINTED DOWN RANGE.
3. KEEP ALL SHOTS WELL WITHIN BACK STOP.
4. KEEP ALL ACTIONS OPEN UNLESS ACTIVELY FIRING.
5. SHOOT ONLY AT PROPER TARGETS.
CANS & BOTTLES ARE NOT PROPER TARGETS
6. DON'T PLACE TARGETS NEAR ROOTS.
7. TAKE ALL USED TARGETS, BOTTLES & CANS WITH YOU.

PLEASE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE RULES OF THE RANGE BEFORE FIRING. THE RANGE IS A PRIVATE PROPERTY AND IS NOT TO BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSES. THE RANGE IS NOT TO BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSES. THE RANGE IS NOT TO BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSES.

PLEASE TAKE YOUR TRASH WITH YOU

**NO TRASH
PICKUP**
Please take everything that you
bring to the range
back home

LESSON IV: Range Safety Briefing

- OBJECTIVES:
 - Explain the purpose of a range safety briefing
 - Conduct a range safety briefing

RANGE SAFETY BRIEFING

- **WHAT:**
 - Prepares shooters to safely participate in shooting events
- **WHEN:**
 - Conducted immediately prior to event.
- **WHERE:**
 - Conducted within view of the range.

RANGE SAFETY BRIEFING TOPICS

- Purpose of the Shooting Event
- Range Layout and Limits
- Range Safety Rules
- Firing Line Commands
- Emergency Procedures

PURPOSE OF THE SHOOTING EVENT

- Introduce yourself and staff
- Inform all shooters of what occurs during live fire
- Examples
 - Open shooting (recreation)
 - Zeroing firearms
 - Match
 - Training session

RANGE LAYOUT

- EXAMPLES

RANGE SAFETY RULES

- Range SOPs guide RSOs
 - NRA Gun Safety Rules
 - General Range Rules
 - Site-Specific Range Rules
 - Administrative Rules

FIRING LINE COMMANDS

- What command can be issued by anyone?
- What are the advantages of using standard range commands?
- What are the characteristics of effective range commands?

FIRING LINE COMMANDS

- LOAD
- MAKE READY
- IS THE LINE READY?
- FIRE
- CEASE FIRE
- UNLOAD
- SHOW CLEAR
- RANGE IS SAFE

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

- Establish procedures for everyone to follow
 - RSO takes charge of the situation
 - Render aid
 - Call for help (911)
 - Direct help to location.
 - Take notes (write report).

LESSON V: EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

- OBJECTIVES

- Explain the purpose of having emergency procedures
- Identify the steps to take during an emergency.
- Conduct an emergency exercise.

PURPOSE OF EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

- Minimize confusion during an emergency
- Save time responding to an emergency.
- May reduce insurance costs.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

- Standardize steps and the order they are performed
 - Take charge of the situation
 - Render aid
 - Call for help
 - Direct medical help to location
 - Take notes (report, photos).

TAKE CHARGE

- Cease Firing, unload and stay in place.
- Evaluate the situation (minor or major?)
- Designate helpers if necessary
 - Render first aid
 - Call for help.
 - Direct medical help to location
 - Take notes (reports, photos).

RENDER AID

- Training and Equipment
 - First aid training & CPR recommended
 - Contact doctor's office for first-aid kit requirements
- Good Samaritan Law
- Aid
 - Determine level of care (treat? Call for help?)
- Gather information for emergency phone call
 - Medical information questions on event sign up form?

CALL FOR HELP

- Checklist on how to make the call
 - Have phone numbers or radio emergency channel on hand
 - Give the dispatcher necessary information:
 - Location (911 address)
 - Phone number
 - Your name
 - What happened
 - How many people injured and their condition
 - Location of person who will direct help to the scene
 - Secure path to the scene (gates, doors, etc)

DIRECT MEDICAL HELP TO LOCATION

- Position one or more persons to direct the emergency vehicle
 - On main road to entrance of the facility
 - On road to range
 - Outside the building

TAKE NOTES

- Take notes on the times actions were taken
- Get statements from witness(es)
- Take photos (disposable camera in first aid kit?)
- Complete required SOPs form
- Notify authorities if necessary

LESSON VI: STOPPAGES AND MALFUNCTIONS

- OBJECTIVES

- Know the difference between a stoppage and a malfunction
- Demonstrate how to safely take a firearm from a shooter.
- Demonstrate how to clear common stoppages.

WHAT IS A STOPPAGE?

- A stoppage is an unintentional interruption in the operational cycle of a firearm.
- Examples
 - Bolt fails to lock the cartridge in position
 - Double Feed
 - Failure of the cylinder to rotate in a revolver

CYCLE OF OPERATION

- Cycle of Operation has 8 Steps
 - Feeding
 - Chambering
 - Locking
 - Firing
 - Unlocking
 - Extracting
 - Ejecting
 - Cocking

WHAT IS A MALFUNCTION

- The failure of a firearm to function as designed or fire satisfactorily
- Two categories
 - Firearm malfunction (broken sear)
 - Ammo malfunction (misfire, double charge)

AMMUNITION MALFUNCTIONS

- Misfire
- Hangfire
- Squib load
- What should the shooter do?
 - Keep the gun pointed in a safe direction and wait 30+ seconds
 - Raise the non-shooting hand for assistance or clear it, if the shooter knows how

CLEAR A STOPPAGE

- What do we need to know?
 - Parts of the firearm
 - How to SAFELY operate the firearm
 - Load
 - Fire
 - Unload

HOW TO TAKE CONTROL OF A LOADED FIREARM

- Approach from non-dominant side (left, for a right handed shooter).
- Grasp the barrel with **your** non-dominant hand. Control the muzzle.
- Have the shooter step back.
- Use your strong hand to control the firearm.
- Determine the stoppage, clear it and unload the firearm.
- Tell the shooter what went wrong and how to prevent it from happening again.

ACTION TYPES

- Long guns (rifles and shotguns)
 - Single shot
 - Break open
 - Pump
 - Lever
 - Bolt
 - Semi-Auto

ACTION TYPES

- Handguns
 - Double action revolver
 - Single action revolver
 - Semi-automatic pistols
- Muzzleloading firearms
- Air guns and BB guns

GENERAL RULE FOR UNLOADING LONG GUNS

- ALWAYS keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.
- ALWAYS keep your finger off the trigger.
- Remove the ammunition source.
- Open the action.
- Physically and visually inspect the chamber and magazine areas.
- Leave the action open and engage the mechanical safety.

RANGE SAFETY EVALUATION

- What is needed to make your ranges safer?
 - Equipment?
 - Personnel?
 - Facilities?
 - Procedures?

LESSON VII: THE TEST

- Open Book
- 90% to pass
- Review questions missed
- Chief RSO signs off on test

SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION

- RSO Application form signed by CRSO.
- \$25 processing fee (not included in tuition)
- Student will mail to NRA w/ fee.