

HUNTINGTON BEACH CIVIL WAR DAYS

Military Procedures and Documentation – Federal & Confederate

This is an overview. See the Huntington Beach Civil War Days Safety Regulations for each Branch.

1. Levels of Organization

- 1.1. **Unit Level** – Individual reenactor companies or detachments.
 - 1.2. **Battalion (Branch) Level** – All units of the same branch (infantry, artillery, cavalry, dismounted cavalry, band, hospital/off-field medical, on-field medical, clergy).
 - 1.3. **Brigade Level** – All reenactors under the Federal or Confederate command structure.
 - 1.4. **Civilian Reenactors** – Vital to authenticity but also must adhere strictly to safety rules. Civilian battlefield participation requires a written safety test and approval from the Reenactor Coordinator.
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2. Cardinal Firearms Safety Rules

- 2.1. Treat all firearms as if loaded.
 - 2.2. Keep fingers off triggers until ready to fire.
 - 2.3. Never aim directly at a person or animal; fire slightly high or to the side.
 - 2.4. Be aware of your target area and what lies beyond.
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3. Event Registration

- 3.1. All participants must register with the Huntington Beach Historical Society (HBHS).
 - 3.2. Registration cards must be produced upon request by officers, NCOs, provost guard, the Reenactor Coordinator, or Event Host.
 - 3.3. Registration cards will be inspected at all formations.
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4. General Procedures

- 4.1. Each unit is responsible for verifying the safe condition of all firearms.
- 4.2. Unit commanders must inspect cartridge boxes and haversacks to ensure no live ammunition is present.
- 4.3. Unit commanders certify safety compliance with their signature on their morning report, submitted before the first battle each day.
- 4.4. Late arrivals must be added via an amended morning report.
- 4.5. Battalion and Brigade commanders must certify compliance with their signature on their respective morning reports.
- 4.6. **Live ammunition, bullets, slugs, or projectiles are strictly prohibited.**
- 4.7. Firearms failing inspection are not permitted on the battlefield, and if found on the battlefield, will result in removal of the weapon (and possibly the reenactor) from the event.
- 4.8. Walk-on participants must pass firearm inspection, achieve 100% on the safety test, and be

included in the amended morning report.

4.9. Safety Tests: All first-time HB participants (military, medical, musicians, civilians in battle scenarios) must pass with 100%. Retakes allowed. Failure to pass excludes the participant from the field.

4.10. Minimum Age:

- 14+ for armed participants (proof of age required).
 - 12+ for functional musicians (must also pass safety test).
 - All minors must provide a signed parental/guardian release unless the parent/guardian is present in ranks.
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5. Formations

5.1. Brigade formations are mandatory before each battle or public demonstration.

5.2. Formations include long-gun safety inspections.

5.3. Pistols are inspected beforehand, and pistol cards displayed during formation.

6. Firearms Inspection

6.1. Long Guns

- Units inspect all long guns before brigade inspection.
- Brigade inspections are conducted by an officer or senior NCO not belonging to the inspected unit.
- Long guns previously live-fired must undergo an additional inspection by their unit and Battalion commander; results documented in the morning report.

6.2. Pistols

- A Brigade-appointed Pistol Safety Officer inspects all pistols and spare cylinders before battle.
 - Inspections are recorded in a log, with pistol check cards issued.
 - Pistols lacking a current card with date and signature are barred from the field.
 - Pistols previously live-fired must undergo additional unit commander inspection, documented in the morning report.
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7. Artillery Inspection

- 7.1. Artillerymen carrying pistols or long guns must follow firearm rules.
 - 7.2. Artillery commanders ensure their crews and equipment follow safety and documentation procedures.
 - 7.3. Bores must be visually inspected before each battle.
 - 7.4. A 75-foot safety zone must be marked in front of the artillery line.
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8. Safety Protocol – CEASE FIRE

- 8.1. Anyone may call “CEASE FIRE!” if danger is observed.
- 8.2. All firing and movement stop immediately.
- 8.3. Cease Fire Command must be repeated until the line halts.
- 8.4. Weapons are secured safely.
- 8.5. Officers/safety staff assess before resuming.
- 8.6. Examples: injury, weapon malfunction, fire, runaway horse/artillery, or spectators on the field.

Rule: Safety first – authenticity second.

9. Safety After-Action Meetings

- 9.1. After each battle (Saturday & Sunday), a Safety After-Action Meeting will be held on the battlefield.
 - 9.2. Required attendees: Reenactor Coordinator, Event Host, Federal and Confederate Branch Commanders, and their Adjutants.
 - 9.3. Safety tests, morning reports, and inspection logs must be reviewed and turned in to the Reenactor Coordinator at this meeting.
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10. Conclusion

These procedures ensure safety, order, and authenticity at Huntington Beach Civil War Days. Every reenactor’s compliance is essential to a safe and successful event.

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