



Policy For the Use/Discharge of Firearms or The Blank Firing of Weapons in A Production or Other Event

*updated June 2022

1. Notification

- a) Overture Center for the Arts Director of Production or their designated representative shall be notified of the use of all firearms, prop or blank firing, prior to the move in of an event. The advance notice must allow sufficient time to obtain all necessary permits.
- b) The Director of Production will, when advancing touring shows, determine if they will be using firearms in their productions, and work to secure the necessary permits.

2. Prop Weapons

- a) Weapons that are too be used as properties, but not intended to be discharged, shall be incapable of being discharged.

3. Blank Firing Weapons

- a) All blank firing firearms shall be of a type manufactured to fire manufactured blank cartridges only, or professionally altered/remanufactured and certified by a qualified gunsmith to be incapable of firing "live" ammunition or other projectiles.
- b) Ammunition used in blank firing firearms shall be of a known type, strength and manufactured as a theatrical "blank" cartridge. Typical load strengths are 1/4, 1/2, 3/4, and full loads. Only cartridges manufactured for theatrical use shall be permitted. Blank cartridges used for powder actuated devices or nail guns are not permitted.
- c) Firearms using hand loaded, mixed, or measured powders shall be treated as pyrotechnic devices and shall not be permitted without a licensed pyrotechnic operator, the proper permits and insurance. (See Policy On Flammable Effects)

4. Testing

- a) Each blank firing firearm shall be tested for paper wad expulsion, unused powder expulsion, and flame projection in a manner prescribed by the Director of Production.
- b) Any firearm deemed unacceptable or unsafe in the opinion of the Director of Production shall not be permitted.

5. Safe Firing Practices

- a) A demonstration shall be arranged for the Director of Production or a designated representative to demonstrate the blocking of those firing the weapons, and all other actors on stage at the time of the firing.
- b) Any blocking or use of weapons deemed unacceptable or unsafe in the opinion of the Director of Production or a designated representative shall not be permitted.
- c) At no time shall a blank firearm to be discharged within 20 feet of the audience.
- d) At no time shall a blank firearm to be discharged toward any person.

6. Storage

- a) All blank firing firearms shall be stored unloaded in a secure location when not in use. All appropriate and possible precautions shall be taken to prevent unauthorized use, handling, or access to the firearm.
- b) All blank cartridges shall be stored in a secure location separate from the storage for the firearms themselves. All appropriate and possible precautions shall be taken to prevent unauthorized use, handling, or access to the cartridges.
- c) All powders used for hand loading shall be stored in a separate secure location. All appropriate and possible precautions shall be taken to prevent unauthorized use, handling, or access to the powders.

7. Warnings

- a) The public shall be notified and warned with signage posted near public entrances and, when feasible, within the printed program that artificial firearms will be discharged during the performance.

8. Internal Notifications

- a) **Overture building policy on personal firearms:** "Only on/off duty law enforcement personnel are allowed to carry firearms in our building. Holding a concealed carry permit does NOT authorize you to carry a firearm in any place that prohibits the on-premise possession of a firearm or other weapon. Overture Center for the Arts does NOT allow possession of a firearm except by law enforcement. Members of law enforcement carrying a firearm are required to check in with security and provide us with their contact information and proof of employment."
- b) Security shall be made aware of dates and times when blank firing, prop, or firearms are to be brought onto the premises.
- c) Security shall be made aware of prop/blanks that must be transported between spaces. *see building policy on personal firearms*
- d) A description of style, type of prop/blank, a schedule outlining use and where props may show up in backstage/stage areas, and an inventory of what will be used in the building shall be supplied to Security before load in of event.