



NEGLIGENT DISCHARGE

A Negligent Discharge is the unintentional firing of a firearm due to carelessness or failure to follow proper safety protocols. This discharge typically occurs when safety rules, such as keeping a finger off the trigger or ensuring the weapon is on safe, are not observed, leading to an accidental discharge of the weapon.

B PREVENT NEGLIGENT DISCHARGES: ADHERENCE TO SAFETY RULES IS CRITICAL

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F Negligent Discharges (NDs) are preventable incidents caused by carelessness and negligence with firearms. From January 2020 to December 2023, over 30 NDs have occurred, leading to serious safety risks. Strict adherence to the Four Universal Weapon Safety Rules is crucial to prevent these incidents.

NAVSAFECOM has identified a significant increase in negligent discharges (NDs) due to failure to follow safety protocols and instructions. OPNAVINST 3591.1E, Small Arms Training and Qualification Instruction, mandates strict compliance with weapon safety rules and proper supervision during all firearm handling activities to prevent NDs. The primary causes of these incidents include:

- Active Ranges and Live Fire Training (40% of NDs)
- Watch Standers' Willful Negligence (24% of NDs)
- Holstering/Un-holstering Weapons (15% of NDs)
- Clearing Barrel Procedures (12% of NDs)

These factors highlight the critical need for strict adherence to safety protocols and proper supervision to prevent negligent discharges.



NAVSAFECOM RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

1. Strict Adherence to the Four Universal Weapon Safety Rules:
 - Treat every weapon as if it were loaded.
 - Never point a weapon at anything you do not intend to shoot.
 - Keep your finger straight and off the trigger until you intend to fire.
 - Keep your weapon on safe until you intend to fire.
2. Listen to and Follow Range Staff Instructions. During active range operations, follow all instructions from range staff. Do not take any action with live ammunition without explicit authorization.
3. Prohibit Unauthorized Weapon Handling by Watch Standers. Watch standers must not alter the state of their weapons without permission or a perceived threat. The weapon should remain holstered and on safe unless a threat is present or until the watch stander is relieved.
4. Proper Supervision During Clearing Barrel Procedures. Ensure all personnel understand the correct procedures for clearing weapons and are closely supervised during these actions to prevent NDs.
5. Conduct Regular Safety Training. Reinforce the importance of weapon safety through regular briefings, drills, and reviews of the Four Universal Weapon Safety Rules. Ensure all personnel are trained and understand the potential consequences of NDs.



AFLOAT SAFETY, NAVAL SAFETY COMMAND - Keeping our sea warriors informed and ready



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