



# Seven Eagles

# Shooting Association

## Range Safety

## Policies and Procedures

*Version 2013-J*

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## **Range History and Construction**

Though the Seven Eagles Shooting Association (SESA) has been shooting at our ranch since 1997, the newest range was constructed in 2009 as a joint effort between the Washington County Sheriff's Office (WCSO), the WC Road & Bridge Department, and Rock Crushers who supplied the material. Construction began in August of 2009 on the new shooting range which was designed by law enforcement for law enforcement with the maximum safety of surrounding areas in specifications. - NRA Best Range Practices Followed

One full acre was 75% enclosed by a 12 foot high wall of sand/rock to create a three-side enclosure measuring 50 yards wide with two 50 yard side walls. This took three weeks and 450 dump trucks of material to build such a large barrier. Since these berm walls are 36 feet wide at the base and 10 feet wide at the very top, not even a 50 .cal armor piercing round would get through the berm.

After the massive safety berm was completed, work began on the bullet capture target walls. The first three were built 8 foot wide by 8 foot high and are 18 inches thick filled with four tons of sand each. They also have 1 inch thick steel plates behind each wall to stop high caliber rifle bullets like 7mm, .338 and even .50 cal.

In 2012 we added an additional floor and side wall system to catch spent bullets that spill out of shot-up walls and downward lead spatter from steel targets. That way all lead is either removed from walls every few years or immediately swept up from the smooth flooring.

In 2013 an additional safety bullet capture wall for highly unlikely over-shoots of the berm was built. The plywood stops filled with 4" x 8' x 8' of pea gravel stops all pistol and rifle rounds up to and including 300 Winchester Magnum. This provides a 20 foot high barrier for land behind the backdrop.

## **Range Access and Scheduling to Groups (SESA and WCSO)**

The range is located at the far West end of Seven Eagles Ranch at 6206 Ganske Road. SESA members and accompanied friend shooters all must reserve a time slot with range owner/operator John Deans who can be reached at 979.203.1534. WCSO officers will be accompanied by range masters who will make the range reservations with John Deans.

Shooting is scheduled Monday – Saturday. Sundays are 'No Shoot' days to give the neighbors a break. No intoxicated shooters allowed.

## Firearms Allowed on Range

Civilians can utilize any caliber handgun or long gun at a caliber of 300 Winchester Magnum or less. Any caliber stronger than 300 Winchester Magnum or fully automatic weapons must be NFA legal and supervised by John Deans.

Law enforcement officers' weapons systems must comply with their department's policies and comply with any restrictions of their range master.

## Parking and Weapons Staging

After acquiring the gate access code to the range, take an immediate left down the dirt road ½ mile to the West which will take you to the shooting range. Upon arrive park all vehicles BEHIND the shooters and/or paved area and to the right of the target walls. Make sure any shooters currently shooting see you BEFORE exiting vehicle. Eye and ear protection should be worn upon exiting vehicles. Minors must be under strict parental supervision at all times.

Stage all weapons, ammo and gear on either of the two tables and stand on only ONE side (marked) with firearms pointed to the side berms.



## Safety and First Aid

NEVER point any weapon at any living thing at the range. Be very careful NOT to 'laser' others while moving from the weapon staging area to the shooting lanes in front of the target walls. In case of minor injury there is a First Aid kit in the target supply room behind target wall 3.



If there is a major accident, immediately call 911 and then utilize the First Aid kit. Most cell phone services (AT&T, Verizon, Sprint, etc) are available at the range for emergency calls.

## Short Range Paper Target Shooting (3 - 15 Yards)

All pistols and close quarter carbine rifles can be shot ONLY at the target walls 1-5 at the very center where the replaceable wooden blanks are mounted. NEVER SHOOT INTO DIRT BERMS!



All paper targets should be stapled to the wood and all bullets should be directed at the target centers. Staplers and target saving stickers are located on side walls.

A MAXIMUM of only FIVE shooters can shoot simultaneously and only at the SAME distance. Do not stage shooters. Yardages are clearly marked at 3, 7, and 15 yards for CHL test practice and the wood binding the carpet marks 5 yards. NEVER aim or shoot at the green berm barrier wall!

All shooters SHALL start and end shooting sessions at the same time. NO shooters shall enter or exit the shooting line when firing is ongoing. Lead shooter or range master shall clearly and loudly start and stop all shooting sequences. Only then should shooters enter or exit the five firing line locations.

### **Short Range Steel Target Shooting (7-15 Yards)**

Due to the nature of steel targets and the danger of shrapnel, steel targets can only be utilized under the supervision of John Deans or WCSO range masters. Eye protection is MANDATORY!

Walls 1 and 5 are specially setup with lead splatter catching walls and roof for containment and the removable mounts should only be placed on those two target walls (one and five). A 15 degree downward angle of the steel target must be verified to direct 90% of lead splatter to wooden floor and carpeted catch area. The rest is caught by the catch roof.



- NEVER shoot less than 7 yards away from steel targets with pistols – 25 yards with long guns.
- NEVER shoot steel core or armor piecing ammo, steel bird shot or shotgun slugs at steel (it bounces back in full)
- All shooters AND observers MUST wear eye protection if less than 25 yards away from steel target.

Even though steel target bullet splatter only bounces around 5-10 yards, it can still injure eyes so protect them at all times!

## Medium Range Shooting (15-50 Yards)

Since the target walls are 8' tall with the over shot berm behind them 20' tall, the further shooters are away from the target walls, the greater the risk of over shots. Even though there are no habitations for 2 miles, the utmost care MUST be used to keep all projectiles going into the target wall and NEVER over shooting walls or God-Forbid the dirt berm or safety wall!

Carbine (AR-15) rifles are usually used at these medium distances, so verify quarter zero at 25 yards to make sure shooter is 'on paper' before going out to 50 yards. No fully automatic fire is allowed past 20 yards due to muzzle rise which may result in an over shoot.

## Rifle Range (100 Yards)

Any high powered shooting must be initially managed by an LE Range Master or a Certified Civilian Marksman recognized by SESA.

For new shooters and/or reconfigured long guns (new guns, scopes, or re-mounts) a quarter zero should be performed first at 25 yards to confirm 'on paper', then a visual bore sight test done at 100 yards BEFORE actual first fire is done.

When not firing, all bolt guns need to be made safe by bolt back and gas guns needs to be with bolt open and mag out before any one walks down range to verify hit locations.

Any caliber long gun can be fired at our range at 100 yards after being verified by John Deans.



## **Long Distance Rifle Range (Greater than 100 Yards)**

Long range shooting is VERY restricted at our range. Even though our shot vector has no habitations for three miles, all projectiles MUST stay in our range target walls, dirt berm or last resort our safety wall. We have NEVER had an over shoot and this procedure MUST be followed so we NEVER will have an over shoot of the multiple range barriers.

Per NRA Range Source Book recommendations, we raised an additional 8' bullet-proof over-shoot wall on top of the 12' berm providing a 20' tall barrier which stops up to a 300 Winchester Magnum with 3,500 Foot/Pounds of force.

### **Precision Marksmen shooting past 100 yards must be managed at all times by a LE/Military sniper or a Certified Civilian Marksman recognized by SESA.**

Precision Marksmen wanting to shoot past 100 yards will have to earn it by shooting no more than 1 MOA (1" group at 100 Yards) to shoot at 200 yards. Then to be able to move to 300 yards, must first show the ability to shoot a group of 2" at 200 yards and so on. Precision Marksmen shooting past 100 yards must maintain all shots at no less than 2x MOA at each 100 yard increment or they must go back to a shorter distance.

Each long range shooting session by ANYONE must begin with a verification of Zero at 100 yards and it MUST be MOA (1" group at 100 yards). This is critical to verify the weapon system is configured correctly before sending any rounds past 100 yards.

Furthermore, each long range shooting session after starting at 100 yards can increment a maximum of 100 yards at a time. In other words, a group beginning a long range shooting session starts at 100 yards to verify zero at 1 MOA, then moves to 200 yards to get 1 MOA (2" group), then moves to 300 yards to get 1 MOA (3" group), then moves to 400 and so on. No jumping from 100 to 400 yards! These 100 yard increments will prevent large DOPE mistakes and verifies we are making appropriate and smaller changes to our elevation and windage.

The maximum distance for the Precision Marksmen at the SESA long distance range will be determined by John Deans and will depend on the shooter's ability, accuracy history, and condition of their weapons system. **At this time only Certified Civilian Marksmen and LE/Military Snipers are allowed to shoot past 400 yards, all others are limited to 400 yards or less.**

No "Dope Monkey" shooters are allowed past 100 yards. These are low experienced shooters firing 'setup' guns by other marksmen. Only true Marksmen allowed to fire past 100 yards.



## Over-Shot Prevention Wall Raised July 2013

After concerns about a possible over-shoot were voiced by the landowner directly behind our berm, we ceased shooting past 100 yards in April of 2013 and studied the issue. Though we have never over shot the berm and the odds are extremely low we ever would due to our marksman precision and safety procedures, anything is possible.

After a few months of analysis, ballistic testing, and engineering meetings we built a 55' wide and 8' tall safety wall that would stop all pistol calibers and rifle calibers up to 300 Win Mag. With this additional 8 foot wall built atop the 12 foot berm this provides a bullet proof 20 foot barrier spanning wider than all five target walls.

Even though the new 10-panel wall is only 3.5" thick with pea gravel, the wall segments are at a 45 degree angle to the shot which increases the actual impact thickness to 5.25". The wall was tested and verified to absorb and stop a 200-grain 300 Win Mag projectile from 100 yards away, as well as all .308, .223 and of course all pistol calibers.



This means nothing more powerful than a 300 Winchester Magnum can be shot at our range past 100 yards. Lower calibers which include .308 and .223 (AR-15) are fine. Our new 20' high barrier supports long range shooting to provide complete protection for our neighbor to the west. **NEVER aim or shoot at the green berm barrier wall!**

## Long Gun Accidental Discharge Prevention

Since our safety wall towers 20' high above ground and 16' over target zone, our remaining concern is an accidental discharge of a long gun at long distance. Light trigger pull settings are the primary cause of long gun accidental discharges, so we will test any new precision rifle to verify trigger pulls are greater than 2 pounds for Certified Marksmen and LE/Military Snipers but greater than 4 pounds for all others to be eligible to shoot past 100 yards.



## Long Gun Under-Shoot and Skip Prevention

Long range under-shoots can lead to projectile skips which can result in an off-property incident. This is prevented by making all long distance shooting sessions start at 100 yards to verify zero and then increase in only 100 yard increments. This was to ensure no large distance jumps are done which could induce scope doping mistakes.

## Projectile Tracking

Precision Marksman need to utilize large rolls of butcher paper to cover all of the target board and place the target sheet atop that. This way all off target paper shots can be marked and adjustments made.

## Noise Management

We strive to be good neighbors, so our range has implemented the following efforts to reduce the noise level:

- Legally suppressed weapons decreasing shot noise by 80% per weapon
- Decreased schedule on weekends by 50% with No-Shoot Sundays
- Shooting sessions decreased via tighter scheduling
- Evening shooting limited to a couple of evenings per year - NONE after 10PM-Sunrise
- Low overall active range time percentage (documented over time 24x7) – 3% Shooting and 97% NOT SHOOTING

## Environmental Policy

We are very concerned about environment risks of the gun range. So we do the following to protect our land, water, and wildlife:

- All Casings Collected and Recycled
- All Lead Bullets Shot Into Target Walls Are Contained and Recycled
- Steel Target Lead Splatter (Targets 1 and 5) Is Contained via special floor, walls and roofs.



# Shoot Straight – Shoot Safe!

## Texas Sport Shooting Range Protection Act – SB766

Since SESA has been shooting on our property since 1997 and the permanent range was built in 2009, it qualifies under the 'grandfather' clause of Texas Senate Bill 766 aka. The Texas Sport Shooting Range Protection Act which went into effect on September 2011. This Texas law protects us from nuisance lawsuits and makes any and all plaintiffs pay our legal bills if any frivolous lawsuits are filed against the SESA firearms range.

Sec. 128.052. LIMITATION ON CIVIL ACTION AND RECOVERY OF DAMAGES. A civil action may not be brought against a sport shooting range, the owner or operator of a sport shooting range, or the owner of the real property on which a sport shooting range is operated for recovery of damages resulting from, or injunctive relief or abatement of a nuisance relating to, the discharge of firearms.