THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF FIREARM SAFETY

1. **Watch that muzzle!** Keep it pointed in a safe direction at all times.

2. **Treat every firearm with the respect due a loaded gun.**
   It might be, even if you think it isn’t.

3. **Be sure of the target and what is in front of it and beyond it.**
   Know the identifying features of the game you hunt. Make sure you have an adequate backstop - don’t shoot at a flat, hard surface or water.

4. **Keep your finger outside the trigger guard until ready to shoot.**
   This is the best way to prevent an accidental discharge.

5. **Check your barrel and ammunition.** Make sure the barrel and action are clear of obstructions and carry only the proper ammunition for your firearm.

6. **Unload firearms when not in use.** Leave actions open; carry firearms in cases and unloaded to and from the shooting area.

7. **Point a firearm only at something you intend to shoot.** Avoid all horseplay with a gun.

8. **Don’t run, jump or climb with a loaded firearm.** Unload a firearm before you climb a fence or tree, or jump a ditch. Pull a firearm toward you by the butt, not the muzzle.

9. **Store firearms and ammunition separately and safely.** Store each in secured locations beyond the reach of children and careless adults.

10. **Avoid alcoholic beverages before or during shooting.**
    Also avoid mind- or behavior-altering medicines or drugs.