

## REMEMBER

- ⊕ Have your firearm checked regularly by a gunsmith who knows about the firearms you own.
- ⊕ Don't rely on safety catches - they are subject to wear and may not work properly.
- ⊕ Make sure there is nothing obstructing the barrel of your firearm before you fire.
- ⊕ Learn basic bush skills such as navigation, first aid, river crossing and survival if you're going hunting.
- ⊕ Get permission before shooting on any land.
- ⊕ Protect your hearing with proper ear muffs or ear plugs, and protect your eyes with safety glasses when shooting.

## THE ARMS CODE

For more comprehensive information on owning a firearm, refer to the Arms Code.

The Arms Code is a firearms safety manual compiled by NZ Police with the assistance of MSC. It is essential reading for all firearm owners and users, and includes information on choosing a firearm, firearm types, correct ammunition, applying for a licence, buying and selling, safe storage, and the basic rules of firearms safety.

You can download the Arms Code from the NZ Police website at [www.police.govt.nz/services/firearms](http://www.police.govt.nz/services/firearms). It is also available free from MSC and all police stations.

## RESOURCES

### MANUALS

Arms Code  
New Zealand Firearms Handbook  
HUNTS Manual (Hunter National Training Scheme)  
Bushcraft Manual  
Outdoor First Aid Manual  
Outdoor Safety – Risk Management  
NZ Bow Hunting Manual

### PAMPHLETS

Going Bush? – tramping safety  
Survival  
Radio Communications  
Hypothermia  
River Safety (WSNZ)  
Mountain Radio Service – contacts  
Let it Breathe – camping appliance safety

### VIDEOS/DVDs

On Target – safe and successful hunting in NZ  
Do You Need to Cross? – river safety  
Found Alive – bush survival  
It Was Just a Tramp in the Bush - Bushcraft

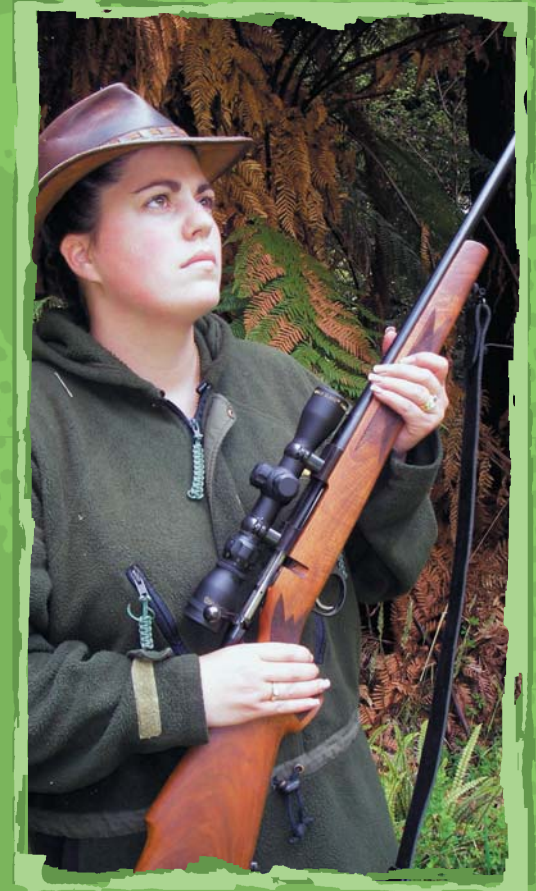
### OTHER USEFUL RESOURCES

Firearms Safety Hologram Cards  
Firearms Safety Code Poster

### USEFUL CONTACTS

[www.police.govt.nz](http://www.police.govt.nz) – New Zealand Police  
[www.nzshootingfed.org.nz](http://www.nzshootingfed.org.nz) – NZ Shooting Federation  
[www.nranz.com](http://www.nranz.com) – National Rifle Association of N Z  
[www.nzclaytarget.org.nz](http://www.nzclaytarget.org.nz) – NZ Clay Target Association  
[www.pistolnz.org.nz](http://www.pistolnz.org.nz) – NZ Pistol Association  
[www.targetshootingnz.co.nz](http://www.targetshootingnz.co.nz) – Target Shooting NZ  
[www.deerstalkers.org.nz](http://www.deerstalkers.org.nz) – NZ Deerstalkers' Association

# Firearms Safety



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For resources and further information contact:

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[www.mountainsafety.org.nz](http://www.mountainsafety.org.nz)  
[www.avalanche.net.nz](http://www.avalanche.net.nz)  
[www.incidentreport.org.nz](http://www.incidentreport.org.nz)



NEW ZEALAND MOUNTAIN SAFETY COUNCIL

# Firearms Safety

**New Zealand Mountain Safety Council (MSC) is a leading authority for outdoor safety information and training in New Zealand.**

MSC's volunteer firearms instructors are approved by NZ Police to deliver firearm safety training and administer the Firearm Safety Test to new firearms licence applicants.

## FIREARMS LICENCING

- ⊕ All those who possess a firearm need a Firearms Licence.
- ⊕ Application for a Firearms Licence must be made at the nearest Police Station.
- ⊕ 16 years is the minimum age to apply for a licence.
- ⊕ A first time licence applicant must undertake training in safe handling, storage and use of firearms as outlined in the Arms Code. On completion of this training, the licence applicant is required to sit the Firearms Safety Test.
- ⊕ Police will carry out inquiries to determine if the applicant is fit and proper to possess firearms.

*For more details, refer to the NZ Police 'Arms Code.'*

## JOIN A CLUB

It's best to join a club when getting involved in shooting activities. There are clubs for:

- ⊕ Hunting
- ⊕ Pistol shooting
- ⊕ Clay target shooting
- ⊕ Smallbore rifle shooting
- ⊕ Fullbore rifle shooting, and others.

*See useful contacts on the back page of this pamphlet.*

## THE NZ FIREARMS SAFETY CODE

The following seven rules are part of the NZ Arms Code and must be followed:

### 1 Treat every firearm as loaded

Check every firearm yourself. Pass or accept a firearm only if it has the action open and is not loaded. If it belongs to someone else, ask them to show you that it is empty.



### 2 Always point firearms in a safe direction

This rule can be easily broken so extra care is necessary particularly when moving firearms, e.g. when you are:

- ⊕ Crossing a fence
- ⊕ Placing a firearm in a vehicle
- ⊕ Unloading a firearm from a vehicle
- ⊕ Preparing a firearm for use, e.g. loading or unloading a firearm.

### 3 Load a firearm only when ready to fire

Only load a firearm when you intend to fire, and only in an area where it can be safely and legally discharged.

### 4 Identify your target beyond all doubt

Never fire unless you are absolutely certain that your target is not a person. Do not fire at movement, colour, shape or sound only. If in doubt, don't shoot.

### 5 Check your firing zone

You must think about what you could hit in the area between you and your target, and in the area beyond the target. Remember that when you follow a moving target with your firearm, your firing zone changes rapidly. When shooting near thick bush or scrub, extra care should be taken as you may not be able to see all of your firing zone.

### 6 Store firearms and ammunition safely

When not in use, lock away the unloaded firearm, bolt and ammunition separately. If you possess a semi-automatic or lever-action firearm, you need to use a trigger lock. Firearms must be safe and secure whether you're at home or in the field.



### 7 Avoid alcohol or drugs when handling firearms

Alcohol and some drugs, even if prescribed, dull and slow your mental and physical reactions. This is dangerous because you must be able to think clearly when handling firearms.