

Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
Wildlife Division
Conservation Education/Firearms Safety Program

Hunting Laws and Regulations

“Control of Actions and Behavior of Hunters”

Students enrolled in the CE/FS firearms course must pass the test on “Actions and Behavior of Hunters” in order to pass the course. Language from the Department of Environmental Protection Regulation, Section 26-66-1 appears below, accompanied by an explanation. After this material has been taught in class, students should have time to study the material alone or in groups, including with guidance from other instructors until it is fully understood by all. Then all students take the test on this regulation.

Department of Environmental Protection Regulation, Section 26-66-1

- (d) There shall be no hunting with firearms, discharging of firearms or carrying of loaded firearms within five hundred feet of any building occupied by people or domestic animals or used for storage of flammable or combustible materials, unless written permission of owner of such buildings is obtained and carried while hunting to allow closer shooting distances, except that the above referred to distance shall be not less than two hundred fifty feet unless written permission of owner of such buildings is obtained and carried while hunting to allow closer shooting distances when waterfowl is hunted in tidal water areas from land shooting positions or from floating blinds anchored adjacent to land or from rock formations. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to landowners, their spouses or lineal descendants when hunting within five hundred feet of buildings owned by them or, when hunting waterfowl, within two hundred fifty feet of such buildings, but shall apply when said persons are hunting within said distances of buildings not so-owned.
- (e) No hunting weapon shall be discharged toward any person, building or domestic animal when the same is within range or from or across the traveled portion of any public roadway.

(See reverse side for a study guide.)

Study guide for regulation concerning: "Control of Actions and Behavior of Hunters"

- It is PROHIBITED: to hunt with, shoot, or carry a loaded firearm
 - Within 500 feet of any building occupied by
 - People
 - Domestic animals
 - Used to store flammable or combustible material
 - UNLESS written permission for lesser distances is obtained from the owner and carried

- It is PROHIBITED to hunt with, shoot, or carry a loaded firearm
 - Within 250 feet of such buildings when Waterfowl Hunting
 - In tidal areas from land shooting positions
 - From floating blinds anchored adjacent to land or rock positions
 - UNLESS written permission for lesser distances is obtained from the owner and carried

- Persons exempt from the 500 Foot Zone rule as long as building is their own
 - Landowners
 - Their spouse
 - Lineal descendants

- 500 Foot Zone rule does NOT apply to bowhunting

- Hunting or shooting from or across the traveled portion of any public roadway is PROHIBITED

- Shooting toward any person, building, or domestic animal when within range is PROHIBITED

Questions:

1. Can you accurately estimate distances of 500 and 250 feet?
2. What tools can be used to determine exact distances?
3. What other things can a hunter do to abide by this regulation?

**– If you have any questions about the meaning of this regulation,
ask for assistance. –**

WHAT CAUSES HUNTING ACCIDENTS?

Failure to identify the target
Shooter swinging on game
Careless handling of a firearm
Victim out of sight of shooter
Fall while climbing into/out of position
Victim moved into line of fire
Shooter stumbled and fell
Failure to check beyond the target