

# AMERICAN EAGLE SOCIETY

## RISK ASSESSMENT.

The level of risk associated with the American Eagle Society (AES) is lower than that accompanying many other re-enactment organizations. There are three reasons for this:




- The AES is smaller than most re-enactment groups, being approximately one tenth the size of the two principal American Civil War societies in the U.K.. This means that, statistically, accidents are less likely to happen.
- The AES has no artillery and artillery is the main cause of serious accidents at re-enactments.
- The AES specialises in “living history” and drill displays rather than “battle” re-enactments. In the past twelve years we have put on only two battle re-enactment. This means our events tend to be more formal and subject to greater control than those of other groups. Our weapons are rarely pointed in the direction of the public, or even at fellow re-enactors.







Nevertheless, the handling of explosives and muskets has inherent risks and it is our responsibility to minimise these. To do this we have taken the following steps:

- 1) Identified and listed nine risk areas.
- 2) Graded these areas with regard to probability and consequence.
- 3) Decided what to do to reduce probability and ameliorate consequence.
- 4) Allocated responsibility for seeing that this is done.

### KEY TO READING THE RISK ASSESSMENT.

I.D. No. Risk Identification Number  
< Less than  
CC Company Commander  
PO Project Officer  
EO Explosives Officer  
1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant  
NCOs Non-Commissioned Officers

 Probability of less than 1%  
 Probability of between 5% and 10%  
 Probability of 25% or more

 Low risk to persons (knock, sprain stomach upset)  
 Medium risk to persons (powder burns, broken limb, damage to hearing)  
 High risk to persons (serious burns, maiming, death)  
 Low risk to property (less than £1,000)  
 High risk to property (£50,000 or more)  
 Not applicable

| ID No. | Category       | Nature of Risk   | Likelihood | Risk to Person                             | Risk to Property | Responsibility           | Plan for Avoidance   |
|--------|----------------|--|------------|--|------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 1      | Employees      | Failure to conform to Health & Safety employment requirements.                 | -          | -  | -                | PO                       | Continue as a private club without employees.  |
| 2      | Planning       | a) Failure to liaise with new organizations regarding safety.                  | 30%        | M  | L                | PO                       | As far as possible work with organizations with which we are already acquainted. Ensure full brief with new organizations.   |
|        |                | b) Expanding our activities without expanding the scope of our risk assessment | 30%        | Depends on the nature of the new activity. |                  | PO & CC                  | Periodic review of our activities.   |
| 3      | Camp Site      | a) Danger from high wind or heavy rain.  | 25%        | L  | L                | CC                       | Locate camp in position most affording shelter and water run off.  |
|        |                | b) Danger of tents catching fire.  | 2%         | H  | L                | Mess Leader              | Camp fires to be surrounded by rocks or to be sunk into a fire pit. Tents to be located a safe distance from fires.  |
|        |                | c) Danger of buildings catching fire.  | < 1%       | H  | H                | Mess Leader & Individual | Fires only in fireplace or stove and with owner's permission. Water to be kept near at hand. If a room is to be left empty the last man to leave should extinguish all candles.                        |
|        |                | d) Danger from tripping over tent pegs/ camp equipment.                        | 30%        | L  | L                | CC, NCOs Mess Leader     | Camp layout to be overseen by officers and N.C.Os.. All areas to be kept tidy.   |
|        |                | e) Food poisoning.   | < 1%       | L  | -                | Individual               | Any member of the public requesting to try our rations must be told that he or she does so at his or her own risk.   |
|        |                | f) Damage to, or theft from, camp during drill displays.                       | < 1%       | -  | L                | CC                       | A guard to be left in camp during display.   |
| 4      | Drill Displays | a) Danger from use of muskets and edged weapons in close order formations.     | < 1%       | H  | -                | CC                       | Strict adherence to procedures laid down in 19 <sup>th</sup> century drill manuals, which are some of the finest H & S documents ever written. Orders of CC and his N.C.Os. to be obeyed at all times. |
|        |                | b) That a new member might be unacquainted with our methods.                   | 25%        | H  | -                | 1 <sup>st</sup> Sgt.     | Ensure that the new recruit is trained in company safety procedures (i.e. understands the drill manual) and has studied this risk assessment.  |
|        |                | c) That members of the public might interfere with our displays                | < 1%       | M  | -                | PO                       | Public to be confined to a designated area and supervised by our display compare.  |

|   |                    |   |  |  |  |  |   |
|---|--------------------|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| 5 | Musketry & Muskets | <p>a) Damage to hearing.</p> <p>b) Accidental discharge of blank rounds.</p> <p>c) Accidental discharge of ramrod.</p> <p>d) Damage to, or theft of weapons while not in use.</p> | <p>10%</p> <p>5%</p> <p>&lt; 1%</p> <p>&lt; 1%</p> <p>&lt; 1%</p> <p>&lt; 1%</p> <p>&lt; 1%</p> <p>&lt; 1%</p> <p>&lt; 1%</p> <p>&lt; 1%</p> <p>30%</p> <p>&lt; 1%</p> | <p>M</p> <p>M</p> <p>H</p> <p>L</p> <p>H</p> <p>H</p> <p>M</p> <p>-</p> <p>L</p> <p>H</p> <p>H</p> | <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>L</p> <p>L</p> <p>L</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p> <p>L</p> <p>-</p> <p>H</p> | <p>Individual</p> <p>CC</p> <p>CC</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Sgt.<br/>Individual</p> <p>EO</p> <p>Individual</p> <p>Individual</p> <p>EO</p> <p>PO &amp; EO</p> <p>Individual</p> <p>PO</p> | <p>Flesh coloured earplugs to be permitted, provided they do not prevent orders from being heard. Avoid using muskets in confined areas.</p> <p>Inspect all arms to ensure full and half-cock are working. Ensure all men are proficient in arms and firing drill. Spring rammers after each display.</p> <p>Ramrods <b>not</b> to be used for loading other than the first round in heavy rain or when training in the absence of other re-enactors and the public, and even then only with the express permission of the company commander.</p> <p>During the day, when not in use, muskets to be stacked and kept under guard. If this is not possible, due to rain or for other reasons the weapon owner is directly responsible for the security of his musket and for ensuring that it is in a safe condition (i.e. not loaded) if he wishes to let members of the public handle it.</p> <p>No smoking near ammunition. No issuing of rounds near camp fires. No making of rounds from loose powder on site. Rounds only to be issued to men with cartridge boxes.</p> <p>No live rounds to be brought on site.</p> <p>No staples, tape or glue to be used in the construction of blank rounds.</p> <p>Ammunition to be issued only to men with current musket and explosives certificates. (See also ID No.7 below.)</p> <p>Ensure all sites where powder is to be kept overnight are registered for that purpose. Obtain Acquire &amp; Keep Certificates from police for use at the above premises. Ensure a Recipient Competent Authority Transfer Document accompanies powder during its transfer. Conform to local storage requirements.</p> <p>Any member, who has a medical condition that may be affected by participation in re-enactments should be encouraged to share this information with his mess-leader and CC. All members who are First Aiders should identify themselves. In the event of a serious accident the CC should be notified by the shout of "medical emergency" and the display be halted.</p> <p>Ensure our public liability insurance policy is renewed on an annual basis.</p> |
| 6 | Explosives         | <p>a) Accidental combustion.</p> <p>b) Accidental use of a live round.</p> <p>c) Injury from incorrectly made blank rounds.</p> <p>d) Failure to conform to regulations.</p>      | <p>&lt; 1%</p> <p>&lt; 1%</p> <p>&lt; 1%</p> <p>&lt; 1%</p>  | <p>H</p> <p>H</p> <p>M</p> <p>-</p>  | <p>L</p> <p>L</p> <p>-</p> <p>-</p>  | <p>EO</p> <p>Individual</p> <p>Individual</p> <p>EO</p>  | <p>No smoking near ammunition. No issuing of rounds near camp fires. No making of rounds from loose powder on site. Rounds only to be issued to men with cartridge boxes.</p> <p>No live rounds to be brought on site.</p> <p>No staples, tape or glue to be used in the construction of blank rounds.</p> <p>Ammunition to be issued only to men with current musket and explosives certificates. (See also ID No.7 below.)</p>  |
| 7 | The law            | <p>Failure to conform to the numerous regulations regarding the use of black powder at re-enactments.</p>   | <p>&lt; 1%</p>   | <p>L</p>   | <p>L</p>   | <p>PO &amp; EO</p>   | <p>Ensure all sites where powder is to be kept overnight are registered for that purpose. Obtain Acquire &amp; Keep Certificates from police for use at the above premises. Ensure a Recipient Competent Authority Transfer Document accompanies powder during its transfer. Conform to local storage requirements.</p>   |
| 8 | Injury             | <p>That in the event of one of the occurrences outlined in ID Nos. 3, 4, 5 &amp; 6 or some other, unforeseen, circumstance we may not know what to do.</p>                        | <p>30%</p>   | <p>H</p>   | <p>-</p>   | <p>Individual</p>  | <p>Any member, who has a medical condition that may be affected by participation in re-enactments should be encouraged to share this information with his mess-leader and CC. All members who are First Aiders should identify themselves. In the event of a serious accident the CC should be notified by the shout of "medical emergency" and the display be halted.</p>  |
| 9 | Insurance          | <p>Being without insurance cover.</p>   | <p>&lt; 1%</p>   | <p>H</p>   | <p>H</p>   | <p>PO</p>  | <p>Ensure our public liability insurance policy is renewed on an annual basis.</p>  |

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## Supplementary Risk Assessment for “Battle” Re-enactments.

| <b>ACTIVITY</b>       | <b>HAZARD</b>  | <b>AVOIDANCE PLAN</b>   |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| Planning the “battle” | Loss of control.   | Decide movements in advance and, if it is a public display, obtain the organizer’s approval for these movements.<br>Make sure the commanders on both sides and other relevant parties have been fully briefed.<br>Ensure that the plan has a realistic time frame.<br>Where possible, separate re-enactors from the public with a cordon. |
| Firing muskets.       | Accidental discharge of projectiles.   | Ramrods not to be used (other than to load the first round in heavy rain and even then this should be done away from the public and only at the express order of the company commander).<br>Tampions to be removed before firing.   |
|                       | Reversal of blast inside barrel.   | Pour the black powder down the barrel and then discard the paper cartridge. Do not put the paper down the barrel.   |
|                       | Injuring the “enemy” or members of the public with blast from the end of the barrel. | Commanders and individuals to be proficient at judging distances and to avoid firing a musket at anyone within 15 yards. If in doubt, do not fire.<br>Wherever possible, avoid pointing muskets in the direction of the public.<br>All participants to carry full canteens to treat powder burns.   |
| Melees                | Loss of control.   | Melees should be prearranged - wherever possible between individuals. There is no requirement to engage in this activity. If you feel your safety, or that of other people, is being compromised either retreat or become a “casualty”.   |
|                       | Injury from edged weapons.   | Officers to take particular care in the handling of their swords.<br>Bayonets are not to be fixed during “battles”.<br>Bowie knives and hatchets are not to be carried during battle re-enactments or drill displays.   |
|                       | Powder burns.  | Commanders of units should ensure their men’s muskets have been discharged before entering into melees. If this is neglected, the responsibility devolves upon the men themselves.  |