First Shot Fundamentals

Revised April 2014

M.A.T

1. Shotgun Nomenclature and Safe Gun Handling Rules
   a. Muzzle – Front of the barrel
      
      ALWAYS KEEP THE MUZZLE POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION
      (Discuss safe direction)
   
   b. Action - The parts that load, fire and unload the gun
      
      ALWAYS KEEP THE ACTION OPEN AND UNLOADED
      UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO SHOOT
   
   c. Trigger – Part of the action that releases the firing mechanism
      
      ALWAYS KEEP YOUR FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER
      UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO SHOOT
   
   d. Stock and forearm – the parts of the gun that you grip
      (Explain how you grip the gun to shoot and to carry in a safe manner - muzzle up with two hand grip)

2. EYES AND EARS – Safety glasses and ear protection always required in front of the safety line.

3. Eye Dominance
   a. Check eye dominance
   b. Explain why it is important

4. Six Shotgun Shooting Fundamentals
   a. Stance – explain boxer stance and foot placement
   b. Gun-Ready Position
   c. Mount the Gun (touch on asking permission to adjust)
   d. Swing to the Target
   e. Trigger Pull
   f. Follow Through

5. Orientation to range, traps and targets
6. Range Commands
   a. Range is Hot/Live and Ready to Fire – No guns should be handled until the range has been declared Hot or Live Fire.
   b. Cease Fire - Immediately stop firing and keep the gun pointed in a safe direction!
      i. Anyone can call a cease fire
      ii. All shotguns should be kept pointed in safe direction; instructor takes control of firearm and waits for directions from the range officer
      iii. All trap operators should make sure no target are thrown
      iv. Once the problem is fixed, the range officer will declare the range open and shooting may resume
      v. Examples of why to call a cease fire could include a dog, deer, person or anything down range that you wouldn’t want to shoot

7. Firing the First Shots
   a. Passing of the Gun
      i. Explain and show process of passing the gun from instructor to student and back.
      ii. Two hand grip
      iii. “Thank you” and “You’re welcome”

8. Shotgun Shooting Step by Step
   a. Watching Targets
   b. Finger Point
   c. Finger Point and Bang
   d. Dry Point with the Shotgun
   e. Dry Fire
   f. Ball and Dummy

9. Debrief and Review/Life Skills Wheel