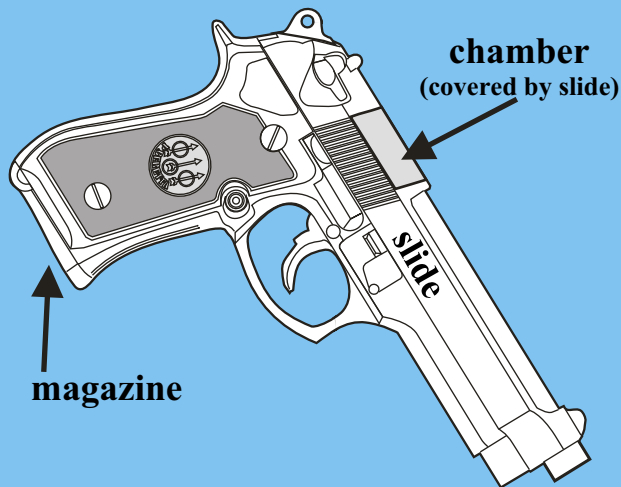


Jeff Cooper's

Four Rules of Gun Safety



Jeff Cooper's Four Rules of Gun Safety

You can prevent nearly all gun accidents by following these four rules. Jeff Cooper's words are in **bold**. All the rest is additional explanation.

1. **All guns are always loaded (until you establish whether they are or not).** If you think it is unloaded, check it again. Remember to check the chamber as well as the magazine. A semi-automatic gun will load a cartridge into the chamber when the slide is pulled back, then released. Remove the magazine, then pull back the slide to eject the cartridge in the chamber.

2. **Never let the muzzle cover anything you are not willing to destroy. Keep your gun pointed in a safe direction at all times: on the range, at home, loading, or unloading.** Don't point guns at people or animals except when necessary for self-defense or hunting.

3. **Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on the target (and you are ready to shoot).** You may pull the trigger by reflex if you stumble while your finger is on the trigger.

4. **Be sure of your target. Know what it is, what is in line with it and what is behind it. Never shoot at anything that you haven't positively identified.** Remember that a handgun bullet can travel one mile and a rifle bullet can travel several miles. Bullets fired into the air will come back down.

Add one more rule to Jeff Cooper's four rules: **Don't do anything really stupid.** Don't handle guns when you are drunk, drugged, or demented. Don't leave guns lying around where children can get them. Instead, lock guns in a child-proof, burglar-proof safe whenever it is practical to do so. Don't treat guns as toys. If you wouldn't juggle chain-saws then don't play with guns.

Note that most US gun deaths are either suicides or drug-related. There are fewer than 1,000 accidental gun deaths per year in the US, but these accidents can be especially tragic.

This flyer is available on the Internet at:
<http://www.tincher.to/flyer.htm>