



Pacific Northwest Wildfire Coordinating Group

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Keep Wildfire Safety in Sight when Target Shooting

When target shooting is done in the right way, it poses little threat to people's safety or natural resources. However, bullet fragments can be extremely hot and easily start a fire. Careless, unsafe shooting can cause significant resource damage and pose serious threats to human life, both to land management staff and visitors.

Before heading out to shoot targets, please consider the following:

Follow regulations and use good judgment:

- Seek permission from the landowner where you plan to shoot. They can provide a safe designated shooting area.
- Check the rules and regulations in the area you are visiting. Pack out all target trash, including shotgun shells, fragmented clay pigeons, or any targets. Trash gives a negative impression of shooters.

Tips for Safer Shooting

- During fire season, to reduce fire risk, voluntarily stop shooting after 1:00 p.m.
- Only shoot at legitimate targets. Do not use trees or other natural objects as targets. Do not shoot household appliances or other objects dumped in shooting areas. Shooting at steel targets or rocks may throw sparks into the nearby vegetation. Use targets made of:
 - Cardboard, paper
 - Or manufactured thrown-type clay (clay pigeons)
- Wooden backing on targets is not allowed. Always place targets against a non-flammable backstop of mineral soil or gravel and clear of flammable vegetation for 20 feet on all sides. Avoid shooting against rocks.
- Incendiary ammunition and exploding targets are prohibited in most areas throughout Oregon and Washington.
- Avoid both steel-core ammunition and steel targets, as these can present additional risks. Lead core is less likely to start a fire.
- Always bring a fire extinguisher, water and a shovel, and place them near target areas to help immediately extinguish any fires. After shooting, stay on site for at least an hour afterward to ensure no fires have started. Check the target area for any signs of smoke, heat or fire.
- Respect the rights of others, including private property owners, trail users, campers and others so they can enjoy their activities undisturbed.

- Make sure you are at least 150 yards from a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation area or occupied area.
- Never shoot across a road or body of water or into caves.
- Never shoot in a manner or place where any person or property is exposed to injury or damage as a result of a discharge.

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The Pacific Northwest Wildfire Coordinating Group is established to provide a coordinated interagency approach to wildfire management in Oregon and Washington. PNWCG provides leadership in interface and wildland fire management for local, tribal, state and federal agencies and their constituents to enhance firefighter safety and protection of life, property, and natural resources.

PNWCG is comprised of USDA-Forest Service; USDI-Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service; Oregon Department of Forestry; Washington Department of Natural Resources; Washington Association of Fire Chiefs; The Oregon Fire Chiefs Association; The Oregon State Fire Marshal and the Washington State Fire Marshal.