

50.05 Firearms and Fireworks

A. ~~It shall be unlawful for any person to fire off or discharge any firearm.~~

Reasonable Regard for Safety By Persons Discharging FIREARMS

Each person discharging a firearm is responsible for exhibiting reasonable regard for the safety and property of other persons and for discharging the firearm in such a manner as to assure that all projectiles come to rest safely within the boundary or boundaries of the property or properties on which the person is authorized to be shooting.

B. ~~It shall be unlawful for any person to shoot with bow and arrow, or to shoot missiles of any description from slings, spring guns, or instruments of any kind.~~ *Discharging FIREARMS Prohibited;*

Exception

1. Except as provided in division (2) of this section, it shall be unlawful for any person to discharge a firearm other than a shotgun or black powder rifle. A person discharging a shotgun or black powder rifle shall be restricted to the use of ammunition and load whose combined ballistic characteristics make it incapable of firing in excess of one thousand (1,000) feet and shall not be discharged within one thousand (1,000) feet of any of the following:
 - ❖ A dwelling house;
 - ❖ A school;
 - ❖ A church;
 - ❖ Any other type of building, while occupied;
 - ❖ A public or private park or recreation area;
 - ❖ Any other type of public gathering place;
 - ❖ Any domestic livestock not belonging to him or her unless such person has on his or her person written permission for such activity from the owner of the livestock.
2. Division (1) of this section shall not apply to any of the following:
 - a. A rifle, pistol, skeet or trap range operated by a recognized gun club or by a law enforcement agency, which firing range is substantially in accordance with specifications, as they currently exist or may hereafter be amended, promulgated by the National Rifle Association or by an equivalent nationally recognized Firearms safety authority for the type and caliber of Firearms being fired.
 - b. A person target shooting on his or her own property (or on another's property if he or she has on his or her person written permission for the activity from the owner of the property)

exhibiting reasonable regard for the safety and property of other person.

- c. Such person is using a backstop substantially in accordance with specifications, as they currently exist or may hereafter be amended, promulgated by the National Rifle Association or any equivalent nationally recognized Firearms safety organizations for the type and caliber of Firearms being fired; and
- d. Such person has on his or her person written permission for such activity from all persons owning any of the types of places or structures listed in division (A) of this section which are located within one thousand (1,000) feet of the target shooting activity.
- e. A person hunting with a shotgun on his or her own property (or on another's property if he or she has on his or her person written permission for the activity from the owner of the property) and exhibiting reasonable regard for the safety and property of other persons and if such person has on his or her person written permission for such activity from all persons owning any of the types of places or structures listed in division (1) of this section which are located within three hundred (300) feet of the hunting activity, or
- f. A person hunting with a center fire rifle not less than ten (10) feet from any ground level surface (i.e. from a tree stand or any other elevated climbing device) on his or her own property (or on another's property if he or she has on his or her person written permission for the activity from the owner of the property) and exhibiting reasonable regard for the safety and property of other persons and if such person has on his or her person written permission for such activity from all persons owning any of the types of places or structures listed in division (1) of this section which are located within one thousand (1,000) feet of the hunting activity.
- g. Law Enforcement officer, Animal Control officers or members of the armed forces discharging Firearms in the line of duty.
- h. Persons discharging Firearms for the purpose of shooting or killing any dangerous animal or reptile; a person discharging a firearm in self-defense.

C. Firing of Automatic FIREARMS prohibited

It shall be unlawful for any person to fire any firearm in a fully automatic mode except on a firing range operated by a recognized gun club or law enforcement agency, which firing range is substantially in accordance with specifications promulgated by the National Rifle Association or by an equivalent nationally recognized firearms safety

authority for the firing of a fully automatic firearm of the type and caliber being fired. Such person firing a firearm in a fully automatic mode must have on his or her person the necessary documentation showing that the firearm is properly registered with the federal government and that the person has the proper federal license to possess such firearm.

D. Enforcement

North Carolina wildlife officers (Wildlife Protectors) are authorized to enforce the provisions of this chapter. Penalty, see *10.10.