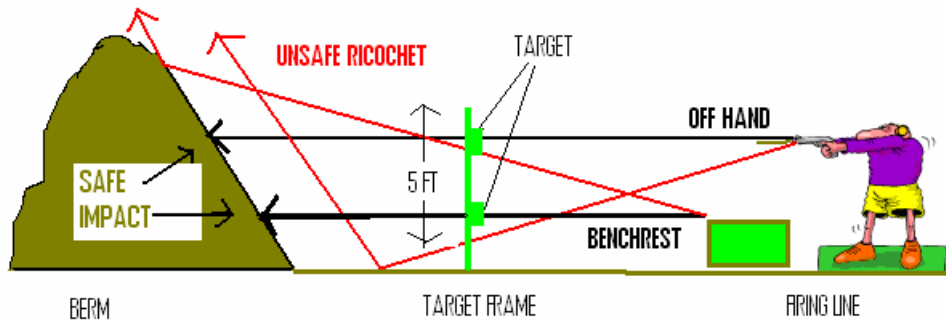


GUIDE TO SHOOTING SAFELY ON THE OUTDOOR RANGES



In our ongoing attempt to achieve the Nth degree of safety, I will cover the proper way to shoot on the outdoor ranges. Now I know what you are about to read is probably redundant, but the club would not be acting to our best safety abilities if the subject was not brought up from time to time.

When you are shooting at shorter distances on the range (ie. 50 yds on 100 yd range or 25 yds on 50 yd range) the instructors have stressed the importance of placing the target frame at the main berm and backing up the distance you wish to shoot from, thus the main berm is immediately behind the target and the bullet will impact safely.

A good rule of thumb for most shooting is to place the target so that the bulls eye is at the same height as the firearm when it is held level and in the position you would be firing from, be it the bench rest or offhand. Hold the firearm in the position you want to shoot and imagine just where the bullet will impact. If you feel the target is positioned properly, fire one round and observe where it lands. If it impacts the berm safely, then continue to fire and have fun.

If it doesn't hit where it should, now is the time to make corrections to the placement of the target. When the line is safe, go forward and raise or lower the target accordingly. Once you have found where to place the target for each position that you shoot from, make a mental note of the height from the ground that the bulls eye is located. Again, fire one round and observe. If everything is

ok, continue shooting. Otherwise, move the target again until it is set properly.

This may sound like a lot of needless effort, but believe me, there is no shortcut to safety. Once you get used to the proper placement, the next time you shoot should be a piece of cake!

Look at the above drawing for an example of proper target placement. You will notice that shooting at a high target from a low position or a low target from a high position will more than likely cause a ricochet and the potential for a wayward projectile.

Remember the safety course you took prior to becoming a member? You were told that in informal shooting, you are a Range Officer when you are on the range. This means it is up to you to see that safe practices are observed at all times. If another shooter appears to be having problems in the area that I have just covered, then lend them a hand to correct it and both of you will feel better for having achieved the Nth degree of safety.