



Big Hollow Shooting Range Refresher Course For 2021 Renewals

As part of Des Moines County Conservation's commitment to safety, we require all certified shooting range users to complete a refresher course in order to maintain certification.

This course will keep our range users up to date on rules and policies governing the Big Hollow Shooting Range.

At the end of this series of pages, there will be a form for you to fill out to confirm you understand the information presented. This form is required when you renew your range certification.

If you have questions, feel free to contact us any time.

What's in the Registration Building

There is a brown building between the 100 and 50 yard ranges. All range users, members and guests included, must sign in and out of the ranges using the forms provided inside that building. In that building there are also park brochures and a bulletin board for the convenience of our range members. There is also a fire extinguisher and a basic first aid kit in that building as well.

Should you ever need to use the fire extinguisher or first aid kit for any reason, please notify Des Moines County Conservation Department staff so the supplies can be restocked.

Range Hours of Operation

The ranges are open daily from **sunrise to one-half hour before sunset**, excluding posted reservations. Des Moines County Conservation reserves the right to limit the time of operations of ranges at its discretion.

Sunrise-Sunset Tables can be found at various locations online (such as: www.TimeandDate.com/sun or www.SunriseSunset.com). Use Sperry, IA (Zip Code: 52650) for the location.

Bringing Guests to the Range

Members may bring one guest per range visit. The range member is responsible for making sure everyone follows all range rules and policies. All range users, members and guests included, must sign in and out of the ranges using the forms provided inside of the brown registration building between the 50 and 100 yard ranges. Des Moines County Conservation asks its range members to encourage anyone who is a repeat guest to the range to attend a range course and acquire their own membership.

Where You May Shoot From

The 25 yard range is the only range on which you may shoot at shorter distances by going closer to the targets. On the 50-yard, 100-yard, and 300-meter ranges, you may only shoot from within the covered shooting bays.

Range users are also not allowed to place targets at shorter distances on any range. The permanent target frames on each range are placed where they are to ensure that any projectiles fired at them immediately impact the termination berms. If any target is moved away from the termination berm and placed closer to the firing line, it becomes harder to ensure projectiles (bullets) hit the termination berms where they're supposed to. It increases the risk of bullets skipping off the ground and/or missing the berms all together thereby creating a major safety hazard.

Therefore, paper targets affixed to the backer boards in the permanent target frames are the only permitted targets for public use. However, on the long ranges (100-yard and 300-meter), DMCC often provides metal reactive targets (gongs) that may be used by range visitors. These targets, approved and provided by Des Moines County Conservation, are the only reactive or non-paper targets that may be used on the ranges. For safety and liability reasons, range members are not allowed to provide their own.

Know How to Contact Us

Des Moines County Conservation counts on its range members to supervise the activities taking place on the shooting range. If you encounter a situation that violates range policies, we ask that you first remove yourself from any potentially hazardous situation and then report the violation immediately.

You may call Des Moines County Conservation's main office at (319) 753-8260. Even when no one is available at the office, the answering machine gives callers the option to reach on-call staff directly without having to redial. In the event that no one is available, you may also call county dispatch at (319) 671-7001. For emergency situations, call 911.

Des Moines County Conservation staff makes every effort to ensure the ranges are properly maintained and equipped but there are times when maintenance may be required between staff visits. If, during your visit to the range, you notice a need for range maintenance, please notify DMCC maintenance staff. Maintenance needs may include:

- Replacing target frames or backer board
- Replacing lost or damaged brooms/dust pans
- Emptying trash cans
- Cleaning/servicing the restroom
- Replacing sign-in sheets

What Firearms and Ammo are Allowed on the Ranges

All legal firearms, legally possessed by the shooter may be used to shoot paper targets affixed to the provided target backing, or the reactive targets provided by Des Moines County Conservation. Only legal non-incendiary ammunition may be used.

There is one exception to this: On the 300-meter range, only high-powered rifles shooting bottleneck cartridges may be used. This is because the trajectory of projectiles fired from lower-powered firearms

is such that they can possibly exceed the height of the side berms, or otherwise fail to impact the termination berm.

The Four Fundamental Rules of Firearm Safety

1. ALWAYS keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.
2. ALWAYS keep your finger off the trigger until you're ready to shoot.
3. ALWAYS keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.
4. ALWAYS be sure of your target and what is beyond.

Range Regulations

Please review and follow these rules when using the range:

1. All shooters must have their certification card with them. The first person on the range will assume the Range Officer position. He/she is in charge of range commands and appointing a Range Officer when he/she leaves the range. Most importantly, he/she is in charge of safety on the range.
2. All range users and guests must sign in and out on the forms provided inside the range buildings.
3. Shooters shall use only the target frames or reactive targets supplied and approved by the Des Moines County Conservation Director. Shooters must use cardboard or the backing furnished for the target frames. Only paper targets on the frames are allowed; No other targets will be allowed or accepted.
4. All bullets must impact the termination berm. All target frames on the 25 yard, 50 yard, 100 yard, and 300 meter ranges are permanently affixed and shall remain where installed.
5. Shooters must always know their target, use good judgment and be extremely cautious of what may be behind their target. Be aware there are homes and people beyond the shooting range and stray bullets from the range can cause damage to life and property. Shooters must always keep the muzzle of the firearm pointed in a safe direction.
6. All loaded firearms must be pointed downrange at the termination berm.
7. All firearms shall be unloaded with action open until ready to fire.
8. All firing shall be done from the firing line on the 50, 100, and 300 ranges.
9. On the 25 yard range shooters may move forward as a group under the direction of the Range Officer.
10. Only shooters, spotters, and coaches are allowed on the firing line while it is in operation. Spectators are to stay behind the firing line at all times.
11. All barrels should be checked for a bore obstruction before firing. Malfunctioning firearms should not be used. Only legal firearms are to be used.
12. All unsafe acts or situations on a range shall be corrected immediately.
13. Any person may call "CEASE FIRE" at any time they see an unsafe situation or act.
14. Upon the command "CEASE FIRE" all firearms will be unloaded immediately.
15. Eye and ear protection is required during active shooting.
16. Dry firing is permitted on the firing line only.

17. Make sure the correct ammunition for the firearm is being used.
18. Inexperienced shooters must be accompanied by experienced shooters.
19. All shooters should clean their target and firing station when they have completed their firing.
20. When shooters go downrange to change targets and score, the Range Officer must control movement by using standard range commands.
21. Clay pigeon shooting is not allowed on ranges except during Des Moines County Conservation sponsored events.
22. During heavy range usage there will be a 30 minute time limit.
23. Des Moines County Conservation reserves the right to close the shooting range at any time.

General Area Regulations

1. Loud or abusive language will not be permitted.
2. Alcoholic beverages or shooters having immediate prior consumption are prohibited at the shooting range complex.
3. During heavy use vehicles should be carefully parked, permitting all vehicles to exit the range area in a safe manner.
4. Please stay on the walkways.
5. Pick up any trash or debris in the shooting area.

Security and Enforcement

1. Disregard for and failure to adhere to range or general area regulations will automatically and immediately disqualify the offender from using the shooting range indefinitely.
2. Des Moines County Conservation will make every effort to provide safety and security for the shooting range. Des Moines County Conservation will strictly enforce all rules, regulations, policy and procedures.
3. The range is fenced and posted with "Danger No Trespassing Shooting Range" and "Stop Only Certified Shooters May Use Ranges" signs; violators will be prosecuted under Code of Iowa, Section 461A.44, "Prohibited Areas".
4. Individuals found to be intentionally or unintentionally shooting over berms will be prosecuted under Code of Iowa Section 724.30, "Reckless Use of a Firearm".
5. The range will be supervised when in operation at all times.
6. The Des Moines County Conservation Board will determine the penalty or punishment on reported violations other than those covered by public law.



**Des Moines County
Conservation**

Big Hollow Range Refresher Course Self-Certification & Hold Harmless Agreement

For 2021 Renewals

Name (print): _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Check each box to certify you understand the information provided.

1. Yes, I understand that the brown building between the 50 and 100 yard ranges is where I must sign in and out of the range and that it houses a fire extinguisher and first aid kit should I need one.
2. Yes, I understand that the range hours of operation are sunrise to one-half hour before sunset.
3. Yes, I understand that I may bring, and am responsible for, one guest per range visit and that repeat guests should be encouraged to get their own membership.
4. Yes, I understand that the 25 yard range is the only range on which I may only shoot from positions in front of the covered shooting bay.
5. Yes, I know what number(s) to call to report rule violations or to notify staff of maintenance needs at the range.
6. Yes, I know that only legal firearms and legal (non-incendiary) ammo, legally possessed, are allowed on the ranges and that there are restrictions on the types of firearms that may be used on the 300 meter range.
7. Yes, I know and will abide by the Four Fundamental Rules of Firearm Safety.
8. Yes, I agree without reservation to abide by all safety and operating rules and regulations of the Des Moines County Conservation Shooting Range located at Big Hollow Recreation Area. I also hereby waive, relieve, and absolve Des Moines County Conservation and its employees, agents, assignees, directors, and all other duly authorized representatives thereof, of any and all liability whatsoever, including all claims, demands, and causes of action of every nature affecting the undersigned and their children or wards which any of them may have or ever have in connection with the shooting range facility.

Signature: _____ Date: _____