

SAFETY CONCERNS - USDA APHIS Wildlife Services

Below are some safety concerns reported by the National Security Academy that was hired to do the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services 2008 Firearm Safety Review. Here is the link.

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/nwrc/Safety_Review/content/Firearms_Report.pdf

1. No uniform method of transporting firearms.
2. An unsafe practice of rounds in the magazine, but not in the chamber was observed and must be addressed.
3. 85% of employees interviewed were deficient in firearm safety and handling training, including live fire training.
4. Only 2% of all employees who use firearms were drug tested.
5. Accidents: Seven cases were cited due to ignorance, negligence, or carelessness.
6. 100% of employees could not name all four Wildlife Services Fundamental Gun Safety Rules.
7. Wildlife Services is being faced with the possibility of hiring biologists or field employees with little or no firearm experience.

This safety report is alarming and raises serious questions about the expert qualifications of these so called sharp shooters. In addition, if the USDA Wildlife Services has these safety concerns, then I can only imagine what the safety issues are with the smaller sharp shooting outfits that aren't required to have an independent safety review.