



## MMM Safety Program

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1	11/12/25	Initial Issue	

# MMM Safety Program

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AMA Liability Insurance is predicated on all authorized activities following AMA's Safety Programming. This document includes requirements and recommendations extracted from three AMA documents:

- AMA Safety Program
- AMA Contest Director's Guide
- AMA Competition Regulations | General Information

This document also includes requirements and recommendations specific to MMM activities.

It is recommended that Club Leadership, active Contest Directors, and all club members review these guiding AMA and MMM documents on at least an annual basis.

## Requirements and Recommendations

The word "shall" or "must" in this document identifies a requirement.

The word "should" in this document identifies a recommendation.

## AMA Safety Programming

CD's primary responsibility is safety

AMA's Contest Director's Guide includes the following statement: "A CD is responsible to see that all safety rules and precautions are followed to the letter. Any CD who knowingly allows an unsafe condition to exist is subject to the loss of his/her CD status."

### AMA Safety Programming

The AMA Safety Program should not be compromised at any time. It is possible for an organized group to enhance the rules found in the Safety Program to fit special needs for its site or event.

Free Flight models must be launched at least 100 feet downwind from spectators and automobile parking and the launch area must be clear of all individuals except mechanics, officials, and other fliers.

Free Flight models should only be launched when the launch area and downwind airspace are clear of manned aircraft.

Free Flight models must use an effective device to extinguish any fuse on the model aircraft after the fuse has completed its function.

The following are recommendations for Lithium batteries to preclude ancillary fires:

- Store and charge in a fireproof container—never in your model.
- Charge in a protected area that is devoid of combustibles.
- In the event of damage from crashes, etc., carefully move the battery pack to a safe place for at least half an hour to observe. Physically damaged cells can erupt into flames. After sufficient time to ensure safety, the cells should be discarded in accordance with the instructions that come with the batteries. Never attempt to charge a cell with physical damage, regardless of how slight.
- Always use chargers designed for the specific purpose; it's preferable to have a fixed setting for your particular pack. Many fires occur while using selectable/adjustable chargers that are improperly set. Never attempt to charge Lithium cells with a charger that is not specifically designed for Lithium cells! Never use chargers that are specifically designed for NiCd batteries.

- It is strongly recommended that you use charging systems that monitor, control, and balance the charge state of each cell in the pack. Unbalanced cells can lead to disaster if the system permits a single cell in the pack to be overcharged. This means that the charging system must provide charge cessation as each cell reaches the proper voltage. If the batteries show any sign of swelling, discontinue charging and move them to a safe place— outside. They could erupt into flames.
- Never plug in a battery and leave it to charge unattended; serious fires have resulted from this practice.
- Do not attempt to make your own battery packs from individual cells. Use only professionally packaged and labeled units that contain safer charging features.

Don't attempt to retrieve a model from electric power lines. Contact the local power company.

The following recommendations relate to propellers:

- Propeller(s) utilizing metal blades shall not be permitted in any sanctioned competition.
- Cracked, nicked, or unbalanced propellers or rotor blades should be replaced and not reused!
- Stay clear of the propeller arc while starting or running any engine or motor.
- Check the propeller and spinner for tightness before each operation.
- Exercise extreme caution adjusting needle valve settings on engines. Most adjustments should be performed from behind the model, thus avoiding reaching around a spinning propeller

## MMM Safety Specifics

### Emergency Health Care

In the event of the need for emergency health care at the club flying sites, time is of the essence. A decision must be made quickly between initiating transport to a medical facility or contacting 911 emergency services to respond to the situation. If 911 is used at Lowry or Norris, consider moving the victim to the field gate, or providing an escort for the 911 vehicle from the gate to the victim.

The MMM offers directions to the nearest hospital / ER for treatment of accident or injury.

#### **Lowry Ranch**

Advent Health Southlands Emergency Room (24 hr.)  
6159 S Southlands Pkwy, Aurora, CO 80016  
(303) 649-3000

#### **Norris Ranch**

UC Health Emergency Room (24 hr.)  
7890 Fountain Mesa Rd., Fountain, CO 80817  
(719) 364-7050

### Med Evac Location Information (Decimal degrees)

**Lowry Ranch Launch Site**  
39.610077N 104.588833W

**Norris Ranch Launch Site**  
38.721069N 104.546219W

### Emergency Communication

At MMM Sanctioned contests the CD shall make his or her cell phone number available to all contestants for use in any emergency situation.

## Weather

At MMM Sanctioned contests the CD shall monitor weather conditions with particular attention to potential hazardous weather events that may bear on the contest site. The CD has the responsibility and authority to terminate the contest and call for immediate evacuation of the site to avoid an encroaching weather event. The CD should use best practices to get all participants, supporters, and observers off the field as quickly and safely as possible.

## Lowry Ranch – Risk of Unexploded Ordinance

The Lowry Ranch was used for military training. As such, unexploded ordinance may exist at, or near the surface. While the site has been subjected to extensive professional surveys to locate and remove unexploded ordinance, some items may still remain. Any unusual items seen on the ground should not be touched or moved.

## AED

An AED (Defibrillator) is a device used to administer an electric shock to a person who has suffered a heart attack.

The MMM owns and maintains a certified AED device. The device shall be present and available at all Sanctioned outdoor contests. It is the responsibility of the contest CD and assistant CD to know the whereabouts of the AED unit and to deliver the device to the location of a victim as soon as humanly possible. If it has been determined that the victim has, in fact, suffered a heart attack, switching the AED on will guide you through the steps of using the AED.

Effective AED programs are designed to deliver a shock to a victim within three to five minutes after the person collapses.

## First Aid Kits

The MMM owns and maintains reasonably thorough first aid kits. The first aid kit shall be present and available at all MMM scheduled outdoor and indoor events. It is the responsibility of the contest CD and assistant CD and/or event manager to know the whereabouts of the first aid kit and to deliver the first aid kit to the location of a victim as soon as humanly possible.

## Fire Extinguisher

The MMM owns and maintains a 3A40BC fire extinguisher. It is located in the “Clubhouse” (on-site porta-potty) at the Lowry field. All club members and visitors should be made aware of the presence and location of the fire extinguisher. This extinguisher is not rated for Lithium battery fires, but it would be useful in containing any fire ancillary to a Lithium battery fire. Based on the limited size and cell count of LiPo batteries used in free flight, two or three shovels may serve as useful LiPo battery fire extinguishers.

## Lithium Batteries

Lithium polymer (LiPo) batteries represent a significant risk of fire. Traditional fire extinguishers and firefighting methods are ineffective at extinguishing a LiPo battery fire. Best practices should be followed to prevent a LiPo battery fire including, but not limited to:

- LiPo batteries shall be stored and charged inside a fireproof container designed and constructed for the purpose.
- Charging LiPo batteries should be done at no more than the maximum design charge rate and shall not exceed the 2C rating for the battery.
- Charging should be completed at a location that is away from or isolated from vehicles and other combustible materials.
- Physically damaged or “puffy” LiPo batteries should not be used. Damaged or puffy batteries should be placed in a fireproof container designed for LiPo batteries for safe transport off-site and disposal.
- Consider applying a slow discharge to damaged or puffy battery with the battery contained in a fireproof container.

- If a model carrying a LiPo battery for any purpose suffers impact damage from a hard landing or crash or becomes immersed in water, the model should be recovered as soon as possible and the battery inspected for damage to the jacket and/or increasing jacket temperature.

#### Propellers

Propellers, wood, composite, fiberglass, or carbon, with fixed or folding blades should be inspected for damage before each flight.

#### Rattlesnakes

Rattlesnakes are known to be present on the Lowry Range. Encounters with medium-to-large rattlesnakes have occurred near the MMM launch site.

Rattle snake bites are serious, but not usually life-threatening. If a rattlesnake is encountered by sight, sound, or both the following actions should be taken

- Locate the position and arrangement of the snake.
- Notice its orientation – is it coiled or relatively straight.
- A coiled snake is prepared to attack to protect itself.
- Look around before moving to see if other snakes are nearby.
- Determine the safest path to slowly back away from the snake(s).
- Do not attempt to kill the snake(s).
- \*\* Our lease with the State Land Board does not permit killing any wildlife on the leased property.\*\*
- Once clear of the snake(s), note the location and return to the launch site and notify the contest CD/MMM Leadership of the encounter and the location of the encounter.

If someone is bitten by a rattlesnake the following actions should be taken

- Keep the victim stationary and as calm as possible.
- Do not attempt to treat the snakebite.
- Do not attempt to kill the snake.
- \*\* Our lease with the State Land Board does not permit killing any wildlife on the leased property.\*\*
- Arrange immediate transport to a medical facility.
- If possible, notify the medical facility in advance that you are bringing in a rattlesnake bite victim.

If a rattlesnake encroaches on the MMM launch area

- CD/Club Leadership should be notified.
- Do not attempt to kill the snake.
- \*\* Our lease with the State Land Board does not permit killing any wildlife on the leased property.\*\*
- Chuck Etherington and Don DeLoach have the knowledge, tools, and experience to relocate the snake away from the launch area. If neither Chuck nor Don is on-site, continue to monitor the snake's location and activity. Remain a safe distance from the snake. The repeated presence of a human (at a safe distance) should convince the snake to leave the area.

#### Prairie Dogs

Prairie dogs can transmit diseases including plague. All present at a MMM contest should be made aware of the risk and keep safe distance from the animals. Prairie dog holes represent a significant physical injury hazard. All present at a MMM contest should be made aware of the risk and the known locations of prairie dog communities.

#### Electric Fences

There are medium voltage electric fences running across much of the Lowry Ranch. The fences will provide a noticeable shock when touched, but it is not lethal. There are occasional

sections of the fence that can be opened to allow access to the other side. The fence section should be reconnected immediately after passing through.

#### Motorcycle Use

Motorcycles used for chasing models shall be equipped with an approved spark suppressor exhaust system.

The terrain of fields used by the MMM are known to be uneven with slumps, holes and other hazards that may not be easily seen and avoided. Care should be taken when chasing a model to identify and avoid hazards.