

Bishop Auckland Gun Club

Lead Safety

Most bullets are made of lead. Lead is a substance known to cause health problems. The document describes what BAGC have done to protect your health, what you need to do to protect your health, and what health problems can occur if you absorb too much lead.

If you read this document and follow the advice, you will minimise the possibility of getting lead poisoning. To date, the Club has never had an incident of someone getting lead poisoning from shooting.

What BAGC have done to protect your health

The Club has an efficient ventilation system to ensure your safety from airborne lead whilst shooting. This system has been tested in accordance with HSE guidelines, but it only works if used correctly. To protect your safety when shooting, ensure the ventilation system is switched on. There are signs at each firing point which provide instructions for turning the ventilation system on at that firing point.

What you can should do to protect your health

- Ensure that you wash your hands and face when you have finished shooting and especially before eating, drinking or smoking.
- Never sweep the floor vigorously – using the small dustpan and brushes to pick up cartridge cases is fine, but do not sweep large areas of the floor.
- Do not pickup lead from behind the linatex (red rubber) curtain to use to cast bullets.

What are the affects if you absorb too much lead

Lead may enter your body by breathing lead dust or by swallowing lead, for exampe, by eating or smoking without washing your hands after handling lead.

Health problems can include headaches, tiredness, constipation, nausea, stomach pains, anaemia and weight loss. Prolonged exposure could cause kidney damage, nerve and brain damage and infertility.

Unborn children and young children and at particular risk.

Further Information

If you want any further information regarding safety with lead, a copy of the HSE document “Lead and You” can be found on the notice board.