

CONGESTED AREA

**DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS
PROHIBITED**

CO. CODE 50.090 - 50.158



With increased citizen concern regarding target shooting in congested areas, the Washoe County Sheriff's Office would like to remind residents of county ordinances governing discharge of firearms in congested areas.

Washoe County Code 50.094 to 50.154 states that it is unlawful to discharge:

- Any gun, pistol, or rifle, with the exception of shotguns, air rifles, or BB guns, within 5000 feet of an occupied dwelling.
- Shotguns, air rifles, or BB guns within 1000 feet of an occupied dwelling.
- A firearm from, upon, over or across any federal or state highway or any county road or highway.
- A firearm within a Nevada State Park, unless otherwise designated by the Administrator.
- Within the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service, it is prohibited to discharge a firearm in or within 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site or occupied area, or across or on a National Forest System road or a body of water adjacent thereto, or in a manner or place whereby any person or property is exposed to injury or damage as a result in such discharge, or into or within any cave.



If shooters follow those parameters, they are generally allowed to shoot in any area not designated as a "no shooting" or "congested area." It is important to reiterate three key points:

A "congested area" is a geographic location where discharge of any firearm is prohibited. Because congested areas are generally densely populated, there is a high risk of personal injury.

A "restricted congested area" is a location where recreational shooters must be a minimum of 1000 feet from any occupied dwelling. In restricted congested areas, shooters are allowed to discharge shotguns, air rifles and BB guns. A person is not allowed to discharge any gun, pistol, rifle or any other firearm in this area.

A "non congested area" is a location where shooters must be 5000 feet away from an occupied dwelling. In these areas, they may shoot guns, pistols, rifles, shotguns, air rifles, BB guns, or any other firearms.

The Washoe County Sheriff's Office takes our residents' safety very seriously. The Sheriff's Office, with assistance from the Washoe County and Reno Roads Departments, posts congested area signs and maps in areas of reported concern, warning that shooting in a congested area could result in heavy fines.

Recreational shooters are encouraged to practice safe shooting in established and lawfully authorized and licensed rifle ranges, gun clubs or shooting galleries.

If you have concerns about activity that may be illegal or dangerous, they should immediately call the Sheriff's Office at 785-WCSO (9276).

For more information, please refer to the Sheriff's Office website: washoesheriff.com, where you can click on the Congested Area Map. The link will provide you with the Washoe County Code, Chapter 50, and a live map highlighting restricted areas.

