// DOCUMENT · SAFETY-01 · MANDATORY READ

A carbon arrow is a *lethal** tool.

Carbon arrows are extremely strong, but extremely strong does not mean indestructible. A compromised shaft fired at draw weight can shatter on release and put fragments through the bow hand or arm.

RULE 00

Every arrow must be inspected before every shot. Read this guide in full before you shoot anything we have built.

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// 01 · DANGERS AND CAUTIONS

Four ways this goes wrong.

DANGER

01

SHATTER RISK

Never shoot a damaged shaft.

Cracked, dented, splintered or impact-damaged carbon shafts can fail explosively on release. Carbon fragments can penetrate the bow hand or arm and cause serious or permanent injury.

DANGER

02

DRY FIRE

Never draw and release without an arrow.

Dry-firing a compound bow stores energy that has nowhere to go. That energy will destroy the bow, the limbs, and frequently the shooter. A dry-fired bow must be inspected by a qualified technician before use.

CAUTION

03

UNDER-SPINED

Don't shoot the wrong spine.

An arrow under-spined for your bow's draw weight will flex past its design limit on release and may snap mid-launch. Use the Spine Selector if you are uncertain.

CAUTION

04

BROADHEAD HANDLING

Broadheads stay sheathed until they're on the bow.

Reaper broadheads ship surgically sharp. Treat them as edged weapons. Use a wrench to mount them. Never test sharpness with a thumb. A broadhead cut is a hospital cut.

// SPINE SELECTOR

Not sure which spine suits your draw weight? Check before you shoot.

AFRICANREAPERARROWS.CO.ZA/ARROW-SPINE-SELECTOR

// 02 · PRE-SHOT INSPECTION · STEPS 01 – 03

Six checks before every shot.

01 The Flex Test

Hold the shaft at both ends and apply gentle bending pressure with your knee while rotating slowly. Listen for any cracking, popping or snapping. A healthy shaft is silent. **Any audible response: discard.**

PASS · SILENT | FAIL · DISCARD

02 Visual Inspection

Roll the shaft slowly under a strong light. Look for hairline cracks, splinters, gouges, surface dents or any disruption of the carbon weave finish. **Pay special attention to the front 6 inches behind the insert.**

PASS · SMOOTH | FAIL · CRACK OR DENT

03 Insert and Point Check

Confirm the insert sits flush and is bonded: no rotation, no wobble. Confirm the point or broadhead is tightened with the appropriate wrench. A loose point on a heavy shaft will throw flight badly off.

PASS · FLUSH, TIGHT | FAIL · LOOSE, RETIGHTEN

// 02 · PRE-SHOT INSPECTION · STEPS 04 – 06

Nock, vanes, and whatever it hit.

04 Nock Inspection

Check the nock for cracks, splits or excessive wear in the throat. A compromised nock can release prematurely or fail to release at all, and both outcomes are dangerous. **Nocks are cheap; replace at the first sign of wear.**

PASS · CLEAN THROAT | FAIL · CRACK, REPLACE

05 Fletching Condition

Vanes lifted at the base or torn along the length will steer the arrow off course at hunting distances. Reglue any partially-lifted vane before it tears free in flight. **Re-fletch any shaft missing one or more vanes entirely.**

PASS · BONDED, INTACT | FAIL · LIFTED, REGLUE

06 Post-Impact Inspection

Any arrow that hits anything other than the intended target (a rock, a bone, another arrow, the frame of a target butt) must be re-inspected from Step 01 before being shot again. **Hidden damage is the dangerous damage.**

RE-INSPECT FROM 01 | HIDDEN DAMAGE

A healthy shaft is silent.

// STEP 01 · THE FLEX TEST

// 03 · SAFE USE

Know where every arrow is going.

UTL · 01

At the range

- Never aim a bow, drawn or undrawn, at anything you don't intend to shoot.
- Wait for an "all clear" signal before retrieving arrows. Never break it.
- Stay behind the shooting line when others are at full draw.
- Confirm the lane is clear of people, pets and obstructions every time.

UTL · 02

In the field

- Know your target. Know what is behind your target, for at least 300 metres.
- Identify the animal positively before nocking an arrow.
- Hunt only within your honest effective range. Group sizes lie at distance.
- Do not shoot from elevated stands without a full-body harness rated for the load.

UTL · 03

With others

- One shooter per lane. Wait your turn.
- Communicate before you draw, verbally or with an agreed hand signal.
- Never shoot from an elevated position when a person is downrange of you.
- Beginners shoot under the supervision of someone qualified to call a stop.

UTL · 04

With minors

- Adult supervision at all times. No exceptions.
- Draw weight matched to body weight and pull strength.
- Field points only until proper supervision and form is established.
- Treat every bow as if it is loaded. Always.

CAUTION **Treat every bow as if it is loaded. Always.**

// 04 · STORAGE AND TRANSPORT

Keep them straight, dry and cool.

ST · 01

Hard case

Always transport in a fitted case. Vibration micro-fractures end careers.

ST · 02

Temperature

Don't leave shafts in a hot vehicle. Sustained heat softens adhesive bonds.

ST · 03

Humidity

Store in a dry environment. Fletching adhesives weaken in prolonged damp.

ST · 04

Vertical

Store vertically where possible. Long-term horizontal storage can induce shaft set.

ST · 05

Broadheads

Sheathed. Separate from shafts. Locked away from children.

ST · 06

Bow press

Don't leave a strung compound bow under a vehicle seat or against a wall.

// LEGAL DISCLAIMER · MUST READ

African Reaper Arrows (Pty) Ltd manufactures premium carbon hunting arrows to strict tolerances. By purchasing, shooting or otherwise using our product, the user acknowledges that archery, bowhunting and the use of edged hunting equipment carry inherent risks of serious injury or death, to the user, to bystanders, and to property.

The user assumes all responsibility for safe handling, inspection, storage, transport and lawful use of the equipment. African Reaper Arrows (Pty) Ltd accepts no liability for injury, damage or loss arising from product misuse, failure to inspect, modification, use beyond intended purpose, or use by minors without qualified supervision.

Always comply with the firearms, archery and hunting regulations applicable in your jurisdiction. Hunt only with the appropriate permits and on land where you are legally entitled to do so. If you are uncertain, ask. We have a phone and we answer it.

// 05 · PRE-SHOT CHECKLIST

Before every shot.

INSPECT THE ARROW

- [ ] 01 Flex test: silent under knee pressure
- [ ] 02 Visual: rolled under strong light, front 6 inches checked
- [ ] 03 Insert flush and bonded, point wrench-tight
- [ ] 04 Nock throat clean, no cracks or splits
- [ ] 05 Every vane bonded and intact
- [ ] 06 Hit anything but the target? Restart at 01

BEFORE YOU DRAW

- [ ] Spine matches my bow's draw weight
- [ ] Arrow nocked, so the bow is never drawn and released empty
- [ ] Lane clear of people, pets and obstructions
- [ ] Target identified, and 300 metres clear behind it
- [ ] Broadhead sheathed until mounted on the bow, wrench only

If you are uncertain, ask.

We have a phone and we answer it.

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