

Consider the Risks Before Reducing Loads!

In my circle of knowledgeable gun enthusiasts, we often engage in lengthy discussions about firearms and reloading. Recently, my friend Gus Norcross, a seasoned gunsmith and contributor to Firearms News magazine, shared with me a valuable resource: "Handbook for Shooters and Reloaders" by Parker O. Ackerly, first published in 1962. This book highlights a crucial topic: reduced loads, which involve using less powder than standard loads. While reducing loads may seem like a way to mitigate recoil or customize ammunition, it's important to understand the potential dangers associated with it.

Reloading ammunition offers numerous benefits, including customization for specific needs such as target shooting or hunting. However, when it comes to reducing recoil by lowering powder charges below the recommended starting load, caution is warranted. The Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute (SAAMI) sets maximum pressure limits for cartridges, and exceeding these limits can lead to firearm damage or even injury. It's crucial to consult reputable sources for safe reloading data and adhere to recommended load specifications. **Do not go below 10% under starting load, newer.**

When experimenting with load development, it's common to start with the recommended starting load and gradually increase powder charges until achieving optimal performance or encountering signs of excessive pressure. However, reducing powder charges beyond the starting load can lead to irregular burning and dangerous pressure spikes.

To ensure safe reloading practices, it's advisable to contact powder manufacturers for proper load data specific to your components. These manufacturers possess valuable expertise and can provide guidance on safe powder charges and pressure levels. Additionally, using appropriate primers and following recommended procedures are essential for preventing accidents and maintaining firearm safety.

While some powders, like Hodgdon's "Trail Boss," are renowned for their low recoil properties, it's crucial to follow usage instructions meticulously to avoid risks. By prioritizing safety and adhering to industry-recommended practices, reloaders can enjoy the benefits of customized ammunition without compromising safety.

For reliable load data and technical support, refer to the industry contacts provided below. Remember, safety should always be the top priority in reloading endeavors.

INDUSTRY [CONTACT LIST](#) FOR SAFE RELOADING INFORMATION

Safe reloading!