



DISCHARGE OF FIREARM WITHIN 500 FEET OF AN OCCUPIED BUILDING

By: Veronica Rose, Chief Analyst

ISSUE

Summarize state law governing the discharge of firearms within 500 feet of an occupied building.

State law allows the energy and environmental protection commissioner to adopt regulations prohibiting people from (1) hunting or carrying loaded firearms within specified distances of buildings and (2) discharging firearms or other hunting devices within specified distances of buildings and, when within specified distances, discharging firearms and devices toward persons, buildings, and livestock ([CGS § 26-66](#)).

The regulations generally prohibit anyone from hunting with firearms, discharging firearms, or carrying loaded firearms within 500 feet of a building occupied by people or domestic animals or used to store flammable or combustible material unless the person obtains and carries written permission from the landowner to conduct these activities from a closer distance.

The regulations prohibit waterfowl hunting within 250 feet of such buildings in tidal areas from land or rock positions or from floating buildings anchored adjacent to land unless the landowner gives permission.

The prohibitions do not apply to landowners, their spouses, and certain other relatives hunting on their own land.

The regulations also prohibit discharging a firearm toward a person, building, or domestic animal when within range or from or across the traveled portion of a public roadway (Conn. Agencies Reg., § 26-66-1(d) & (e)).

VR:tjo

