No mechanical device can guarantee safety if it is improperly used; and no individual is completely safe if he or she does not follow all necessary safety procedures. The mechanical device used as a gun safety should never be relied upon as foolproof, but should be used as a part of a complete system of safe gun handling, including the following:

- Always have the gun pointed in a safe direction.
- Always operate the safety by placing it in the "safe" or "fire" locations - never in between them.
- Never pull the trigger when the safety is on "safer or in between "safe" and "fire."
- Always make sure the gun is pointed in a safe direction when you move the safety to the "fire" position for firing or unloading.
- Always unload the gun before entering a vehicle or a building.

- never have a finger near the trigger when the safety is being moved to the "fire" position.
- Remember that a safety cannot prevent all accidental firings, and act accordingly.

After all, the gun operator is the primary "safety"; to rely entirely upon mechanical devices is to be, at best, only half safe.