

LIMITED DISTRIBUTION

PRODUCT SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 23, 1979

PRESENT:

SUBCOMMITTEE

J. G. WILLIAMS, ACTING CHAIRMAN
E. HOOTON, JR.
R. A. PARTNOY

OTHER

P. H. BURDETT
J. P. McANDREWS
E. S. McCANLEY
R. B. SPERLING, ACTING SECRETARY

SAFE GUN HANDLING

The submitted suggestions of Hill and Knowlton for the promotion of safe gun handling were reviewed and discussed by the Subcommittee.

The proposed warning concerning the "trick" condition in bolt action rifles was approved with some language modification to make it technically more accurate (copy of approved version attached). It was decided that the Marketing and Public Relations Departments would consult with Hill and Knowlton with respect to means for disseminating the warning.

Other suggestions submitted by Hill and Knowlton concerning the promotion of safe gun handling were reviewed and discussed. It was decided that Remington should draft a general outline utilizing these suggestions and submit this proposed safe gun handling program to the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufac-

FEBRUARY 23, 1979

carers' Institute (SAAMI) for consideration and possible industry action.

R. B. Sperling
Acting Secretary

RBS:hss

Attachment

H A L F

S A F E

I S U N S A F E

The safeties and triggers on bolt-action rifles can, in some cases, be manipulated in a way that will cause the gun to fire when the safety is released. For example, an accidental discharge can sometimes be caused by placing the safety somewhere between the "fire" and "safe" positions, pulling the trigger, and then moving the safety to the "fire" position.

Clearly, placing and leaving the safety mechanism in a position between "fire" and "safe" violates good safety procedures. This sequence also points up the critical factor in any potentially dangerous activity; the human factor. No mechanical device, be it a rifle safety, an automobile brake, or the guard around a power-saw blade, is of any value unless the person operating it uses it properly.

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 "safe" 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.