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2103 Hampton Road
Livermore, Ca. 94550
November 28, 1981

Remington Arms Co., Inc.
Ilion, New York

Gentlemen:

I am writing to you because of an extremely unsafe failure in the safety mechanism of my model 700 .308 caliber rifle, 5 H.P. 5.56, while on a hunting trip in Colorado in early November.

My number one anxiety regarding this incident is the possibility of an extremely unsafe defect in this rifle.

Secondly, and positively, I'm very thankful no one was injured (except for nerves). It also emphasizes the need to be constantly vigilant about where a gun is always pointed. I'm a very stringent person when I see an error in judgment in carrying a rifle.

Thirdly, I'm disappointed about my failure to bring home a deer because of the failure of the rifle safety mechanism.

Fourthly, I don't see how I can ever carry a round in the chamber again in either of my model 700's (the other is a model 700 308 caliber). At least until I understand why the gun fired when I moved the safety forward to fire, without my finger being near the trigger. Let me explain by giving you the relevant facts as I know them.

First, I've been using a model 700 since 1967 when I bought my .308. I've shot a deer out of state every year I've gone out of state with my .308 and never had anything cause me worry. This year I left my .308 home and took the .270 which I bought in 1978. (I also own a model 820 which has been an extremely reliable gun.)

We were hunting near Craig, Colorado in the combined (elk and deer) season. The accidentally firing occurred during the last day of the five day season. The first two days were very cold (-30° F) in the early morning but the days warmed later in the week. On Wednesday at approximately 5 a.m. (I'd guess the temperature was greater than 40° F) I spotted a large forked horn and decided to take it. It was less than 100 yards away above me on a long upward slope (5-10% grade) with sage and scrub oak. I took the rifle from my shoulder, and was placing my left arm in the sling to stabilize the rifle, it was still pointing down (~ - 10% from horizontal), I pushed the safety forward with my right thumb, my trigger finger was touching the bolt handle, not in the trigger guard. As the safety moved forward the rifle discharged. I'm not normally shook by things but this really scared me. (The deer didn't stick around either). The deer moved up the slope. I did see it again but he was on private ranch land leased to another group of hunters. I continued to hunt the remainder of the morning but I sure didn't leave a live round in the chamber.