

In a letter to the editor of a local paper a female member of anti-gun group ...

Discussion Thread

Response (Laura) 5/24/2001 4:19:20 PM
At 05/24/2001 04:02 PM we wrote -
Dear Mr. Demes,
Thank you for your inquiry. Below is a copy of the full statement that we provided to CBS.

REMINGTON STATEMENT

January 26, 2001

The first Remington rifle was manufactured more than 180 years ago. Over this long history, Remington has taken great care in designing and manufacturing high quality firearms and ammunition and in educating hunters and other sport shooters in the safe use of those products.

For nearly 40 years, the Remington Model 700 bolt-action rifle has been one of America's premier hunting rifles. Four million Model 700's have been purchased by hunters, target shooters and law enforcement agencies across the United States, and it is widely considered the most accurate "out of the box" bolt action rifle on the market. When used following the rules of safe gun handling, including proper maintenance, always keeping the muzzle pointed in a safe direction and not inappropriately altering the mechanism, the Remington Model 700 is a safe and reliable rifle.

The entire Remington family is saddened by the tragic death of Gus Barber, and we extend our condolences to the Barber family. Remington prefers not to comment on pending or potential litigation. However, we do think it important to note that the rifle involved in the Barber shooting was manufactured in 1972 and, as we understand, acquired by Mr. Barber used 10 to 12 years ago.

Several weeks after the accident, representatives from Remington and the Barbers conducted a preliminary examination of both the condition and the performance of the rifle. Among other abnormal conditions, the inspection found the inside of the rifle to be heavily rusted, and the trigger engagement screw, safety lever and fire control mechanism all had been either adjusted or removed and reinstalled after the rifle left the factory. As to its performance, the rifle passed all the function tests performed in this preliminary inspection, and fired only when the mechanical safety was in the "fire" position and the trigger was pulled.

In light of this tragic accident, Remington will be redoubling its efforts to educate hunters in the safe use and proper maintenance of the rifle and of all firearms. In this regard, we urge our customers to consult our website at www.Remington.com, and to contact Remington at 800/243-9700 if they have any questions about the safe use of any Remington product.

Customer (Andrew Demes) 5/14/2001 8:46:58 PM

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In a letter to the editor of a local paper a female member of anti-gun group CeasefireNJ wrote: "A recent two-part segment on the CBS Evening News featured the Remington 700 rifle, one of the most popular hunting rifles sold to sportsmen. Remington has known of a serious defect in this rifle since at least 1979--when the safety is released, the gun can fire unexpectedly. But still Remington refused to recall this defective gun, despite being sued repeatedly over the years for deaths and injuries it has caused." As an NRA member and a satisfied owner of a 700, I would like to respond to her letter. What information can you provide?