

Section J

10 Commandments of Safe Gun Handling

"A common source of accidents with firearms is accidental discharge. A safety is provided to prevent accidental discharge."

Safety mechanism shock test – Gun Test #9 – Jan. 9, 1969

Prepared by: C.J. Kirchen
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Revised: 11/12/45 - 1 Page
Revised: 1/9/69 - 1 Page

Gun Test #9

Uses: 1. Center Fire Rifles
2. Shotguns
3. Rim Fire Rifles

SAFETY MECHANISM SHOCK TEST

INTRODUCTION

A common source of accidents with firearms is accidental discharge. A safety mechanism is provided to insure against accidental discharge. This test is intended to determine how much shock, if any, will cause the safety mechanism to fail to function properly and allow the gun to be discharged.

CONDITIONS OF TEST:

This test is made by allowing the gun to fall freely a distance of 10 inches upon a solid wood surface with the safety "on". The following positions are used:

1. Butt down
2. Muzzle down
3. Top side down
4. Bottom side down

The trigger shall be tried after each of the above tests to determine whether the safety has released any mechanism which may allow firing.

This test is always made using dummy cartridges and should be conducted very carefully.

STANDARD TEST QUANTITY:

One determination.

Exh: b7c

MINUTE #1 - 1979

LIMITED DISTRIBUTION

PRODUCT SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 2, 1979

PRESENT:

SUBCOMMITTEE

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

OTHER

R. B. SPERLING, ACTING SECRETARY

SAFE GUN HANDLING

It was reported to the Committee that in 1975, due to what we learned from a quality audit on the Mohawk 600, Remington instituted new inspection procedures for all center fire bolt action rifles which were designed to catch a gun capable of being "tricked" into firing when the safety lever is released from the "safe" position. "Tricked" in this context means, safety lever placed in between "safe" and "fire" positions, trigger is then pulled, and the safety lever is subsequently moved to the "fire" position and the gun discharges. The inspection procedures involve the following:

- (1) A visual check for adequate clearance between the sear and the connector.
- (2) Measurement of this clearance by use of a .005 shim.
- (3) Attempting to trick the gun--three times in assembly, three times in gallery and three times at final inspection.



In addition to the above inspection procedures, Remington also changed the trigger assembly for the Model 600 family of guns by adopting Model 700 design features. Changes to the 600 included:

1. Going from a folded housing to an assembly consisting of side plates held together by rivets and spacer block.
2. Providing more lift to the sear.

No such changes were made in the design of the Model 700 because it already had those features.

Remington is confident because of the checks instituted in 1975, that bolt action rifles made during and after 1975 will not trick. Since June 1978, 500 post-1975 Model 700's have been returned to Ilion for repair for various reasons. Starting in June, Remington conducted a quality audit on these returned guns and none could be tricked.

During this same period (June 1978 to the present), two hundred pre-1975 Model 700's were returned to Ilion for repair, and it was found that two could be tricked (one because of insufficient clearance between sear and connector, and one because of a warped connector). Based on this sample, about 1% of the pre-1975 Model 700's in the field may be subject to tricking. There are about 2,000,000 pre-1975 Remington guns in the field with the Model 700 trigger assembly. (By comparison, it is noted that the 1975 quality audit indicated about 50% of the Model 600 family of guns in the field were susceptible to

tricking.)

In addition to the above sample of 700's, 19 Model 700's have been returned to Ilion in response to the Model 600 recall with the complaint that the gun will fire when the safety lever is moved to the "fire" position. Remington found that only one of those guns could be tricked, the cause being insufficient clearance. Three other guns did fire with the safety being moved, but for reasons associated with owner alteration of the product. In one instance, an owner was about to return a gun for accidental discharge upon release of the safety; but just before sending the gun, the owner discovered that he was inadvertently pulling the trigger as he released the safety. It is suspected that this was also the case with the remaining 15 guns, since they were found to be in proper operating condition.

Remington has run quality audits on competitor bolt action rifles and has found that a large percentage of competitor models can be tricked. This includes some famous guns, such as the "Springfield" 30 caliber rifle, which was used in quantity in both World Wars.

The Subcommittee discussed the issue of tricking, as well as other causes of accidental discharge. It was decided that tricking, along with problems such as owner adjustment of the trigger engagement screw or the trigger adjustment screw, finger on the trigger when the safety is released, and trigger assembly alterations, are really problems more associated with abnormal use or misuse of the product rather than indication of a defective

product. Consequently, a notice warning or a series of warnings against abnormal use or misuse, and highlighting safe gun handling procedures, is the most direct solution to the problem of accidental discharge.

The Subcommittee considered the possibility of recalling all pre-1975 Remington center fire bolt action rifles, many of which have been in the hands of the public well over several decades.

The Subcommittee decided against a recall for the following reasons:

1. Based on Remington's sample, only 1% of the pre-1975 Model 700 family of guns out in the field which number about 2,000,000 can be tricked. That would mean the recall would have to gather 2,000,000 guns just to find 20,000 that are susceptible to this condition.
2. An attempt to recall all bolt action rifles would undercut the message we plan to communicate to the public concerning proper gun handling. It would indicate that the answer to accidental discharge can be found entirely within the gun, when in reality only proper gun handling can eliminate injuries resulting from such occurrences.

The Subcommittee decided to recommend that an informational warning concerning accidental firing and safe gun handling be prepared and effectively communicated to the gun handling public. The Marketing, Legal and Public Relations Departments were to

JANUARY 2, 1979

coordinate their efforts, with possible help from outside consultants, in preparing such a notice.

Further meetings would be held to ensure that this informational program was launched effectively and expeditiously.

(Secretary's Note: The President approved these recommendations on January 2, 1979.)

R. B. Sperling
Acting Secretary

FEBRUARY 6, 1979

C. A.
Page
1111

Mr. Larson reported on the status of the recall as follows:

Total guns involved about 200,000

Telephone calls from customers
to Atlanta, WATS numbers, through
January 29. 18,885

Trigger assemblies shipped to repair
stations through January 29 13,976

Invoice for guns repaired paid to date
in the United States 7,786
and in Canada 156

Mr. Preiser reported that he will assess and review results
of the recall advertisements shortly.

GUN SAFETY - COMMUNICATION WITH CUSTOMERS

To develop a program for communicating to our customers
the importance of safe gun handling and to give them needed
information, we have engaged the firm of Hill and Knowlton.

Mr. Partnoy reported that we expect to hear from them concerning
their outline for a program within the next two weeks.

30-30 WIN. "ACCELERATOR"

Mr. Chisnall reported that 99.6% of the cartridges sought
by Remington have been retrieved from the distributors and
dealers who received the suspect ammunition.

Handwritten signature
P. K. Dautenspeck
Research Fellow
Ammunition Research

PRODUCT SAFETY
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

-2-

FEBRUARY 23, 1979

urers' Institute (SAHI) for consideration and possible
industry action.

R. B. Sperling
Acting Secretary

RES:hss

Attachment

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.

REMINGTON ARMS COMPANY, INC.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

Remington
DuPont

cc: JEP
HDA
WHF

February 23, 1979

RECEIVED
FEB 26 1979

R. H. BURDETT
J. P. McANDREWS
J. G. WILLIAMS
E. F. BARRETT
E. HOOTON, JR.
R. A. PARTNOY
R. B. SPERLING
E. J. GARRITY

file rec-1

SAFETY TRICKING COPY

A revised draft of the proposed copy on tricking of bolt action safeties is attached. This incorporates all of the changes suggested at the Product Safety Committee Meeting on February 23.

Our plans are to use this as the basic copy for advertisements to be prepared by Rumerill Hoyt and as a news release to be sent to the outdoor press.

E. S. McCawley, Jr.
E. S. McCawley, Jr.

ESM/s
Attach.

AL 0031461

A
A word of warning to hunters and shooters...

DON'T BE HALF-SAFE WITH YOUR GUN SAFETY

L The safeties and triggers on bolt-action rifles can, in some cases, be manipulated in such a manner as to cause firing of the gun upon release of the safety. It's a bad practice, violating gun handling rules, but safeties can be misused. For example, such accidental discharge may occur by placing the safety somewhere between the "fire" and "safe" positions, pulling the trigger, and then moving the safety to the "fire" position, at which time the gun may fire.

Clearly, placing and leaving the safety mechanism in a position between "fire" and "safe" violates good safety procedures. It 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 the device follows proper procedures and employs safety practices as they are meant to be employed.

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. Mechanical

gun safeties should therefore never be relied upon automatically, but should be used as an adjunct to a complete system of proper gun-handling, as follows:

- Always have the gun pointed in a safe direction.
- Do not place the safety in an intermediate position between "safe" and "fire."
- Do not pull the trigger if the safety is in an intermediate position between "safe" and "fire."
- When you move the safety to the "fire" position--for the purpose of firing or unloading--make sure the gun is pointed in a safe direction.
- Do not have a finger near the trigger when the safety is being released from the "safe" 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.

PRODUCT SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

APRIL 6, 1979

Present:

Subcommittee

E. F. Barrett, Chairman
B. K. Daubenspeck, Secretary
E. G. Larson
R. A. Partnoy
J. G. Williams

Other

R. B. Sperling

RECALL OF CERTAIN REMINGTON MODELS 600, 660, AND
MOHAWK 600 RIFLES AND XP-100 PISTOLS

A letter was mailed to all of our key dealers on February 8, 1979, giving them information on the procedures for this recall and asking them to furnish us with names and addresses of customers owning these products. Responding to this letter, 470 dealers have furnished names and addresses of 5,089 gun owners. A letter will now be mailed to each owner requesting him to return his gun for repair.

A. W. Bell has obtained a list of Federal Firearms licensees comprising about 170,000 names. After the names of the Key and A dealers, to whom letters have already been sent, are removed from the list, the Subcommittee will consider a procedure for mailing a letter to the remainder to obtain names of customers who bought rifles under recall.

A statement on the trick condition will be published in various periodicals from May through April, 1980, according to the advertising schedule attached (Exhibit A).

are as high as 90,000 psi (in proof load range). The cause of this condition has not yet been determined. Tests are still in progress.

NYLON 66

Steps are being taken to minimize the possibility of injury to a user in removing a jammed cartridge resulting from the misuse of a short cartridge in the Nylon 66. Presently, a warning is inscribed on the barrel; but now a new buttstock molding tool is being procured with the wording, ".22 Long Rifle Cartridge Only" molded into the part so that the warning can be inscribed on the butt where the gun is loaded. A revision to the Owner's Manual has been written, describing a safe procedure for removing a jammed cartridge from the action. The revision is being circulated for approval.

SAFE GUN HANDLING

An ad hoc Task Force on Shooting Safety has been organized by SAAMI. At a meeting on April 5, 1979, the Task Force considered the development of a program for effective communication with consumers and the general public concerning gun safety. It is proposed to develop a series of specific messages on gun safety topics to be disseminated as advertisements, film strips, or other means to be determined. The minutes of the meeting are attached as Exhibit B. The Task Force will meet again in about three weeks and will present their proposals to the SAAMI Executive Committee in June.

MINUTES OF MEETING
TASK FORCE ON SHOOTING SAFETY
O'HARE RAMADA INN, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 1979

PRESENT:

J. P. McAndrews, Chairman
W. B. Horn
E. S. McCawley, Jr.
A. I. Mossberg
R. A. Partnoy, Acting Secretary
W. E. Talley

The meeting convened at 11:30 a.m.

The Chairman stated that the meeting was held pursuant to instructions of the Executive Committee to develop a program for communicating more effectively with consumers and the general public concerning safe usage of sporting firearms and ammunition.

Reference was made to recommendations made by Mill and Knowlton, Inc., a public relations/public affairs counseling firm engaged by Remington to provide suggestions on this subject. (See attached Exhibit I.) The Task Force reviewed these suggestions and concluded that many of the ideas presented are feasible and can be readily implemented. Some of them, such as the use of ammunition packages for publicizing these messages, can be implemented directly by member companies. Others can be implemented with SAAMI funding through the National Shooting Sports Foundation. However, in order to move forward with this program, the safety messages to be publicized must first be developed.

After discussion, it was agreed that the Technical Director should provide recommendations regarding the safety messages to be publicized. Each message should be specific and should deal with a major problem concerning safe usage of sporting firearms and ammunition. In this respect, the messages would be similar to the safety messages on automobile usage published by the Shell Oil Company. Possible messages included the need for proper eye and ear protection, the dangers of loading a firearm in a vehicle or in the home, the limitations of a safety, the ranges of various cartridges, and the dangers of keeping a loaded round in the chamber. W. B. Horn was delegated to contact the Technical Director and advise him of the Task Force's considerations on this matter.

April 12, 1979

In order to expedite the program, it was decided that implementation planning should begin on the basis of a sample safety message without waiting for all of the messages to be developed and approved. Since the message concerning the limitations of safety is one which inevitably will be included in the final list of messages to be publicized, this message was selected for initial planning with NSSF. W. E. Talley and E. S. McCawley, Jr., were delegated to meet with the Executive Director of NSSF and commence such planning.

E. S. McCawley, Jr., reported that an article on the limitations of firearms safeties has been written by Col. E. B. Crossman. The article is still in manuscript, but E. S. McCawley, Jr., will contact Col. Crossman to suggest distribution of copies to ANTI members and to discuss the feasibility of publication in the American Rifleman. E. S. McCawley, Jr., also outlined the concept of a single-issue magazine devoted to safe firearms usage and said he would discuss this with Aqua-Field Publications to obtain cost information.

There was general agreement that this program is important and could be implemented as soon as possible. The intention is to have a budgeted program ready for presentation to the Executive Committee at the June meeting in New Haven. A further meeting of the Task Force will be held in approximately three weeks to receive reports on recommended messages and proposed means of publicity and to prepare the presentation to the Executive Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

CK
Attachment

FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION INDUSTRY
SHOOTING SAFETY PROGRAM

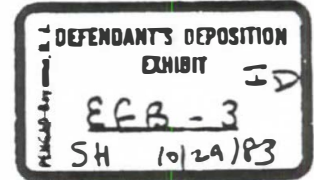
Accidents stemming from violations of safe gun handling practices have been increasing in recent years. Such accidents are of obvious concern to everyone involved in the shooting sports and in the production, marketing and sales of sporting firearms and ammunition. In an effort to reduce them, it is proposed that the industry conduct a public relations campaign designed to reemphasize the basic rules of safe gun handling to hunters and shooters.

Ancillary to this goal is the objective of making all those associated with the sale and maintenance of firearms and ammunition aware of the part they should play in promoting hunting and shooting safety. An added benefit of such a campaign would be to reduce the vulnerability of manufacturers, wholesalers and dealers to product liability suits in which contributory negligence of the plaintiff or a third party may be a factor.

Such a campaign would reinforce an image which reflects the current reality--of an industry that is deeply concerned with safety and is doing all it can to promote safe hunting and shooting practices.

The following program ideas are suggested in order to meet these general objectives:

- 1.) Generation of specific-audience news releases and magazine articles relating to safe gun handling and the proper use of firearms safeties.

MINUTES #1 - 1980PRODUCT SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGJANUARY 22, 1980PRESENT:SUBCOMMITTEE:

E. F. BARRETT, CHAIRMAN
J. G. WILLIAMS
E. HOOTON, JR.
E. G. LARSON
R. A. PARTNOY

OTHERS:

J. P. GLAS
J. E. PREISER
W. L. FLAHERTY
E. S. MCCAWLEY
T. W. RAWSON
J. H. CHISNALL
R. B. SPERLING, ACTING SECRETARY

RECALL OF CERTAIN REMINGTON MODELS
600, 660 AND MOHAWK 600 RIFLES
AND XP-100 PISTOLS

The status of the product recall and the results to date were reviewed. It was reported that 23,318 recall guns had been repaired since the introduction of the recall. Returns have been steadily declining. Through December 31, 1979, 25,000 telephone calls have been received at our Atlanta toll-free number. We are down now to about 7 calls a day. The Atlanta number will remain open until further evaluation.

In August of 1979, approximately 130,000 letters (see copy attached as Exhibit A) were sent out to Federal Firearms License holders requesting the names of customers who purchased recalled guns. Remington received the names of 1,922 customers, to whom we mailed copies of our recall letter.

Pending litigation involving claims against guns subject to recall was discussed. The current status of Remington's audit on the Model 700 was also presented, which showed that from June 13, 1978, to January 15, 1980, 3,376 Model 700's returned to Ilion for service were tested for the "trick" condition. Of this sample, 35 guns failed the "trick" test. But of these 35 guns, 22 guns were trickable because they had been altered or damaged out in the field. This means that the audit to date indicates that only about .4% of the audited Model 700's were susceptible to tricking due to causes not attributable to customer misuse. It is also known that only .4% of the guns manufactured before 1975 are so susceptible.

Since January of 1979, Ilion has added a new test to the Model 700 audit which involves turning the returned Model 700 on its back and inserting a screwdriver into the trigger assembly and attempting to trap the connector so that it cannot move freely back under the sear. In this condition, the gun will fire when the safety lever is moved to the "fire" position. This has been termed "firing off safe". Since the inception of the new test, 38 returned Model 700's were found to "fire off safe", but of this number, only 9 would do so because of causes not attributable to alteration or damage in the field--4 of which were guns manufactured before 1975.

Even if you combine the number of "trickable" guns with the number of guns that will "fire off safe", the figures indicate that approximately .6% of the Model 700's currently in the field will be susceptible to "tricking" or "firing off safe".

The status of the Model 600 recall and the Model 700 audit confirms the wisdom of Remington's previous determination, made in January of 1979 (See Product Safety Subcommittee Minutes dated January 2, 1979), that the Company's efforts to reduce accidents involving bolt action rifles would be best served by publicizing proper gun handling and maintenance information, rather than to continue running Recall notices producing ever-diminishing returns. Remington's ad "Half Safe is Unsafe" will run through April of 1980. The SAAMI sponsored firearms safety ads will be initiated in February 1980 and will be run with heavy intensity through 1981. (See Exhibit B for samples of the SAAMI advertising program.) It was reported that the SAAMI booklet "Firearms Safety Depends on You" (see Exhibit B) is being packed with every Remington firearm shipped from the factory. This program was initiated in January of 1980.

It was suggested that Remington consider putting an insert in its ammunition boxes which would contain the ten firearms safety headings found in the "Firearms Safety Depends on You" booklet. After discussion, it was decided to put the safety message on the panels at the back of the shotshell and center fire ammunition boxes where currently there is placed product information.

MODEL 788 BOLT ACTION RIFLE

Remington has received a letter from Hank Burchard, an outdoor writer from THE WASHINGTON POST, complaining about the position of the safety on the Model 788, in that it can be unknowingly moved to the "fire" position when the gun is carried over the shoulder

(a copy of the letter is attached as Exhibit C). Preliminary examination shows that the Model 788, as well as several other models manufactured by competitors, are susceptible to having the safety moved from "safe" to "fire" by the fleshy part of the hand between thumb and forefinger when the gun is carried over the shoulder. Remington has had a few complaints about this situation in the past, but no reports of personal injury. The Subcommittee determined that the design of the Model 788 should be studied for corrective action, and that a letter of response should be prepared and sent to Mr. Burchard. (Subsequent to the meeting, a letter response was sent to Mr. Burchard--See copy attached as Exhibit D).

7mm EXPRESS CARTRIDGES

There have been reported incidents of gun damage due to consumers firing 7mm Express cartridges in firearms designed for magnum cartridges. The Marketing Manager (ammunition) and the Manager of Quality were directed to review the problem and recommend what could be placed on the 7mm Express containers that would re-emphasize the fact that the 7mm Express is not to be used in chambers designed for magnum loads.

30-06 HIGH PRESSURE LOADS

A recall notice was placed in vertical trade journals selected by Marketing as directed by the Product Safety Subcommittee in June, 1979. (See Exhibit E). Returns are no longer coming in pursuant to our notices. There still have been no complaints reported from

the field. Since it is believed that virtually all of this ammunition has now been used, no further action is planned.

R. B. Sperling
Acting Secretary.

RBS:hss

2/19/80

Attachments

00200D

DM:



NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST CLASS PERMIT NO. 420 BRIDGEPORT CONN.

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY —

REMINGTON ARMS COMPANY, INC.
P.O. BOX RGS
BRIDGEPORT, CONN.
06602



HEE: ^

BULLETIN: PRODUCT RECALL

For your convenience, we have printed the form below for sending us information on customers who have purchased the recalled guns from you. When you have filled out the form, please fold it (Remington address side out) and place it in the mails...no postage necessary.

MODELS BEING RECALLED

Model 570 and 660 Rifles, and All Mohawk Model 600 Rifles
ARE WITH A SERIAL NUMBER STARTING WITH AN "A".
Rifles With A Serial Number Below 7507984
ARE WITH THE PREFIX "A" OR "0" BEFORE THE NUMBER.

Groupin only — 1-800-262-1333 (Operator 51)

We thank you for your cooperation in assisting us in this recall and regret any inconvenience caused you or your customers.

Sincerely,

L J Conroy
Director of Sales

DEALER NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

TELEPHONE
Area Number

FEDERAL FIREARMS LICENSE NO. _____

[illegible]

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DUCTION

a sentence in a pilot's flight manual that reads, "When you enter the cockpit of this aircraft, you become part of a system over which you have control — the system of operation and safe handling. You are the only one that can make the system safe or unsafe." The same is true of the shooter, whether a target shooter or casual weekend shooter. From the time he picks up a gun, the shooter becomes a part of a system over which he has complete control. He is the only part of the system that makes a gun safe — or unsafe. Proper gun handling and storage are among the basics of all sports. This booklet is designed to make them even safer — by re-emphasizing and reaffirming the basics of gun handling and storage and by telling each individual shooter that he is the key to firearms safety. Please read this booklet carefully and follow the safety procedures outlined. Your safety is up to you. Make no excuses about it.

1 Don't Rely on Your Gun's Safety. Treat Every Gun as if It Were Loaded and Ready to Fire

The safety on any gun is a mechanical device that serves as a part of a complete system of safe gun handling. The safety is not intended to serve — nor can it possibly serve — as a substitute for common sense or safe gun handling.

For example, never pull the trigger on a firearm when the safety is in the "safe" position or anywhere in between "safe" and off. It is possible that the gun could fire anyway, and it is also possible that the gun could fire later when you release the safety — without your ever touching the trigger again. Always place the safety completely in the "fire" or "safe" positions. Never in between. Half-safe is unsafe. Don't play with your safety, pulling it on and off. Leave it on until you are absolutely ready to fire.

You and the safe gun handling procedures you have learned are your gun's primary safeties. To rely entirely upon a mechanical device is unsafe. Use your safety safety.



IF YOU ARE A GUN-OWNING
PERSON, THIS BOOKLET IS
FOR YOU.

3

Never Load or Carry a Loaded Gun Until You Are Ready To Use It

One of the cardinal rules of shooting safety is to load your gun only when ready to use it — and to unload as soon as you are through. A loaded gun has no place in — or near — a car or truck or building. Keep your fingers off the trigger while loading or unloading.

For shotgun shooting, don't load until you've started into the field or are well settled in a blind. Unload before you leave!

Many big game hunters will not chamber a cartridge until they have actually sighted game and decided to shoot. This is especially true when hunting from tree stands.

Target shooters should never load until it is their turn to shoot, and they should unload immediately if there is a delay in the shooting progression.

Think of yourself and your gun as part of a system whose safe operation depends on you. Your gun can't think. You can. Don't load until ready to shoot — and unload as soon as you're done.

Never Cross a Fence, Climb a Tree or Jump a Ditch With a Loaded Gun

are times during nearly all hunting trips when these and the basic rules of firearms safety will require you to unload your gun for maximum safety. When there is an added risk that you might lose your balance and drop or lose control of your gun, you must unload. Before climbing a fence or crossing a ditch are perfect examples. If you need to climb a slipshod fence and certainly if you are going to climb a tree to reach a tree stand, you should unload first. Then, if you lose your balance and lose control of your gun, you will not jeopardize your safety or the safety of your companions by dropping a loaded gun which could injure them.

The chances of missing a shot at game by unloading at these times are slim and more than offset by the added safety of unloading.



5

Keep Guns and Ammunition Separately and in Locked Storage

There's really only one basic way to safely store guns and ammunition. They should both be kept locked, separate from one another, with the keys under the control of a responsible adult. Casual visitors and children should find it impossible to handle either without the direct approval, action and supervision of an experienced person totally informed in the principles of safe gun handling. This may take some extra time and effort on your part, but consider the potential consequences of the wrong hands putting guns and ammunition together.



Point Your Muzzle So the Other Fellow Doesn't Have To

Handled his gun so carefully that the muzzle pointed something the gunner didn't intend to do. No firearms accidents. It's as simple as up to you.

your muzzle always pointed in a safe direction. It may be in the air on some occasions, at others, but never at anyone or at anything intended as a target.

It's left an experienced shooter by how he handles a gun. A knowledgeable shooter always unloads a gun before handing it to someone else. It's to make sure the gun is unloaded to him.

So others will want to hunt with you, not just you and your gun are parts of a system. The safety depends on you. Your gun can't save you.



Know the Range of Your Gun. Remember, Even a 22 Rimfire Can Travel Over One Mile

All shooters hope they will hit what they are aiming at when they pull the trigger. Safe shooters also consider where their shot might go if they miss.

Shooters should keep in mind how far a bullet will travel if it misses its intended target or ricochets in another direction. A 22 short can travel $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, and a high-velocity cartridge such as a .30 06 can send its bullet more than 3 miles.

Shotgun pellets can travel 500 yards, and shotgun slugs have a range of one-half mile.

Before firing at game or other targets afield, shooters should be certain there are no roads, buildings or livestock in the course of fire, should the bullet go astray.

Guns and ammunition cannot think. You can.



Don't Shoot Unless Absolutely Sure
of Your Target and What Is Beyond It

The bullet flies. And you can't change its

path. Once you pull the trigger on your rifle, shotgun or
slingshot, you have given up all control over where the
bullet will go. Every shooter —

whether a game hunter, upland hunter or plinker —
must be absolutely sure of his target. Make certain
there are no buildings or other objects behind
the target.

Be absolutely sure of the target itself. Particu-
larly in the low-light periods of dawn and dusk, it is
easy to mistake one shape for another. Scientists call it
"change blindness," and it is one reason you should be totally
certain of your target before pulling the trigger.

Don't shoot unless you are absolutely sure of it.



Always Be Sure the Barrel is Clear of Obstructions. Only Carry Ammunition of the Proper Size for the Gun You Are Using

It might be mud, snow or a shotshell wad. It could even be a cleaning patch or the wrong size ammunition placed in your gun's chamber by mistake. All are obstructions that can block a gun barrel and cause serious injury to the shooter if not detected. These obstructions may have become lodged in your gun barrel by careless gun handling — as in the case of mud or snow. Or they may have been left there accidentally by someone else.

Proper safety procedures require that all gun barrels be checked for obstructions before firing.

Carry only the proper ammunition for the gun you are shooting. Mixing ammunition causes problems. A 20 gauge shotshell, for example, will pass through the chamber of a 12 gauge and lodge in the barrel.

Never allow different types of ammunition to get mixed up in the pockets of your hunting or shooting coat.

It is a simple and basic safety step to check your barrel for obstructions before shooting — for your own safety and to prevent damage to your gun.



Always Wear Eye and Ear Protection When Shooting

of shooting safety are intended to protect you around you. But there are two rules that are often overlooked.

First, involve the wearing of eye and ear protection can take the form of inexpensive eye glasses, sunglasses, the shooter's own binoculars or specialized shooting glasses. Again, always lifting shot clay target chips or a ruptured case or broken malfunction. The danger posed to shooting noise is not only able at the time of an accident because permanent or that may not be detected until it is too late. Ear and eye protection is available in a variety of hearing protectors, ranging from throwaway or reusable ear plugs to covering muffs that cover the entire ear. No other shooter or hunter sighting-in should ever them.

Safety rules that are intended to protect you, and eye protection.

**Always Carry Handguns With
the Hammer Down on an
Empty Chamber**

Handgun safety is largely a matter of common sense and the development of safe habits. For example:

- Carry loaded revolvers with empty chamber under the hammer
- Carry loaded pistols with the magazine inserted but with an *empty* chamber
- Always empty handguns before carrying into a house, car, boat or RV
- Never point a handgun at anything you don't intend to shoot.
- Never handle a handgun without opening it yourself to check to see if it's loaded.
- Always open your handgun and keep it open after firing.
- Be sure of your backstop and what lies beyond it before you shoot.

Refer to the instruction manual you received with your gun.

S A A M I

SPORTING ARMS AND AMMUNITION MANUFACTURERS' INSTITUTE, INC.

Safety Series, 1075 Post Road, Riverside, CT 06878

C

REMINGTON ARMS COMPANY, INC.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

Remington



A

Bridgeport, Connecticut
April 21, 1981

TO: R. B. Sperling
 FROM: E. G. Larson
 SUBJECT: SAAMI - NSSF SAFETY ADVERTISING

E. F. Barrett called today (April 20, 1981), advising that W. Horn (President of Federal) has contacted J. P. McAndrews about an extension of the above program beyond the ten items already covered in the media and contained in the SAAMI booklet.

He feels additional items will dilute the ten originally selected.

E. F. Barrett has asked me to comment on each of four new items from a complaint and practical view, and R. B. Sperling from a legal standpoint.

He then suggested that we have J. Glas hold a product safety meeting, and in discussing with Joe, he asked that we have our information available for the April 24 safety meeting. After that discussion, we are to advise J. P. McAndrews and E. F. Barrett of our combined opinions.

It was my opinion from the start of this program, that we would select ten items we felt were most important, and get them out to the public. Once that was done, based on complaint and legal experience, we would suggest others to SAAMI and that this would be a continuing program. By so doing, we would be in a stronger position legally because we could show the industry did publicize these many safety items.

A couple of weeks ago, E. F. Barrett/J. P. McAndrews sent me a letter to the Executive Committee from SAAMI with the four new items, and they asked for comments, which I supplied. I do not have the full wording of each, but basically they related to the following:

1. Obtain and read fully the Owner's Manual.
2. Use proper cartridge or shell in the gun chambered for it.
3. Periodic maintenance check of firearms.
4. Never alter or modify a firearm.

Clear and good!

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