

Not long after I purchased my rifle, as I took the safety off, the rifle fire...

Discussion Thread

Response (Laura) 2/9/2001 7:09:12 PM
At 02/09/2001 04:05 PM we wrote -
Dear Mr. Campbell,
Thank you for your inquiry. Following is the complete statement that we forwarded to CBS regarding the Model 700. We hope this shows you another side of the story than what was shown. If you have any further questions regarding your firearm, please feel free to contact our Consumer Service Department at 1-800-243-9700 M-F 9-5 EST.

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 (George Campbell) 2/7/2001 10:21:06 PM
Not long after I purchased my rifle, as I took the safety off, the rifle fired on its own. I sent the rifle back to the factory to get it fixed, but I have never really trusted it again.
Tonight I heard that others have had the same problem with the rifle, and that this has resulted in death and injury of several people.
I would like some information about this problem, such as whether it has recurred in other rifles, etc. I would like to know what my options are concerning this rifle.
It is really frightening to think that a weapon this powerful could fire when the safety is off. I, too, have children and grandchildren who could easily be in the line of fire.

Please advise me on this issue as soon as possible.
George Campbell