

International Hunter Education Association
PO Box 490
Wellington, CO 80549-0490
Tel: (970) 568-7954 Fax: (970) 568-7955

MEMO

Tuesday, December 05, 2000

To: IHEA Hunter Education Administrators
Attention: Remington Model 700 Incident, Recommended Response
From: Dr. David M. Knotts, EVP / Albert Ross, Legal Counsel

While it is within the realm of the IHEA and IHEA membership to keep each other abreast of patterns or emerging trends we observe with specific products, we are not a testing laboratory and cannot nor should not take an official position for or against a product. Such activity would place us in a liable position.

There are experts who can comment on these types of issues, but it should not come from the IHEA or its membership. The IHEA can inform its membership of alleged incidents but must have all the facts correctly stated. The best course of action might be to just forward or republish the actual incident filed by the formal investigating authority, without editorial comment. A formal request to the manufacturer (in this case Remington) would be in order to determine if they would respond. (It should be noted that as of this writing, Remington has not been contacted by the media, regarding this incident.)

Until a thorough analysis is run on all reported incidents involving the 700 series of Remington rifles, we do not know if the incident involving these firearms were or could have been caused by alterations made by the owner to what came out of the factory nor do we know if there was a break down in the observance of basic firearms handling, safety rules, or the age or condition of the firearm.

Having said that, we spoke with Mr. Tom Millner, President of Remington.

In essence, there has been a history of incidents with the pre-1982 Bolt-Lock Remington Model 700's. The safety of the Bolt Lock rifles must be put in the fire position to open. Therefore, muzzle control is critical when loading and unloading the firearm (as it is at all times). The Bolt Lock Rifle has not been made since 1982. At the time the Bolt Lock rifle was discontinued, appropriate notice was sent out. Those that are still in circulation along with any Remington Model 700 may be sent back to Remington for inspection free of charge.

If used properly, maintained properly, kept cleaned and not tampered with, the Remington Model 700 is a safe firearm. Questions we should ask upon learning of any such incident include: What condition is the rifle in? Has it been altered or tampered with? Was the operator maintaining muzzle control and other safety practices? Again, if a Remington Model 700 owner has any questions regarding their rifle, they may send it in to Remington for a free inspection. This is particularly critical with used firearms where the actions of the previous owner are unknown.

For Remington's official comments or for additional questions, you may contact Remington directly by calling 1-800-243-9700 or through the Web at www.Remington.com.