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PRESENCE AND TYPE OF BOLT LOCK (CONT'D)

STILL, SEVERAL RESPONDENTS (PARTICULARLY IN HOUSTON) PREFER THE BOLT LOCK THAT LOCKS IN BOTH POSITIONS, MAINLY FOR SAFETY REASONS:

"THE SAFER THEY ARE, THE BETTER... I HAVE _____
A SON. AND IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT'S
GOING TO DETER FROM USING THE GUN."

IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT CONSUMER COGNITION OF THE BOLT LOCK RELEASE MECHANISM IS PARTICULARLY WEAK. AS THE FOLLOWING VERBATIMS ILLUSTRATE, MANY RESPONDENTS DO NOT PICK UP ON THE FACT THAT THE BOLT CAN EASILY BE OPENED AT WILL:

"I DON'T WANT THE LOCK. BECAUSE THEN YOU
CAN HAVE THE SAFETY ON AND STILL BE ABLE
TO GET THE ROUND OUT."

"I DON'T WANT IT LOCKED IN BOTH
POSITIONS. BECAUSE THEN YOU CAN'T GET
THE ROUND OUT OF THE CHAMBER."

"IF THE BOLT IS LOCKED IN BOTH POSITIONS
AND YOU ASSUME THE GUN IS UNLOADED, THE
TENDENCY IS TO SQUEEZE THE TRIGGER TO
OPEN THAT BOLT."

CONSUMER EDUCATION IS REQUIRED IN THIS AREA. CONSUMERS NEED TO BE MADE AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THE BOLT LOCK CAN BE RELEASED AT ANY TIME, WITHOUT ADJUSTING THE POSITION OF THE SAFETY OR SQUEEZING THE TRIGGER.

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