



SAGA Snippets

THE SAGA TRUST
PO BOX 35203, NORTHWAY, 4065
TEL 031-562-9951 CELL 066-003-9226

EMAIL: SAGA@SAGA.ORG.ZA
WEB: WWW.SAGA.ORG.ZA
FACEBOOK: GunLobbySAGA

SAGA Snippets
April 2025

Armed Civilians Are More Effective Than Police at Stopping Active Shooters

Review by Shaun Lyle
16 April 2025

Armed Civilians: The Unsung Heroes in Active Shooter Scenarios

A groundbreaking 2025 study has blown a hole in conventional wisdom: responsibly armed civilians are statistically more effective than police at stopping active shooters. Let that sink in.

The peer-reviewed research, conducted by Professor CE Moody (Emeritus Economist, College of William & Mary) and JR Lott of the Crime Prevention Research Center (CPRC), analysed hundreds of active shooter events across the U.S.A. between 2014 and 2023.

Their conclusion? **Civilians are not only stepping up – they are outpacing the professionals.**

Civilians Are Beating the Odds and Saving Lives

The American numbers speak volumes:

- Armed citizens stopped **35%** of active shooter incidents.
- Police stopped **31%** of active shooter incidents – despite more training, resources, and institutional backing.

And here is the kicker: civilians did this with **fewer mistakes, fewer casualties**, and often **before police even arrived**.

Professor Moody explains the tactical edge: *"A concealed carrier blends into the crowd. That element of surprise can be deadly – for the attacker. Uniformed officers, by contrast, are obvious targets."*

Armed Civilians Are Safer & Smarter

The study tackled a key concern: **Do armed civilians cause more harm than good?** and the answer is: a resounding **NO!**

Using a decade of data:

- Only **one** civilian mistakenly shot the wrong person – and that person survived.
- Civilians killed **no bystanders**.
- No civilian had their **firearm taken away**.
- **No civilian obstructed police** efforts.

By comparison, police officers were statistically more likely to be injured or killed during their interventions.

Special points of interest:

- *Armed Civilians More Effective than Police at Stopping Active Shooters*
- *Advertise in SAGA Snippets*
- *SAGA Corporate Membership List*
- *See Your Sights*
- *Wildland Magazine April 2025*
- *Online Safety Resources On Water & Fire Damage Released By SAAMI*
- *Pepper Spray: Do it Right the First Time*
- *SAGA Personal Membership*
- *Defining Competency Standards For Concealed Carry*
- *How Much Ammo Do You Carry?*
- *Focus on SAGA's 40 Year Insignia*

Continued...Armed Civilians Are More Effective Than Police at Stopping Active Shooters'

Why Are Civilians So Effective?

The research points to several compelling reasons:

- **Police arrive after** violence has already erupted, whereas civilians were already on scene.
- **Concealed carry** firearms do not advertise their presence – giving the firearm owner the element of surprise.
- **Civilians and private security far outnumber** active-duty police.
- While police have more training, they often face **greater tactical risks** in live scenarios.

Time for an Honest Conversation in South Africa

One of the study's most disturbing findings was levelled at the media, with the authors noting *"Defensive gun use by civilians often goes unreported – unless blood is spilled. But what about the thousands of times a gun is drawn, and the threat vanishes?"*

This media bias distorts public perception, and it is not just an American problem. In South Africa, we face the same skewed narrative. Legal gun owners are often vilified, while their successes are ignored.

What This Means for South Africa

South Africans are no strangers to violent crime. Waiting for the police to arrive is seldom an option.

This research reinforces what SAGA has said for years: **Responsible** firearm ownership is NOT a threat to public safety but rather a crucial part of it.

As debates rage around police capability, private security disarmament (PSiRA), and community safety, this study should be a wake-up call. The data shows that armed citizens (and private security professionals) – when law-abiding, licensed and trained – are saving lives!

It is time that our public policy and media narratives catch up with this reality.



MATTHEWS ENSLIN

MATTHEWS ENSLIN INC • ATTORNEYS, NOTARIES AND CONVEYANCERS

FIREARM LICENSING AND LEGAL SUPPORT

Trusted legal guidance for firearms owners.

We assist with license applications, renewals, appeals, compliance and firearm-related legal matters.

Suite D1 & D2, Westlake Square 1,
Westlake Drive, Tokai, 7945

✉ david@legalonline.co.za | damian@legalonline.co.za
☎ (021) 702 3070 | 🌐 www.matthewsenslin.com

Advertise in SAGA Snippets

Advertising space in SAGA Snippets is available to SAGA Corporate Members from this edition.

We are offering a Launch Special at just R500 per advert for the first three months (April to June 2025) on a "first come, first served basis".

From July to December 2025, the price per advert will be R700, and from January to March 2026 the price per advert will be R900.

All prices exclude design costs. If you need help with advert design, for an additional R400, we have an experienced graphic artist who supports this initiative and will assist.

Advert dimensions are: 15.5cm wide x 5cm high. Artwork is needed as a Pdf or Jpg.

Take advantage of this great opportunity to advertise your business, club or association to a huge audience of like-minded firearm owners.

Snippets is sent out in the last week of each month, apart from December when it gets sent out by 16 December.

All prices exclude VAT.
Space is limited to four adverts per Snippets.

To book contact Gaye at the office on 031-562-9951 or saga@saga.org.za

Edition	Booking	Design for Artwork	Final Artwork	Payment
May	05-May-25	09-May-25	16-May-25	23-May-25
June	02-Jun-25	06-Jun-25	13-Jun-25	20-Jun-25
July	04-Jul-25	09-Jul-25	15-Jul-25	24-Jul-25
August	01-Aug-25	08-Aug-25	15-Aug-25	22-Aug-25
September	05-Sep-25	12-Sep-25	19-Sep-25	23-Sep-25
October	03-Oct-25	08-Oct-25	15-Oct-25	23-Oct-25
November	03-Nov-25	14-Nov-25	17-Nov-25	21-Nov-25
December	24-Nov-25	01-Dec-25	05-Dec-25	10-Dec-25



LYLE & ASSOCIATES
Chartered Secretaries & Tax Advisors
Tax Accounting
Tax Advisory Services
Financial Analysis
Business Valuations
Training

LYLE & ASSOC.
consulting@lyleassociates
Durban 0825537399 | Southern Cape 0713017072
Masters Qualified • Detail Driven • Relationship Centred • Pastel Powered



SAGA Corporate Membership

Current 2025 Corporate Members are:

ASSOCIATION

CLAY TARGET SHOOTING ASSOC
KAAPJAG (CAPE HUNTERS & GAME
CONSERVATION ASSOC)
KZN HUNTING & CONSERVATION ASSOC
MILNERTON SHOOTING ASSOC
NAACCSA
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RESPONSIBLE
FIREARM OWNERS (NARFO)
NATIONAL HUNTING & SHOOTING ASSOC
PHASA
PWAV/PAAA
SA DEFENSIVE PISTOL ASSOCIATION (SADPA)
SA TACTICAL SHOOTING ASSOC
SA WINGSHOOTERS ASSOC
SAAACA GAUTENG
SAAACA KZN
SAAACA MPUMALANGA
SOUTH CAPE HUNTERS & CONSERVATION
ASSOC
WESTERN SHOOTERS OF SA
ZULULAND HUNTING & CONSERVATION
ASSOC

CLUB

BALLITO DEFENSIVE SPORTS SHOOTING CLUB
BORDER HUNTING CLUB
BROADWAY SHOOTING CLUB
BUFFALO RIVER SHOOTING CLUB
CAPE SPORTING RIFLE CLUB
CLAY PIGEON ADVENTURES
DALTON RIFLE & GUN CLUB
EYE SHOOT SPORT SHOOTING CLUB
FALSE BAY SPORT SHOOTING CLUB
GEORGE SPORT SHOOTING CLUB
HILLANDALE SHOOTING CLUB
IMPALA SHOOTING CLUB
KOKSTAD SHOOTING CLUB
KWAGGA JAG & AVONTUURKLUB
LION MOUNTAIN RANGERS



MODDERFONTEIN SHOOTING CLUB
MONTANA PISTOL CLUB
NYATHI ANTI POACHING UNIT
RICHARDS BAY SPORT SHOOTING CLUB
ROCKY RIDGE SHOOTING CLUB
SABIE CLAY PIGEON CLUB
SHOOTING STUFF
SOMERSET WEST PISTOL CLUB
SWISS RIFLE CLUB CAPE TOWN
VEKTOR SHOOTING CLUB
WITBANK PRACTICAL SHOOTING CLUB

DEALER

1652 TACTICAL
ARMS KING
ART OF AMMUNITION
BOOMSTICKS
CHS GUNS & AMMUNITION CC
CITY GUNS CC
ELITE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION
FALSE BAY F T A (PTY)LTD
GUNLICENCE.CO.ZA
GUNS & BOWS CC
HILLCREST GUN SHOP
JABAMA SAFARIS
KINGS GUN SHOP
MILSPEC EQUIPMENT CC
MULTI-PLATFORM DIMENSION SHOOTING
PAROW ARMS & AMMO
VGK FIREARMS (PTY) LTD

....continued on the next page

Continued...SAGA Corporate Membership



SECURITY

A.O.G SECURITY
 ALPHA SECURITY & PATROLS
 BLUE SECURITY
 EXPRO PROTECTION SERVICES
 GABOON PROTECTION
 HARTWIG & HENDERSON
 LAD SECURITY SERVICES
 PANGOLIN SECURITY PRODUCTS
 PREMIER SECURITY
 PRO-SEC TECHNOLOGIES
 PROTECT PROTECTION SERVICES
 PVIP PROTECTION
 QINISA SECURITY
 SECURITY RESPONSE GROUP
 SJ SECURITY SERVICES
 SPECIALIZED PROTECTION & INVESTIGATIONS
 STAR RAPID RESPONSE
 STARLIGHT SECURITY SERVICES
 WALKLEY ENTERPRISES
 WESIZWE PROTECTION SERVICES

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

HARLYN NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
 HILLCREST PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

TRAINER

EXECUTIVE DECISIONS
 FUNDIKHONO
 MULTI DIMENSIONAL WARRIORS
 SA TACTICAL INSTITUTE

Please support our Corporate Members whenever you can!

Find out more about becoming a Corporate Member by contacting the office:

TEL 031-562-9951
 WHATSAPP 066-003-9226
 EMAIL saga@saga.org.za

BUSINESS

BRUCE SHAW TRUST
 FASTRAK TRADING
 GH WINGSHOOTING SAFARIS
 KINGFISHER FREIGHT SERVICES
 LYALL MORGAN & ASSOCIATES
 LYLE & ASSOCIATES
 MARTIN & DE BEER INC
 MATTHEWS ENSLIN INC
 MEDWAY
 MOBI-CLAW911
 ORTON & ASSOCIATES (PTY) LTD
 SEARLE INVESTMENTS CC
 SOTHEBYS INTERNATIONAL REALTY
 SYSDEL CC
 TARGET TRUCK SALVAGE (PTY) LTD
 TAXIDERM MY AFRICA
 TURN TECH
 WHYLO (PTY) LTD
 WITTSTOCK RISK MANAGEMENT
 CONSULTANCY



See Your Sights

https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/see-your-sights/?utm_source=newsletter

by Sheriff Jim Wilson
29 March 2025

Through good training and then practicing what we've been taught, we form the habit of presenting our defensive handgun in a level fashion to the target. Just before breaking the shot, our focus goes to the front sight to confirm that we are properly lined up with the vital zone. This is what Col. Jeff Cooper called the flash sight picture. At close ranges we don't bother to try to line up our front and rear sights like a target shooter does, or like we would need to do at longer ranges. What we need in a close-range encounter is something on our front sight that says, "Look at me!" I happen to like a gold or brass bead on an otherwise black front sight. Others prefer a white dot, however vertical white lines are available, as are fiber-optic front sights. Heck, even some red or green nail polish will do the trick, anything that forces the shooter to look at the front sight when he or she breaks the shot.

There is absolutely no need for anything on the otherwise black rear sight. If a person's attention is directed to the rear sight in a close-range gunfight, they are very likely to miss. This is why so many of us urge shooters to avoid those three-dot sights that were all the rage a few years ago. And the same can be said for white-outline rear sights or those with a little light-colored triangle. A black rear sight is the way to go for really fast, accurate shooting.

Sights on a defensive handgun should have a rather bold front sight and a rear sight with an opening that allows plenty of light on either side of the front sight when one is aiming. I also prefer that the rear sight on my defensive handguns be adjustable so that I can dial the gun in for a particular load at a particular range. One might argue that we don't need this kind of precision on a fighting gun, but it sure builds confidence in the shooter and well-placed confidence helps one to win gunfights.

There was a time when defensive handguns sported the worst of sights, thin front sights and rear sight with narrow openings. That was then and this is now. Today, the defensive shooter has a lot of good choices to consider, as the guns come from the factory and in the after market. The key is to experiment with the various sights to see what setup gets your eye on the front sight the quickest and the sight on the intended target.

Wildland Magazine April 2025

As part of SAGA's collaboration with Wildland here is the link to your free copy of Wildland magazine, April 2025.

Click on the link in the covering email, or copy and paste the link below into your web browser:

<https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/70255733/wildland-april-2025>



Online Safety Resources on Water & Fire Damage Released By SAAMI

https://www.americanrifleman.org/content/online-safety-resources-on-water-fire-damage-released-by-saami/?utm_source=newsletter

by Guy J. Sagi
3 April 2025

The Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute (SAAMI) has added three new web-based resources to its website. They provide guidance for gun owners to safely deal with firearms, ammunition and smokeless propellants that have been exposed to fire - and the associated extreme temperatures - or to submersion or exposure to water and firefighting agents. Hidden, potentially dangerous damage can occur when exposed to any of these conditions, potentially rendering them unsafe to use.

"These important documents add to SAAMI's technical library of firearm safety resources that provide guidance to both industry professionals and the firearm-owning community," said Joe Bartozzi, SAAMI president and CEO.

"They provide relevant and safety-critical information for anyone whose firearms or ammunition may have been exposed to high temperatures or submerged in water. They are great sources of information that gun-owners can refer to if they have endured certain challenging events."

SAAMI maintains an Informational Publications and Advisories library online for consumers and industry professionals. Here are details on the above-mentioned new resources.

Guidance on Firearms and Ammunition Exposed to Fire [PDF] provides guidance to the consumer on how to safely deal with firearms, ammunition and smokeless propellants that have been exposed to fire or the extreme temperatures that occur in fires. Hidden damage caused by the extreme temperature can make the use of these items potentially unsafe after they've been exposed.



Guidance On Firearms That Have Been Submerged in Water [PDF] provides guidance to enthusiasts on how to best care for and protect firearms that have been submerged in water or exposed to water-based firefighting agents.

Water exposure or submersion of firearms can promote corrosion of some metallic components and the warpage or damage of other components such as wooden stocks and grips. Silt or other waterborne fine particles can infiltrate the action and other firearm mechanisms causing them to perform in unexpected and unacceptable manners.

Guidance on Ammunition That Has Been Submerged in Water [PDF] provides information on how to deal with ammunition that has been submerged in water or exposed to water or water-based firefighting agents.

Water exposure or submersion of ammunition can compromise performance, depending upon the nature and degree of the exposure. Clear guidelines are provided to help decide whether the ammunition is salvageable or safe to use.

For the PDFs go to:
<https://saami.org/publications-advisories/advisories/>

Pepper Spray: Do It Right the First Time

https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/pepper-spray-doing-it-right-the-first-time-could-save-your-life/?utm_source=newsletter

by Shelley Hill
7 April 2025

I teach a class called "Intro to Pepper Spray" that focuses on the many layers of effective personal protection. Some of the goals in class are seeing danger at a distance and avoiding it; making good, quick first decisions; acting on those decisions with confidence; understanding how to use pepper spray through scenarios and repetition; getting to safety and calling 911.

This class is usually full of beginners who are just starting on their self-defense journey, and we welcome them. I always keep in mind that everyone comes to class with a different background. Some are there because "something happened" and some are there to "prevent something from happening." One thing is a constant: No matter your history, practice is the key to mastery.

Common Pepper Spray Mistakes

There are three main things that I keep seeing at the beginning of the "hands-on" portion of class that can really slow down accomplishing your goal of stopping the bad actor quickly. I want to bring the student's attention to details during their practice sessions with an inert/practice pepper spray and possibly strengthen skills. Most pepper sprays require your thumb to press the button to activate the pepper spray. As a result, I frequently see:

1. Fingers covering the nozzle where the spray comes out.
2. Overspraying the target.
3. Missing the target because the first blast of pepper spray was too low.

There is an offset between your aiming thumb and the nozzle on your pepper spray. Each student mentioned how these errors are amazingly easy to correct, if you know you are doing it. That is the first step: Knowing. I suggest asking someone to watch you use

the inert pepper spray and pay attention to the entire process, or you could even set up your mobile phone to video yourself. Once confirmed, you can get to work correcting those problems.

First up is correcting your grip and fingers covering the nozzle. Sometimes, showing efficiency and confidence when you present your pepper spray is enough to change a bad guy's mind. Doing it right the first time could save your life.

* Pick a pepper spray unit that has finger grooves or a ledge right under the nozzle. These will give you a quicker index on your grip and where to place your index finger so it does not cover the nozzle.

* Set yourself up for success and correctly stage your pepper spray in your pocket or bag. Practice retrieving the spray with a good first grip without your finger covering the nozzle. If you find yourself presenting with the nozzle facing the wrong direction, reposition it in your pocket or bag, and try again. Once you find the placement and nozzle position that works best, practice that and always set your pepper spray up in that same position.

Our goal is to hit the bad guy's eyes to disable him long enough for us to get to safety. Hitting others with a spicy treat or losing time with overspray is suboptimal. Doing it right the first time could save your life.

* Once you have your grip and finger position figured out, practice movement with an inert spray across your target's eyes to see how far you are moving that arm from side to side.

* In the perfect world, you should see the water from your inert unit going across your target's eyes and maybe hitting the ears. If you see the liquid covering several inches off the target, then you may hit an innocent person, plus you are wasting precious pepper spray and time with excess motion.

* Practice those steps with a shorter side to side motion to stay in the desired area.

Continued...Pepper Spray: Do It Right the First Time

Missing the target because the first blast of pepper spray was too low: Accuracy is of the utmost importance. I have noticed that most people aim off the top of their bent thumb without thinking about where the nozzle is located on the pepper spray unit. Obviously, units will differ.

Doing it right the first time could save your life. This is called offset. You may have heard the term mechanical offset if you shoot firearms. Mechanical offset is the difference between where your sights/optics are mounted, or in this case, your bent thumb and the nozzle where the pepper spray comes out. In most cases, there is a difference as the sight/bent thumb is much higher than the barrel/nozzle. At close range, you should expect to see the pepper spray impact the target much lower than the bent thumb, which becomes important in close quarter encounters. Knowing your offset can be the difference between making the shot and missing the shot.

Hit 'Em Right Between the Eyes

If you aim off the top of your bent thumb targeting the eyes, I suggest you do again and really pay attention to where the spray hits. Is your first blast below the eyes? Did you have to bring the pepper spray up in mid-stream in order to spray him in the eyes? If so, try it again but this time, aim off the top of your bent thumb targeting the eyebrows. Now spray. I bet you are now hitting across the eyes, or at least closer. Play with it a bit, take the distance from your target into consideration and see what part of the face your new target is, since you are now taking the "bent thumb to nozzle" offset into consideration. Let's get an amazing first shot square in the bad guy's eyes.

In addition to the three things I mentioned, there are more things to practice when using pepper sprays like distance, verbal commands, your surroundings, which pepper spray manufacturer is rated the spiciest, when is leaving an option, and more. I highly recommend getting into a professional class to work on all the layers of using pepper spray effectively.

SAGA Personal Membership

SAGA annual individual Membership fees are:

Adult R300

Pensioner/Junior R180

Family: 1x Adult @R300 plus any number of family members @ R100 each

Join via our website at www.saga.org.za

By being a member you keep us in 'business' and we are able to continue working for fair and just firearm rights for responsible firearm owners in South Africa.

Do you know someone who supports the right to own a firearm for lawful purposes?

Get them to join SAGA today!

The SAGA office is now available on WhatsApp on our cellphone number
066 003 9226.



Defining Competency Standards for Concealed Carry

https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/defining-competency-standards-for-concealed-carry/?utm_source=newsletter

by Chris Cypert
14 April 2025

As a firearms and self-defense instructor, I'm often asked, "What is the minimum standard of shooting a private citizen should try to meet?" To answer this, I've tried to develop goals that were attainable with modest time commitment that would give them the best chance of success in real world defensive shooting. Goal setting is important, because many people believe that simply owning and possessing a firearm makes them "ready." Certainly there are a great many successful defensive gun uses by people with minimal or no training, but I think any rational and honest person would admit that at least some preparation is far better than no preparation at all. The goal is to answer the question, "How competent am I really, and how do I know that to be true?"

So with that in mind, we will tackle the question, "What is a reasonable minimum goal for technical shooting for the armed private citizen?" My opinions below presume basic safe gun-handling and knowledge of the law regarding self-defense as a given. That should be the starting point before we ever worry about becoming good shooters.

Perspective

This topic is always controversial, because any standards one might suggest will seem laughably low for some, and unrealistically high and unattainable for others. My recommended minimum goals are intended to solve the defensive shooting problems we commonly observe in the real world, without having to devote obsessive levels of time and effort commitment that the average person will never be willing or able to commit to. So if you're a high level shooter who far exceeds these goals then congratulations, but understand not everyone wants to make shooting their primary hobby. The purpose of this article is to share with people easily attainable shooting goals that will enable them to solve the vast majority of the gun problems they

could realistically face in their everyday lives. If you're nowhere near these shooting goals, don't be discouraged or offended. Just figure out where you are, and begin working to improve if defensive shooting skill is important to you. These are my three primary recommendations based on long periods of study, observation and experience

Draw-To-First-Hit

Analysis of real-world defensive shootings strongly suggests that the first participant to get an accurate, solid hit will win the fight. Generally speaking, the baseline definition of a "solid hit" is an approximately 8-inch circle in the high center mass of our target. The ability to rapidly draw and hit such a target from the holster is perhaps the most fundamental defensive shooting skill there is. It is possible you might see trouble coming, but in public we are not justified in drawing our loaded handgun unless we already see an imminent lethal threat. Once we've seen that imminent lethal threat, time is of the essence, as is accuracy.

To measure our draw-to-first-hit (DTFH) time there needs to be standard conditions. The standard for measuring DTFH is to set up an IDPA target at seven yards with the goal of hitting the -0 circle which measures 8 inches. You can also substitute any other target which has an 8-inch circle, or an IPSC target which has an A-zone measuring 6 inches wide by 11 inches tall. A shot timer is necessary to shoot this drill, but if you don't own one there are many serviceable apps available for smart phones. The standard goal I recommend for any citizen who carries a gun out into public is to be able to consistently score a hit in the 8-inch circle at seven yards in less than 2 seconds following the beep of the timer.

In training countless numbers of private citizens, I've found this goal is easily obtainable with some consistent dry practice and periodic work on the range. It's important to note that both elements are required (sub-2 seconds and an accurate hit), but accuracy is more important. You're better off getting hits in 2.5 or 3 seconds than fast misses. So the goal is to draw as quickly as you can while

Continued...Defining Competency Standards for Concealed Carry

handling your gun safely and shooting accurately. Obviously, people who train seriously and practice regularly can often far exceed this, with the best shooters far exceeding sub-1 second DTFH. If you want to pursue it to that degree, you're welcome to do so and I'll cheer you on (I am a bit faster than sub-2 seconds myself), but this article is to help those looking for goals find something that can be easily maintained with a modicum of training and practice.

Split Times

While drawing rapidly and getting the first accurate hit is probably the single most important defensive shooting skill, it's doesn't always solve the problem. Sometimes follow up shots are required. How many will be required? We can't possibly know that, because in defensive shooting we're basing everything we do on the attackers actions. As lawfully armed citizens we "shoot to stop." When facing a lethal attack, our goal is to shoot accurately until the threat has stopped, and then stop shooting.

To achieve this, we need to shoot accurately and quickly – this is an emergency lifesaving measure after all – but not so quickly we can no longer maintain accuracy or are unable to stop shooting as soon we've stopped the attack. The time between shots in a string of fire is known in the shooting world as "split times." Split times are measured by shot timers and give us feedback on how quickly we are shooting. Again, accuracy is primary, both because misses don't help us solve our problem and because we are legally and morally responsible for any misses we send downrange. This is why misses are also called "unacceptable hits" – all bullets hit somewhere.

The set up for measuring split times is the same as with DTFH: An 8-inch target (IDPA -0 or other, or IPSC A-zone) set up at seven yards. Like with DTFH this distance is chosen as an intermediate distance within the typical distances of defensive gun uses by private citizens. For measuring split times, you can begin with the gun holstered to get repetitions drawing the gun, or you can begin with the gun in hand in the low ready or already

on target. The goal is to measure the time between accurate hits, so set up really doesn't matter. You can begin by firing pairs, and then extend to firing strings of three, four, and so on. The goal I recommend for the average private citizen for purely defensive shooting is .5 second split times while scoring all hits.

This might be considerably faster than your current time between aimed shots. It is considerably slower than what very good shooters are capable of when firing as quickly as they can. Competitive shooters and other high end shooters routinely shoot sub-.2 second splits. If you're considerably slower than half second splits that is okay, but understand that defensive shooting requires urgency and you need to be able to stop a lethal threat quickly, however many rounds are required. If you are considerably faster than this then well done, but also ask yourself if you are making a conscious decision to fire each shot, or if you're making an independent decision with each round to fire.

In defensive shooting if the deadly attacker is still in front of us and attacking we are legally justified in shooting again. However, if he's decided to drop his weapon and flee or has fallen below our sights and muzzle we need enough time to hit the brakes and stop shooting. In my opinion, for real world defensive shooting half second splits are the "Goldilocks" zone for being quick enough to rapidly stop the threat, but deliberate enough that we are under control and measured in our shooting.

Conclusion

There are more baseline metrics of competence in defensive shooting, and I'll cover more in subsequent articles. For the armed citizen who already understands safe gun-handling and the laws regarding self-defense, and is wondering what to measure and what goals to set, these are great starting points: A rapid draw-to-first-hit and getting their split times down to where they are rapid but measured and under control. If you can meet these two goals, you've got the technical shooting skill to solve most of defensive shooting problems you are likely to encounter in the real world.

How Much Ammo Do You Carry?

https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/how-much-ammo-do-you-carry/?utm_source=newsletter

by Sheriff Jim Wilson

5 April 2025

Recently, I was remembering an old lawman that I used to know who spent years keeping the peace down on the border. He carried a Colt single-action revolver in .38/40, loaded with five cartridges and the hammer down on the empty cylinder for safety. When I asked him about having only five cartridges in a handgun that was slow to reload, he said that if you put five 180-grain slugs where they needed to go, you could reload at your leisure. He also pointed out that he had the mate to this Colt and would also stuff it in his belt if he thought the situation might warrant it.

On social media, if you bring up the question of how much ammo a person ought to carry, the floodgates open. Everyone has an opinion, and that opinion generally involves quite a bit of ammunition. I remember one armed citizen who informed us that he carried four extra magazines in addition to the one that was in the gun. And then, of course, you have the comedian who allows that the only time you have too much ammunition is if you are on fire.

Okay, so with all this extra ammunition, what do you do when your handgun craters on you? And I'm not talking about clearing malfunctions. I'm talking about when it breaks. And don't tell me that won't happen because I've seen it with my own two eyes. I even had one prototype come completely apart, with the slide and barrel going in sep-



arate directions. If that had happened in the middle of a gunfight, carrying that second gun might have seemed like a really good idea.

It might be that, instead of spending so much time talking about all the spare ammo we carry, it would be a better idea to focus on improving our ability to hit a target quickly and accurately with that first shot. Extra ammo is only important if you plan to miss a lot; center hits are what stop fights.

Developing good tactics and the use of available cover are also pretty important. And, for the armed citizen, getting away from the fight is always a good idea, especially when confronted by multiple attackers. These may be more important, or just as important, as carrying a lot of extra ammunition.

So what do I carry? Generally, it is one reload, though on occasion I've carried more. And, yes, there have been times when I carried two guns. But, I have always tried to keep my focus on being a better shot and a better fighter. That's what wins gunfights in the real world.

Focus on SAGA's 40 Year Insignia



Softshell Jacket

This quality softshell jacket is a Barron brand and is available in black with the simplified SAGA 40 Year logo embroidered on the front left chest.

The jacket has elasticated binding on the sleeve opening, front shaped panels with welt pockets, bar-tacks at pockets for added durability, inverted nylon full zip opening and an inner storm flap.

Comfortable and easy-to-wear, these jackets not only look good, but will wash well too. Available in sizes from small to 5XL.

These jackets need to be ordered - contact the office for more information.

Price: R660



Double Lock Folding Knife

This folder by Coast has an extremely comfortable nylon-handled grip, a 9.2cm long stainless steel blade with an ambidextrous opener which allows one-handed opening, a lanyard hole and a 3-position clip. The Double Lock is a patented safety switch mechanism that works in conjunction with a primary liner lock to prevent disengagement.

Lazer engraved with the simplified SAGA 40 Year logo, this strong folding knife is robust and will give years of good service.

Price: R380



PVC Patch with Velcro Backing

PVC patches are the modern equivalent to embroidered patches. Made of durable plastic they are flexible, lightweight, and weatherproof. The new SAGA PVC patch measures 6x4.2cm (length x width), and will attach to anything with Velcro like jackets, caps, backpacks and shooting bags.

Price: R90



Order on our website:
<https://shop.saga.org.za/>