



SAGA Snippets

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SAGA Vision Statement

SAGA envisions a future where the responsible use and ownership of firearms in South Africa is effectively regulated, and supported by modern and efficient systems that prioritize the licensing of competent individuals rather than specific firearms.

Our vision is guided by the following principles:

Privatization of the Central Firearms Registry (CFR):

SAGA advocates for the transfer of the CFR's responsibilities and functions from the South African Police Service (SAPS) to a dedicated and qualified independent entity. This will help streamline processes, improve efficiency, and ensure a focused approach to firearm management in South Africa.

Licensing the person, not the firearm:

SAGA believes in a system where individuals apply for competency and are licensed as responsible firearm owners and users. This approach acknowledges that the person, rather than the firearm, is the key factor in ensuring responsible gun ownership and usage.

Modernizing the CFR and implementing electronic processes:

SAGA aims to promote the adoption of technology to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of firearm licensing and competency management. This includes digitizing application processes, record-keeping, and communication between stakeholders.

Purpose-specific competency:

SAGA envisions a licensing system where competency is granted for specific purposes, such as self-defence, hunting, sports shooting, or conservation (private and public collecting). This ensures that individuals are appropriately trained and qualified for their intended firearm ownership and/or use.

High-level engagement with the government:

SAGA is committed to actively engaging with the government on behalf of its members to advocate for fair, practical, and responsible firearm regulations. We strive to maintain open lines of communication and collaborate with policymakers to achieve the best outcomes for all South African firearm owners.

By working towards this vision, SAGA aims to create a safer, more inclusive environment for responsible firearm owners in South Africa, while simultaneously promoting the legitimate use of firearms for self-defence, sport, hunting, evaluation and preservation (private and public collecting).

**SAGA Snippets
August 2023**

Special points of interest:

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- SAGA Membership
- What Causes Accidental Discharges?
- The Mistakes we Make
- SAGA Corporate Membership

Women's Month Events



Dragon Protection Services & Kings Gun Shop Ladies Range Day: 12 August 2023

A group of 30 women supported the self-defence and firearms introduction, hosted by Dragon Protection Services and Kings Gun Shop in Durban. The format included introductions and brief presentations on SAGA, legalities of self/private defence, firearms and firearm safety. The afternoon was split into self-defence and firearm disarming techniques, and one-on-one range time using a revolver, 9mm pistol, 12g shotgun and self-loading rifle (AK47).

Most ladies were new shooters, with a few having shot before or with family members who owned firearms. Queries and questions were addressed throughout the event - the most frequent related to safety issues and firearms around children, legalities, licensing procedures and advantages and disadvantages of different firearms.

Of particular interest were discussions on the myths and misconceptions surrounding firearms and the supporting statistics countering the anti-gun propaganda.

At least one participant was anti-gun but was there and interested in learning more firsthand. For her, this sentiment was mainly due to perceived safety issues and common misconceptions. She was anxious but excited to try the various firearms and was all smiles. This epitomised SAGA's objective in supporting the event.

*By Shaun Lyle - KZN / Southern Cape SAGA
Representative*





Women's Month Events



False Bay Sports Shooting Club (FBSSC) Ladies Shoot: 9 August 2023

SAGA in conjunction with the National Hunting and Sports Association (NHSA) jointly co-sponsored a ladies shoot on the 9th August 2023 at the premises of the False Bay Sports Shooting Club (FBSSC), Glencairn, Simon's Town, Cape Town.



Unfortunately attendance was affected by the recent taxi strike / violence in Cape Town and many ladies probably decided to stay at home because of safety concerns.

However those ladies that did attend had lots of fun shooting various firearms, as well as had the opportunity to compete in IPSC, SADPA or Clay Target Shooting.



SAGA in conjunction with the FBSSC will make future FBSSC Ladies Shoots a bigger event so watch this space for next year.

Thanks to Herman and Cornel Els of the NHSA for coming on board as a co-sponsor of this event and the other ladies events / shoots happening throughout the month of August.



By *Damian Enslin* - SAGA
Chairman



Blending in While Carrying Concealed

by Kevin Creighton
10 July 2023

My friend Alex runs "The Suited Shootist," a community dedicated to those who like to dress well while heavily armed. It's an important topic, because I've noticed a certain groupthink when it comes to the firearms community and clothing. We (as guys) tend to fall into one of two camps:

> The Not-So-Rugged Outdoorsman: Cover garment is a flannel shirt if you live up north, a lightweight Columbia (or equivalent) fishing shirt if you don't. Jeans (with pocketknife and flashlight clips peeking out) are essential, as is a pair of low-profile hiking boots or a pair of Crocs. A body which is capable of doing a 10-mile ruck march at the drop of a hat? That's optional. VERY optional.

> The Nine-Line Spokesmodel: Merrell shoes. Beard oil. A minimum of one American flag per square foot of clothing. Cargo pants that could conceal a sizable portion of Portugal. Tactical man purse to hold the 33 round spare mags for their backup gun. "Don't Tread On Me" ball cap. Will talk about their score in the latest Tactical Games event until they're blue in the face.

Both of these groups of people think they're blending in with society, but in reality, they're blending in with the other members of their group. This was brought home to me a few years ago at Tac-Con, where a bunch of attendees were milling about in a hotel lobby and we all looked exactly the same. Our choice of clothing made it clear that we were all part of some event and shared a common culture, the problem was, it wasn't the same culture as our peers. We stood out like a sore thumb compared to the other patrons of that hotel.

So how do we blend in? Well, for starters, when you decide to join the concealed carry lifestyle and have a defensive gun on you whenever you can, you're going to have to figure out how to conceal your gun. For years, the conventional wisdom on this was

that a gun should be comforting, not comfortable, and that you had to "dress around the gun."

Our Mission, Should We Choose To Accept It...

We should keep in mind, however, that the source of that advice was usually someone with a military or law enforcement background. The mission of both of those professions is radically different from the mission of the armed citizen, and that affects how they think about their guns. Fashion and cultural issues aren't really applicable for most military servicemen, and aside from undercover work, not really an issue for law enforcement as well. For the rest of us, the idea of "dressing around the gun" is yet another roadblock on the path to the concealed carry lifestyle.

What we're seeing now, though, is a new generation of firearms trainers whose roots are in the world of the armed citizen, not in the precinct or barracks. Trainers like Claude Werner and the crew at Citizen's Defense Research stress training with real-world concealed carry solutions. In addition to this, the popularity of small and thin 9mm pistols like the Smith and Wesson Shield and Springfield Armory Hellcat and new methods of carry like the PHLster Enigma mean that it's easier than ever to have a pistol on you when you need it the most, but not look like you have a pistol on you.

Printing Matters. Unless It Doesn't.

"Ah, but Kevin," I hear you say, "Aren't you worried about 'printing,' where the shape of your gun causes a noticeable bulge under your clothing?"

Well, yes and no. As I just said, the state of the art in both holsters and guns is such these days that there's really no reason why your pistol should cause a bulge in your clothing, especially if you're following the advice we hand out (for free!) on this site.

→ →



Continued...Blending in

There is a paradox if your pistol or other gear does cause a bump in your outer layers. 95 percent of the people are not going to notice that anything's amiss because they just do not look for such things on a day in, day out basis. Not only that, but if they by chance spot something out of place, they're not going to care about it. However, the 5% who do notice such things are going to care about it, and care quite a lot. Chances are it'll be someone like me, who tends to look for such things in my surroundings. However, it could also be a bad guy, looking around before doing something nefarious. If that's the case, one of three things is going to happen.

The bad guy is going to target you because you have a gun.

The bad guy is crazy enough to ignore you and go ahead with his plans anyways.

The bad guy is going to go somewhere else.

Pretty darn good odds, if you ask me.

So You've Been Caught. Now What?

The biggest problem with a pistol that "prints" is the awkwardness it can cause in social situations where you must explain that yes, that is a gun, and while you're happy to be with your friends, you now have to explain at length about why you carry one. You may have been somewhere where it was 100% legal to carry, but now you've got to explain to any number of people why you're carrying (at best) or may have to leave the area (at worst), even though you did nothing wrong.

Taking the extra steps to make sure your concealed carry pistol is concealed is worth it, but do so that is fully concealed, and do it in a way so you blend in with the people around. The idea of being an armed citizen is to blend in with the citizenry, not stick out like a sore thumb.

Extracted from:

<https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/blending-in-while-carrying-concealed/>



SAGA Membership

SAGA annual 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**.



What Causes Accidental Discharges?



By George Harris

3 August 2023

I have been reading a lot about guns going off on their own lately for a variety of reasons. Most of these incidents have involved pistols, sometimes inside holsters and other times being dropped or banged up against something, causing the gun to fire. Last hunting season, a local man was injured when his rifle, which was propped up against his truck, fell and fired, hitting him in the leg. I was under the impression that all modern firearms were subjected to a "drop test" in order to prevent firing unless the trigger was intentionally pulled.

Am I missing something, or am I being misled by what I am reading?

Lek Jekovic, West Bend, WI

Without examining the guns involved in each case, it is hard to offer a definitive opinion as to what the actual facts were to cause an unintentional discharge. However, what I can do is offer some food for thought so you can separate the likelihoods of what you are reading from truth or fiction.

Today, most, if not all, of the reputable manufacturers of firearms participate in the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Institute (SAAMI) Voluntary Industry Performance Standards. What this means is when a new design or a major change in an existing design is introduced, testing takes place to ensure the design is safe, sound and functional.

One of these tests you referenced is the drop test, in which the firearm is dropped—under controlled conditions—from a distance of 4 feet onto a 1-inch-thick rubber mat on a con-

crete floor. The gun is loaded with dummy rounds to duplicate the weight of the fully loaded gun, and a primed case in the chamber to replicate what is considered a fully loaded gun in a safe carry condition. The gun is dropped from a minimum of six different angles, checking for primer indent after each drop. If the primer is untouched by the firing pin or striker after the series of drop angles, the design is considered to be drop safe.

There are some variables to testing trigger mechanisms such as the Jar-Off test and exceptions for target arms with trigger pulls designed to release at 3 pounds or less. For more detail on these tests, an online search at saami.org will reveal document Z299.5-2016 (from the SAAMI website) which provides information that is too large for this column.

When it comes to guns firing by themselves, I can offer what has been my experience in more than three decades of examining guns that have come into question, from a mechanical perspective.

Unless a gun was improperly assembled, modified or worn to the point of failing to meet the manufacturer's specifications for that model, I have yet to see a gun that originally met the SAAMI test specifications fire without something touching the trigger.

Consider that many firearms of modern manufacture have trigger safeties that prevent the movement of the trigger unless the safety is disengaged, under pressure, prior to the trigger moving to fire the gun. → →



SAGA Continued...What Causes Accidental Discharges?

Also, consider that many modern manufactured guns have striker- or firing-pin safeties, which prevent their contact with the primer of the chambered cartridge unless the trigger is intentionally pulled.

Many guns with visible hammers have mechanical features that prevent the hammer from contacting the firing pin unless the trigger is pulled. These include safety notches, transfer bars and hammer blocks. Most striker-fired guns have incorporated mechanisms to ensure the striker and sear remain connected until the trigger is pulled.

All the aforementioned are considered passive safeties, since they function automatically and independently of any input from the shooter. When you consider that any reputable firearm manufactured in recent history has incorporated many of these safety features into their design, it is hard to conceive of a properly working firearm discharging as a result of being dropped.

With the addition of manual safeties to the equation, which further lock a gun's firing mechanism, one has to wonder how a well-designed gun, in good working order, manages to discharge unintentionally.

However, the claims are there to fuel the fire of questioning the guns and the validity of their design. Discounting shooter error or interference with the trigger from extraneous foreign material, the likelihood of a modern firearm discharging without any outside influence is extremely low in my opinion.

It is important to distinguish the possibilities from the probabilities when all the facts are presented in cases where guns have allegedly discharged with no outside influence. Because, as the title of this column suggests: The truth lies in the proof.

https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/what-causes-accidental-discharges/?utm_source=newsletter



The Mistakes We Make

<https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/the-mistakes-we-make/>

by Sheriff Jim Wilson
29 July 2023

I make it a point to study reports of armed citizens who are forced to defend themselves from criminal attacks. In addition to this, I pay attention to comments about defense guns and personal defense from folks on social media. While I often get some good, useful ideas from these, I also see some mistakes that are all too common.

What follows, in no particular order, are three of those mistakes that can easily be corrected with some thought and prior planning.

Not Enough Gun

The first is the guy who is only going to run a quick errand, so he grabs a small gun and drops it into his pocket. Now I am not knocking the fact that small defense guns are sometimes useful and needed, but I fear that too many don't realize that the smaller the gun, the harder it is to get good, quick hits.

We should always keep in mind that the fight is going to be what it is going to be, not what we suppose it will be. We might have in mind that we might be in danger of walking into the middle of an armed robbery in that convenience store when, in fact, the fight occurs out in the parking lot or on the street before we even get to the store. The simple fact is, the smaller the gun, the more we must train and practice with it and that seems to be what many people aren't getting enough of.

Don't Stand So Close To Me

Another mistake is letting a suspicious person (Condition Orange) get too close to us before we begin to consider taking some sort of defensive action. Now I'm not talking about going all "Wyatt Earp" on some guy who is just wanting to ask directions. But when you sense a potential threat, you need to get your hands empty, think about dealing with



your covering garment and give thought to your defensive options. You may stop his approach verbally, you may get something between you, or you may create distance. But you really don't want him to get right in your face if you can possibly avoid it.

Out Of Date Training

Another mistake is generally made by those who rely on their military or civilian firearms training from years ago as being sufficient to deal with a criminal attack. When we do get these folks on the range it is usually quite clear that their abilities are lacking. They may be spending too much time living in the past and don't realize it.

Now, mind you, I am not knocking this early training. But the fact is that shooting and other defensive skills are quickly diminishing skills. We regularly train and practice because that is the only way to keep tuned up. It also makes us aware of the changes that are occurring with our bodies as the years go by. In the end, it is not about what we used to do as much as it is about what we can do today, right now.

So, there are some mistakes that we are all susceptible to. Undoubtedly, you can think of other common mistakes that armed citizens make. We should all do that and make the necessary changes in our lifestyles and habits to create a harder target.



SAGA Corporate Membership

SAGA Corporate Members are clubs, associations and businesses who actively endorse the work being done by SAGA to protect firearm ownership rights in South Africa. *Please support those that support SAGA!*

Sign up as a Corporate Member on our website today!



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