



SAGA Snippets

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SAGA Addresses Gun Violence in the Media

SAGA's appearances in the media of late have helped to raise awareness of the organization's mission and advocacy efforts. Here are some of the most recent:

On February 9th, Aziza Scheidereiter, a representative of SAGA based in Somerset West, appeared on CGTN, a state-run English-language news channel based in Beijing, China.

On February 10th, Damian Enslin, SAGA Chairman, appeared on Radio Al Ansaar, which broadcasts in KZN to Durban and Pietermaritzburg.

On February 13th, Themba Kubheka, another SAGA representative, appeared on Jozi FM, a popular community radio station in Johannesburg.

Also on February 13th, Damian Enslin was interviewed live on Newzroom Afrika, a 24-hour news channel based in Johannesburg.

On February 14th, Damian was featured on Imvula FM, a community radio station in KwaZulu-Natal. The organization's representative discussed the importance of gun education and training, as well as the need for responsible gun ownership to prevent gun violence.

On February 16th, SAGA had an article feature in the Daily Maverick, a prominent South African news publication. The article pointed out that the claim that gun violence is the primary cause of murder in South Africa, is not supported by the facts.

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2023-02-16-gun-violence-not-the-primary-cause-of-murder-in-south-africa-saga/>

By Damian Enslin
16 February 2023

In acknowledging that South Africa does have a high rate of violent crime, it is important to examine the root causes of this violence and not simply blame guns as the sole cause.

I feel it is my duty to address the recent claims by Adèle Kirsten regarding gun violence in South Africa. While it is important to acknowledge the very real issue of violent crime in our country, it is equally important to ensure that the information presented is accurate and does not mislead the public.

The available statistics can be easily skewed to suit specific agendas. Kirsten claims that 30 people are killed per day by gunshot, but we believe the actual number is lower than that.

According to recent rankings by Wisevoter, drawing on the latest statistics from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation and The Lancet's Global Burden of Disease study, South Africa has a murder rate of 34.4 per 100,000 people, which includes 16.95 deaths by stabbing and 4.87 by gunshot per 100,000 people. This means that while gun homicides are a serious issue, they are not the most common means of homicide in our country. Knives and other weapons

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February 2023

Special points of interest:

- SAGA Addresses Gun Violence
- How to Diagnose (& Fix) Failures to Feed and Fire
- Making the Right Moves
- 5 Need-To-Know Trigger Terms To Help You Shoot Better
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are more prolific than gun homicides, and should not be overlooked.

Furthermore, Kirsten's decision to use the tragic death of a celebrity to push her own agenda is not only disrespectful to the deceased and their loved ones, but it also undermines the very serious issue of violent crime in South Africa. Thousands of people are murdered in our country each year, and their deaths are not on the radar of the media or in public discourse. We must remember that every victim of violent crime is someone's loved one, and their loss is felt deeply by those left behind.

At the South African Gunowners' Association (SAGA), we are committed to promoting the safety of all South Africans, not just those who choose to exercise their constitutional right to own a firearm. We understand that the issue of violent crime in our country is complex, and requires a comprehensive approach that takes into account all the factors that contribute to it.

We also understand that many South Africans feel powerless in the face of violent crime, and that the criminal justice system is often unable to provide the justice they deserve.

It is time for us to come together as a nation and address violent crime in a meaningful and productive way. We cannot afford to be misled by inaccurate information or allow ourselves to be divided by those who seek to exploit tragedy for their own gain. We must stand together and work towards a safer and more just South Africa for all.

It is undeniable that South Africa has a high rate of violent crime, with a murder rate that is among the highest in the world. However, it is important to examine the causes of this violence and not simply blame guns as the sole cause. Kirsten's claim that gun violence is the primary cause of murder in South Africa is not supported by the facts.

Studies have shown that poverty, inequality, unemployment and poor education are

among the primary drivers of violence in the country. They create an environment in which crime can thrive, and it is this environment that needs to be addressed to reduce the levels of violence.

It is also important to note that while gun ownership is legal in South Africa, it is highly regulated. To legally own a gun one must undergo accredited training, apply for a competency certificate with the SAPS, which involves background checks, and then obtain a licence, all of which takes months. Those law-abiding South Africans who choose to own firearms, use their guns for self-defence, sport shooting or hunting, collecting or for business purposes.

SAGA believes that responsible gun ownership is a crucial component of a safe and secure society, and that law-abiding citizens have the right to protect themselves and their families.

We also advocate for stronger and more effective law enforcement and harsher punishments for those who commit violent crimes, regardless of the method used to commit the crime. This includes addressing issues such as corruption within law enforcement, ineffective and under-resourced policing, improving the capacity of the justice system to handle cases effectively and improving crime intelligence.

In acknowledging that South Africa does have a high rate of violent crime, it is important to examine the root causes of this violence and not simply blame guns as the sole cause.

At SAGA, we stand with the people of South Africa in promoting responsible gun ownership and advocating for a safe and secure society for all. We believe that by working together we can address the root causes of violence in the country and create a better future for all. DM/MC

As SAGA continues to make its presence known in the media, the organization's commitment to responsible gun ownership and education is a positive step towards creating a safer and more informed society.



How to Diagnose (& Fix) Failures to Feed and Fire



By Frank Melloni
13 February 2023

Just bought your first gun? As a firearms instructor, I've noticed that nearly every new shooter that I've ever worked with has intimated that they are terrified that they won't know what to do when (not if) the gun jams.

Of course, the easiest jams are the ones that don't happen, so in this article, we'll cover some of the most common mishaps, how to clear them, and what you can do to keep them from happening again.

Light strikes

Light strikes are when you know that you chambered a round, hear the distinct click of the striker or hammer moving forward, but then nothing happens. Upon ejection, you notice that the primer has a small dimple, but not nearly as deep as the ones on the cases that fired. Light strikes on the range are fairly common and are handled by keeping the gun pointed downrange for 30 seconds before opening the action and discarding the round. Conventional practice used to be to rechamber it and try again, but ammo is cheaper than a visit to the gunsmith (or the doctor), so my advice is to trash the "dud" round.

There are a few causes of light strikes, one being ammunition. Some primers are harder than others. If you notice the issue happening with a certain brand, simply avoid that brand and you are all set. The other causes revolve around the firing pin. In many cases, it's a

matter of the firing pin channel being dirty or greasy. Disassemble this area of the gun, clean it thoroughly, and reassemble it without any grease or oil. If your pistol is striker-fired, change the spring in the process. It only costs a few dollars and typically doesn't require any tools. While you are at it, you can also research if an "enhanced power" spring exists. That could be your ticket to getting hard-to-ignite ammo to run.

Double Feeds

Did you press the trigger only to look down, and see that two rounds are contending for your chamber at the same time? We call that a double feed.

Step one, take a deep breath. Step two, lock the action to the rear. Next, pull the magazine out while depressing the magazine release (this might take some effort), then clear any brass or live cartridges out of the action. Don't get nervous if you have to do a little poking or picking that is less than gentle. As long as you avoid hitting the primer area, ammunition can take a fair bit of objection without inadvertently going off.

Double-feed diagnosis can typically be traced back to a bad magazine, specifically one with loose feed lips. In this instance, the lips are worn, stretched or damaged. While some folks like to try to reshape them, I have found it's far easier to replace the magazine and see if that solves the problem. If not, the next place to check is your extractor, especially if the problem presents itself with fired brass in the chamber and a fresh round butted up against it. A damaged extractor simply won't get the case out of the way in time for the new one to enter. Don't fret; this is another user-replaceable part.

Stove pipes

A stove pipe is some form of a failed ejection, presenting itself as a fired piece of brass hanging out of the action. This one has a

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tendency to drive new shooters nuts because the trouble can come from several different areas.

The first thing to do is clean your gun, particularly the chamber, slide and guide rails.

Excessive friction in any of these places can be enough to slow down case extraction to the point where it can't get out of the way of the slide coming back fast enough. A thorough scrub followed by proper lubrication might be all it takes. If you find that to work, keep track of how many rounds it took to get to that point and clean in half that amount.

If that doesn't solve the problem, again, see if you can narrow it down to one type of ammunition. Some rounds are built to create less pressure than others, which in some cases might not be enough to completely cycle the slide. If it is just that one type, shoot it up, practice clearing these jams in the process, and never buy it again.

The last common cause of stovepiping is user error. If your pistol is recoil-operated (most are), then it needs something firm to recoil against to do science to the slide. That "something" is your hand. Make sure that you have a full presentation, a firm but not overly

aggressive grip, and that you learn to control any flinching as you press the trigger. If you have any questions as to whether or not your grip is correct, spend some time with a certified instructor before sending your gun back. It's also an excellent way to make sure that you aren't holding the gun in a way that can hurt your hand.

Dealing with malfunctions at the range doesn't have to be terrifying. As long as you keep the gun pointed downrange and your finger off the trigger, very little can go wrong. Furthermore, there is no better way to learn how to clear these jams other than experiencing them firsthand and rectifying the issue unaided.

Lastly, there is an indescribable sense of pride that comes with diagnosing and fixing mechanical issues without the help of a gunsmith. It also teaches us that with a little knowledge and a basic cleaning kit we can handle darn near anything!

<https://www.nrafamily.org/content/how-to-diagnose-fix-failures-to-feed-and-fire/>

Making The Right Moves

https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/making-the-right-moves/?utm_source=021623email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=021623email&utm_id=021623email

by Sheriff Jim Wilson
10 February 2023



Once the defensive shooter has begun to grasp the basics of gun handling and marksmanship, it is time to begin to work on tactics.

One of the most important tactics is movement: By quickly moving when an attack occurs, we cause the attacker to have to readjust his aim and his stance. There may also be a psychological advantage in that the attacker's confidence is weakened and he may not feel so quite in charge of the situation.

Often, with classes on a square range, we may work at having the students move a few steps one way or another. This is largely due to the limitations we face due to the location and the size of the class. In actuality, it is a good idea to move as much and as often as possible. The only reason that I would move one or two steps is if that was all it took to get behind cover.

In considering movement it is also important to consider foot work. Anytime a person's feet are together they are in danger of being off balance or easily knocked down. We learn to step and stand so that our feet are never together and we can maintain some sort of athletic stance.

In considering movement, we should practice moving to one side or another, or at an angle, or in a circling motion. There are, however, two forms of movement that can cause us trouble. One is to move straight backwards, because this is the likeliest way to trip over something. The second is to turn our backs to the threat because we lose total control and have no idea where our attacker is or what he is doing.

It is an excellent idea to practice movement with a partner. No guns of any kind are needed. One simply plays the bad guy and the other the victim. The bad guy's task is to simply stay facing his victim and in a position where he can make his attack. The victim tries to move with speed or unexpected direction in order to get the attacker off balance. And you lose points any time your feet come together. On the square range we are forced to deal with a one-dimensional situation but the practice sessions give us a true three-dimensional experience and more closely resemble a real-life situation.

Take time to consider and practice your movement techniques. It could just be the very thing that saves your life.



5 Need-To-Know Trigger Terms To Help You Shoot Better

By Frank Melloni
8 February 2023

"You're slapping the trigger..."

"No, now you are hesitating! No not like that, now you are anticipating!"

During my career as an instructor, and now the owner of an instruction company, I have overheard the preceding sequence of criticisms poured down on a first-time shooter. The poor soul is usually somebody who is already nervous and to some degree overwhelmed with the new skill they are trying to pick up in, let's face it, not exactly the most comfortable of environments.

The frustration that the student is now facing comes directly from the frustration of the above referenced friend or family member not understanding how to put the fundamentals of a good squeeze into words for their student. This is where a professional instructor is worth their salt.

One of the tenets of understanding a good trigger squeeze involves knowing that these fundamentals differ from trigger to trigger depending on its style.

With just a little bit of nomenclature one can talk the talk that is needed to understand how to walk the walk.

1. Double action

A double-action trigger performs two actions during its stroke. As the trigger is initially moved rearward it cocks the hammer. At the very end of its travel it releases the hammer, firing the shot. A shooter who is firing off a shot with this long double-action movement must apply the same amount of pressure, at the same rate, while getting it to go bang. There shouldn't be a single pause.

2. Two-stage trigger

A two-stage trigger is often confused with a double-action trigger. While a double-action trigger will be stiff and require the same pull weight throughout its entire movement, a

two-stage trigger will have a very light first stage, and then somewhere in its travel will tighten up and require more pull strength. If you require a hesitation to maybe take a breath or further refine your sight picture, it can and should only be done in between stage 1 and stage 2.

3. Single-stage trigger

Single-stage triggers are the most common triggers on the market. In an exposed-hammer firearm, a single-stage trigger will also only perform one single action — releasing the hammer.

Most single-stage triggers have an amount of "take up," which is basically just slack. During its movement it isn't engaging any of the internal parts. Essentially, if you pointed the gun up and then down you might even hear it rattle. After that take up (the slack), a good single-action trigger will break like a piece of glass. This is referred to as "being crisp." A poorly built trigger will be spongy and feel almost like a double-action trigger; this is referred to as "having creep."

When squeezing a single-stage trigger it is important to treat it just like a double-action trigger, so once the shooter starts applying pressure (past the slack) they do not stop or even change speed until the gun fires.

4. Safe-action trigger

Safe-action triggers were made famous by Glock. The idea makes perfect sense: Put the trigger safety inside of the trigger. A safe-action style trigger will have a thin blade on the very face of the trigger that needs to be depressed in order for it to fire. Once that blade is depressed the trigger unlocks and will have a period of free travel, followed by some stiffness, and then eventually.... BANG! At Renaissance Firearms Instruction we teach the three S's of a safe-action trigger to a new shooter. They are:

Safety. Slack. Squeezeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeze.

Using this mantra a new shooter allows themselves to take a pause after they feel the

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safety come off, then pause again after they take up the slack and then finally squeeze that third stage all the way through without stopping. It's a terrific way to teach a new shooter trigger control.

5. Set trigger

A set trigger is a nearly antiquated piece of technology due to modern internal design. However, if you do have the chance to pick one up, I highly recommend you do... because they are nothing short of breath-taking.

A set trigger firearm traditionally has two triggers inside of the trigger guard. The trigger that is closest to the muzzle acts as a safety. Before firing these firearms the shooter must move that set trigger to the opposite position which will in turn release the locking mechanism on the actual firing trigger. Why do we do this? Because that firing trigger is so light it can't even be measured in ounces!

When teaching a new shooter how to use a set trigger it's essential that they understand safety rule number two and keep their finger completely away from the trigger until they are 100 percent certain that they are ready to send a round downrange. Once they have reached that point these triggers are so light it doesn't matter if they hit them with a sledgehammer, they will still stay on target during the movement.

When it comes to selecting a firearm, or learning how yours works, it is essential that you understand exactly how your trigger operates. It will save you a lot of headache when it comes to producing your tightest groups.

Regardless of how your gun is built always remember: A trigger is meant to be operated gently, and that we never make a gun fire, we let a gun fire.

<https://www.nrafamily.org/content/5-need-to-know-trigger-terms-to-help-you-shoot-better/>



SAGA Membership

SAGA annual Membership fees for 2023 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 soon,

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

If you would like to send us a query or message by WhatsApp, please remember to include your Name and Membership Number (if applicable).

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!*

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