



SAGA Snippets

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Opinion: NO GUNS for Citizens but ARMED Protection for the Politically Connected

By Shaun Lyle
25 September 2025

South African 'leaders' keep telling the public that private firearm ownership is "**dangerous**" and "**unnecessary**." Yet these same elites, from NEDLAC to COSATU, CSP to SAPS, MPs to Cabinet Ministers, move around flanked by heavily armed protection teams. They preach disarmament of citizens while living under taxpayer-funded 24/7 armed security - this is contemptuous and hypocritical!

Between 2020 and 2025, taxpayers spent nearly **R1.47 billion** on VIP protection for the executive **alone** i.e. the President, Deputy President, Ministers and Deputy Ministers.

Alarmingly this figure **excludes** armoured convoys, private security contracts, static guards, fortified homes, judiciary, legislators, 'ad-hoc' VIPs, vehicles, protected police stations and overtime. All funded from the policing budget, leaving ordinary South Africans to fend for themselves – and with **no reported protection** for brave corruption-busters or whistle-blowers.

These so-called "public servants" regularly abuse other road users in speeding armoured blue light convoys, shelter behind electric fences surrounded by armed guards while telling the public to "trust SAPS" and "comply - it's in the public interest."

For the 2025/26 financial year, the overall Protection and Security Services Programme [see Footnote] received an allocation of **R4.34 billion**, with **half** of this earmarked for VIP protection alone. This is approximately 2% of South Africa's entire police budget and is used to serve only a few hundred political elites.

South Africa has two classes of safety: **The Protected Class** – Politicians, top bureaucrats and union leaders. Surrounded by guns, armoured vehicles and guards at taxpayers' expense. **The Exposed Class** – Everyone else. Told to disarm while SAPS 'loses' thousands of firearms to criminal networks, fails to arrest violent offenders, and the justice system proves incapable of convicting 90%+ of the cases it presides over.

If armed protection is essential for the elites, then it is a **RIGHT** for everyone else. The Constitution does not reserve the Right to Life and Liberty only for political elites and connected parties.

Worse still, VIP protection units behave as if untouchable. In 2023, eight of the Deputy President's VIP officers were caught on video assaulting civilians on the N1 highway. Despite clear footage and global outrage, SAPS acquitted them internally and they remain armed and on duty while facing criminal charges.

SAGA Snippets September 2025

Special points of interest:

- *Opinion: No Guns for Citizens but Armed Protection for the Politically Connected*
- *SAGA Personal Membership*
- *Wildland Magazine September 2025*
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Continued...Opinion: NO GUNS for Citizens but ARMED Protection for the Politically Connected

This sends a chilling message:
State close protection teams are **above the law** and free to brutalise the public with impunity.

SAGA calls on Government and The Civilian Secretariat for Police Service (CSPS) to answer this crucial question:

On what moral and ethical basis does the State deny citizens the means of defence that it grants its own political elites?

The hard reality is if the State cannot, or will not, protect its citizens, then it has absolutely **NO authority** to dictate to, or attempt to disarm them!

Footnote:

South African 2025/26 Budget:

In the 2025/26 financial year, the overall Protection and Security Services Programme received an allocation of R4.34 billion.

Purpose of the Budget:

Protection Services:

The budget is used to provide protection and security services for high-profile individuals, including the President, Deputy President, former presidents and deputy presidents, cabinet ministers, and other identified VIPs.

In-Transit and Static Protection:

Services cover both in-transit security, such as during travel, and static protection at various locations.

Context and Debate:

Controversial Spending:

The significant allocation to VIP protection has been a point of contention, with some political parties advocating for its reduction to fund other areas like frontline policing.

Prioritization Concerns:

Critics argue that the high cost of protecting a small number of elites is a misallocation of resources when compared to the needs of broader crime prevention and public safety.



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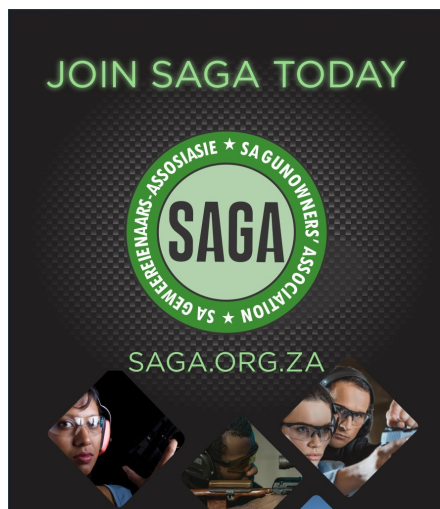
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Do you know someone who supports the right to own a firearm for lawful purposes?

Get them to join SAGA today!

The SAGA office is now available on WhatsApp on **066 003 9226**

Wildland Magazine September 2025

As part of SAGA's collaboration with Wildland here is the link to your free copy of Wildland magazine, September 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/70726931/wildland-september-2025-c>





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Roadblock Legal Rights Guide

– What You Need to Know

Martin Hood's June 2025 YouTube video on Roadblocks provides a concise, legally grounded walkthrough (aka The Hood Factor) of your rights and obligations when stopped at a South African roadblock. View at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5BBpc8VpUcl>

Know your rights. Assert responsibly. Comply lawfully.

Legal Authority

Only properly authorised roadblocks are lawful under Section 13(8) of the SAPS Act.

A lawful roadblock:

- Is established with written authorisation by a Provincial or National Commissioner (or delegate).
- Specifies the location, date/time and purpose.
- Is clearly marked (cones, signage, uniforms).
- Includes officers who can show official SAPS ID or appointment cards.

Hood Factor advises you to ask the question:

"Is this a lawfully authorised roadblock? May I please see the authorisation?"

Documents You Must Produce

At a lawful roadblock, you are legally required to present:

- Your valid driver's licence
- The vehicle licence disc
- Your firearm licence (if carrying a firearm)

If You are Carrying a Firearm



DO:

- Disclose that you are armed if asked
- Keep your firearm secured – in a holster, bag, or safe
- Present your firearm licence if requested

✗ DO NOT:

- Hand over your firearm
- Remove it from the holster unless specifically instructed

Hood Factor states:

“Do not hand your firearm to a police officer. Instead, retain control. If inspection is requested, advise the officer you will now access your firearm for inspection, and allow them to view the weapon (serial number) without relinquishing control.”

Firearms Inside Vehicles – Your Personal Space

Martin Hood further emphasises that your vehicle is an extension of your personal/private space; therefore any threat by SAPS to arrest you if your firearm is not holstered is invalid and unlawful:

✓ Always keep your firearm secured and under your control – bagged, holstered or securely stowed.

⊘ Do not leave firearms unholstered or exposed in the cabin – this can cause alarm, misinterpretation or escalation, even if the firearm is legal.

Hood Factor advises:

“Control of your firearm matters – not just legally, but practically. In your vehicle your firearm should be under your direct control but not exposed.”

Roadblock Firearm Inspections – Key Principles

There is no fixed standard procedure expressly outlined in the Firearms Control Act (FCA) for how firearm serial number inspections (S107) must be conducted at a roadblock. Any such process must comply with general safety principles, constitutional rights, and SAPS Standing Orders.

If Asked to Present a Firearm for Inspection a Practical and Safe Approach is:

1. You may question whether the officer has lawful grounds to inspect your firearm.
“Officer, are you requesting this under Section 107 of the Firearms Control Act?”
2. Do NOT remove or present the firearm unless clearly instructed to do so – and only if a safe protocol is agreed upon.
3. Politely request that the firearm inspection be done in a safe and secure location, not at the roadside or in public view.
“I will cooperate however for safety reasons only in a safe area and following the correct procedure.”
4. Remain calm, keep your hands visible and do not make sudden movements. Clearly state the location of the firearm (e.g. holstered, bagged, in a vehicle safe, etc.).
5. Under no circumstances should you unholster or handle the firearm in the officer’s presence without specific instructions. Let SAPS direct the process, ideally in a controlled environment.
6. Only make the firearm safe (remove magazine, unload and open the chamber) if expressly requested to do so – and then only in a safe location and under SAPS direct supervision.

📞 If you have doubts about the legitimacy of the roadblock, you are entitled to call 10111 and request verification of the roadblock's legitimacy.

Roadblock Safety in South Africa: Stay Inside the Vehicle

For your own safety:

Do not exit the vehicle with a firearm on your person unless specifically instructed to do so by the officer – and only if the officer ensures a controlled and safe environment.

Do not draw or display your firearm at the roadside or in public view.

Do not challenge or obstruct the officer in an aggressive manner. Remain calm, cooperative, and respectfully assert your rights where appropriate.

You are within your rights to keep your doors locked and engage through a slightly open window until you:

- Confirm SAPS identity – appointment cards, name tags,
- See marked police vehicles and roadblock signage,
- Are satisfied it is a lawfully authorised roadblock.

This caution is even more critical for women travelling alone. Exiting a vehicle – especially in rural areas or at night – unnecessarily can increase vulnerability to hijacking, assault, or intimidation.

Searches – Know What's Allowed

At a lawful roadblock:

- Police may visually inspect your vehicle, check your driver's licence and the vehicle disc status.
- They may search your vehicle without a warrant.

At an informal roadside stop (non-roadblock):

- Officers must have either your consent or reasonable suspicion of criminal activity.
- You may lawfully refuse a search if neither condition is met.

Hood Factor:

Refusing an unlawful search is **not** a criminal offence. Refuse politely and calmly.

Alternatively, you have the right to challenge any improper search after the fact.

If You Are Detained or Arrested

You have the RIGHT to:

- ★ Be told why you are being detained.
- ★ Be treated with dignity and respect under the Constitution.
- ★ Remain silent.
- ★ Contact a lawyer.

Common arrest triggers include:

- ⊗ Obstructing a lawful search.
- ⊗ Committing an offence.
- ⊗ Outstanding arrest warrants.

Hood Factor states:

Outstanding traffic fines are **not** enforceable at such a roadblock. Do state that you will resolve them at a later stage.

Best Practice for Motorists who Carry a Firearm

☑ DO	✗ DO NOT
Remain in your car unless instructed	Exit abruptly or be confrontational
Have documents ready and accessible	Hand over personal belongings without cause
Ask respectfully to see authorisation	Argue or escalate
Record officer names, badge numbers, time, and place	Forget to document any rights violations
Discreetly record audio or video	Block or resist lawful instructions

Key Points

- ✦ Roadblocks must be lawful and clearly authorised.
- ✦ You are obliged to provide ID and firearm documentation.
- ✦ Searches at informal stops require consent or suspicion.
- ✦ Do not hand over your firearm – retain control at all times.
- ✦ Firearms must remain holstered or secured inside your vehicle.
- ✦ Assert your rights calmly and follow up legally after the encounter.

Hood Factor Rule of Thumb:

“Be cooperative, not blindly compliant. Know your rights. Stay calm. Control your conduct like your firearm.”

Issued as part of the SAGA Educational Series to guide firearm owners on compliance and responsible firearm ownership.



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They Need to Fit

https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/they-need-to-fit/?utm_source=newsletter

by Sheriff Jim Wilson

23 August 2025

Yesterday I was at the gun shop and ran into a lady that I had coached while she was getting her carry permit. She was shopping for a new gun, one that suited her better. I don't recall what she had originally qualified with—and it doesn't matter, because her skills had advanced and that gun no longer suited her. And, frankly, that happens to most of us. Starting out, we do some research and rely on what judgment and experience we can muster to come up with something that we hope will work for us. I think that it is important for new shooters to know that we have all gone through that phase. There is nothing wrong with them, and the thing to do is to just keep searching until they find it.

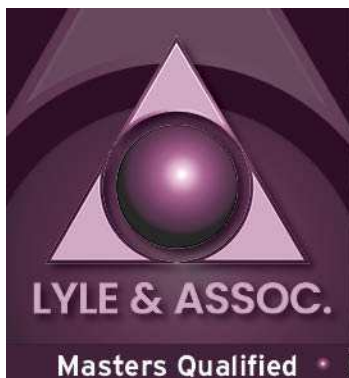
Physical fit is important. The gun we choose needs to be of a size that we can grip it properly and get a good purchase on the trigger. We also need to be able to easily reach any and all control devices that the gun happens to have. In my case, the magnificent N-frame Smith & Wesson revolvers are just too big, and that's not their fault; it's my problem. I quickly found that the medium-frame Smiths, the K & L frames, were just a better fit for me. How do I know? I could handle them more efficiently and I shot them better.

But, an equal consideration is that the gun just suits you, subjectively. If a person learned on semi-auto pistols, for example, revolvers just may not be appealing to them and they may lack confidence in them. So be it. Confidence in your chosen defensive gun is important when your life is on the line. You've got to not only be able to shoot well with a gun, you've got to be able to believe that you can.

So how do we help our new-shooter friends? We try to offer them an assortment of guns to choose from that are of decent quality and within their budget. None of us, including the new shooter, will really know if it is the right decision until they have trained with the gun and put rounds downrange.

A great boon for the defensive shooter are the number of shooting ranges that will rent various guns for folks to try out. But, in our case, the closest such range is three hours away in El Paso. Fortunately, our local gun club is full of good people who, when properly approached, will often let newbies examine and even shoot some of their guns. For the most part, gun people are family and we try to take care of our own.

So we do what we can to help our new shooters, and we let them know that we have all gone through what they are now dealing with. The important thing for all of us to remember is that guns are like shoes; they have to fit.



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Does it Fit your Mitt?

https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/does-it-fit-your-mitt/?utm_source=newsletter

by George Harris
9 September 2025

The Problem

You bought a handgun, the one recommended by the guy at the gun shop. You even shot it at the indoor range where you bought it and hit your target, sort of ... Most of the shots were on the target somewhere.

After learning to shoot your new purchase, you decided to enter the realm of carrying the gun concealed. You took a concealed-carry course and bought a holster for every-day carry, but from the start you haven't been able to connect the dots. Aside from talking to different people more experienced in carrying concealed than you, reading magazines and watching videos, you feel there is still something lacking.

Three separate factors are most often emphasized: sights, trigger and gun fit, but you don't see how they relate to one another—especially gun fit. In your mind you need to better understand why these factors are so important.

The Solution

Fitting a gun to a shooter's hand(s) is paramount to the two main objectives of using a firearm, which are safe handling and being able to hit a target on demand. Both require a conscious awareness of the position of the gun's muzzle and the shooter's trigger finger to be effective. A gun fitted to the shooter's hand aids where it is pointed and where the trigger finger is located with the appropriate attention paid to both.

Fitting a gun to a shooter's hand is a pretty simple process, once the components of how to hold and shoot a gun with one or two hands are understood.

For starters, the handgun needs to be positioned so that it is an extension of the hand(s) holding it. What this means is that the gun will point as if it were an extension of a dominant hand's index finger pointing at an object that has the attention of the shooter's eye. This capitalizes on the shooter's natural attribute of eye/hand coordination.

Realizing that every hand is slightly different, the general rule to get the gun aligned with the shooter's natural point is to point at an object with one's trigger finger. Next, place your thumb parallel to the trigger finger, forming a "V" between the two, with the remaining fingers extended in line below the index finger. By seating the grip (handle) of the gun in the web of your hand, aligning the slide and frame with your fingers and thumb, the muzzle of the gun will point where your eyes are looking—commensurate with where your index finger is pointing.

The single-hand grip is completed by wrapping the three fingers below your index finger around the front of the grip holding the gun seated in the web of the hand between the thumb and index finger. The index (trigger) finger is placed above the trigger along the frame until it is needed to pull the trigger. This is followed, when appropriate, by placing the trigger finger on the face of the trigger in a manner that will allow the trigger to be pulled without lateral pressure to either the left or the right through the full range of the trigger's movement.

If this is not possible, a gun with a smaller grip-frame diameter or shorter trigger reach will help you obtain the intended goal of optimizing the gun's fit to meet your need of keeping the sights, and therefore the muzzle on the target when the trigger is pulled.

In an ideal situation, the ability to reach your gun's controls such as the magazine release, slide stop and any manual safeties without changing the grip on the gun would be a worthy goal. Using these guidelines helps the shooter to quickly align and refine the sights' position on the target because they are al-

Continued... Does it Fit your Mitt?

ready coarsely aligned through natural eye/hand coordination.

Trigger pull, which is the primary component of achieving hits where you intend for them to go, is made easy by fitting the gun so the trigger can be pulled and reset without any errant side pressure to move the muzzle off the target during shooting or dry-fire practice.

The support hand can be added to the dominant hand to assist in guiding the gun to the target and stabilizing the muzzle on the target to ensure the best hit probability in the least amount of time. By joining the heels of the hands, positioning the thumbs so as not to obstruct the operating levers or movement of the slide and overlaying the fingers over the fingers of the trigger hand while applying gentle pressure for stability, the support hand will assist the dominant in getting the shots where they need to go.

Do not be reluctant to experiment with hand placement or grip pressure. When you find something is comfortable and is working for you, stay with it until you find something better. The Wall Drill, mentioned in this column previously, is an excellent diagnostic tool to ensure the sights, trigger and grip on the gun are optimized and working together. Keep it simple, safe and successful.

Advertise in SAGA Snippets

Advertising space in SAGA Snippets is available to SAGA Corporate Members.

From September 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

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
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
January '26	15-Jan-26	23-Jan-26	26-Jan-26	30-Jan-26

Firearm Industry Companies Consolidate, Others Close Doors In 2025

https://www.americanrifleman.org/content/firearm-industry-companies-consolidate-others-close-doors-in-2025/?utm_source=newsletter

by Guy J. Sagi

14 September 2025

This year has already seen some big changes in the firearm industry. They don't quite reach the tectonic shift in 2020, when legendary firms owned by Remington Outdoor were auctioned off, but there have still been some notable shifts within the industry in 2025.

Others are lower on the radar screen. There's no doubt some are in the works or went undetected, because the pace of change in gun company statuses has accelerated in the past few years.

The Big Changes

One of the most notable changes was Ruger's acquisition of Anderson Manufacturing in July. Ruger historically ranks No. 1 in total number of firearms made each year and Anderson reached the No. 7 position in 2023. It makes for a formidable combination of manufacturing capacity and expertise.

Early this year, Olin, parent company of Winchester Ammunition, purchased all small-caliber ammunition manufacturing assets from Ammo Inc.—parent firm of GunBroker.com. Included in the sale was the 185,000-sq.-ft. production facility in Manitowoc, Wis. That's not all that happened on the ammunition side of the industry, though. The Kinetic Group, already a large conglomerate of some of America's best-known ammunition makers, announced that it had added Fiocchi of America to its family of companies. The news follows confirmation that Czechoslovak Group (CSG) had secured 100 percent ownership of the Fiocchi Group in April 2025. CSG is the owner of The Kinetic Group family of companies.

Smaller

In January, Alexandria Pro-Fab acquired the intellectual property and physical assets of Adams Arms. The company has already relaunched many of the company's piston-driven ARs.

The same month, MDT acquired the Mountain and Backcountry bipod lines from MTNGear. Also in January, RuckPack—a company that produces healthy energy drinks—became part of the C&H Precision family of firms.

North Carolina-based Del-Ton shuttered its doors in April. It opened in 1998—not far away from the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School on Fort Bragg—and specialized in AR-15s and accessories.

SCCY Firearms closed in May and filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in August. If granted by the court, the company will be allowed to reorganize, reopen and repay creditors over time.

Lehigh Defense, a sister company of Wilson Combat, acquired all assets of Performance Engineering in late June. Performance Engineering is a renowned firearm component manufacturer that was located in Hillsboro, Mo. Its operations and manufacturing are now headquartered in Lehigh's Clarksville, Texas, facility.

VK Integrated Systems (VKIS), a firm specializing in advanced weapon electronics and battlefield networking, was acquired by EOTEch in early August. VKIS operations will remain in Clarksville, Tenn.

And the last company change to hit our screen was Thompson/Center Arms acquiring Green Mountain Barrel Company in early August. The pair worked closely together in the past and Green Mountain is a steady OEM provider to several major firearm manufacturers.

The trend hasn't reached tectonic proportions yet this year, although 2026 is still a long way off.

File Cards in the Brain

<https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/file-cards-in-the-brain/>

by Kevin Creighton

27 September 2025

I'm going to let you in on a little secret: First responders aren't actually first responders. Now hear me clearly: I am in no way saying that the law enforcement, firefighters, paramedics and the like are anything less than heroes for all they do. But the fact of the matter is the actual first responders to a crime or a fire are the victims of those incidents. What is happening is happening to them, and it is happening in real time.

However, the vast majority of people on this planet have no experience dealing with an emergency. That's why they're called "emergencies" and not "everyday occurrences." The novel stimulus that comes from a violent crime or sudden medical issue requires a different response than a normal problem, like emptying the dishwasher or driving down a road.

Making Novel Stimuli Less Novel

This becomes a really big problem when that novel stimulus is life-threatening. As the saying goes, "When seconds count, the police are only minutes away," and this is also true of firefighters and medical personnel. Seconds matter in a violent criminal encounter, and they also matter just as much in a medical situation. Having a response pre-planned and ready to implement is essential to a successful outcome for both of those instances. However, that sort of plan doesn't just appear out of thin air, it is the result of prior training and mental preparation.

For example, I recently was sitting at a table in a diner in Sunrise, FL, having a meal with friends before we went to see The Who kick off their honest-to-goodness final concert tour. As we were eating, I heard a wheezing sound from the booth behind me. I turned,

and there was a lady standing up, struggling to breathe and holding a hand to her throat. I stood up, took a few steps over to her, performed the Heimlich maneuver and in less time than it took me to type this, she's okay.

Other people in the restaurant saw and heard what she was doing, but they either couldn't process what was going on as fast I did or had "Dial 911" as their initial response. I heard the wheezing, said to myself "that's choking," and went straight to the Heimlich. I had the advantage of being the closest person to her, but the only things I did differently than everyone else was quickly understanding what the problem was and coming up with a solution on the spot.

The Readiness Is All

What happened was the difference between someone who is mentally prepared to deal with this sort of emergency and someone who has no experience with a novel stimulus. For example, anyone who's driven in less-than-ideal conditions has a card filed away for "Oh no, my car hit a slippery spot and is spinning" and then performs the action on that card. In my case, I had a response card in the back of my brain titled "In case of choking, do this," and when the time came, my brain reached into its card catalog of pre-programmed responses, selected that card and said "Ok, go with this one" once the start signal (the wheeze of a choking person) was given.

This time, that card did the job. More importantly, I had that card to play at that moment because I had spent the time and effort to get CPR training and expended some mental energy into pre-visualizing my response to a medical emergency.

Years ago, I was the first one on the scene of a motorcycle accident where a rider had laid down his bike and skidded on his back across three lanes of freeway traffic. I got out and tried to render aid as best I could, but the fact is, I was almost as unnerved by what had just happened as he was and was of little if any help. He turned out to be okay, but

Continued,,,File Cards in the Brain

that incident showed me that while I had the gear and some of the training to deal with such things, what I lacked was the mindset needed to use them. I had never previsualized myself responding to a traffic accident, and as a result, I had no effective response when one happened right in front of me.

Mindset First. Plan Next.

Chances are, if you are reading this, you use previsualization in some way to affect your decisions in life. You sit facing the door in a restaurant because you can pre-visualize the possibility of bad things going down while you eat. You look both ways when crossing the street for the same reasons.

However, prior to the incident with the motorcycle rider, I had never pre-visualized a medical emergency. In the intervening years since then, I have corrected that and taken the time to pre-visualize things like a CPR response or a traffic accident response or the need to respond to someone who was choking. I banked away the time and effort to create a mental card I could play as a response to an emergency before that response was needed, and was there when I needed to use it years later.

Get training. Change your mindset. Have a plan ready to go when things get weird. The life you save may be your own, or in my case, someone else's.

Concealed Carry: the First Steps

https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/concealed-carry-the-first-steps/?utm_source=newsletter

by Kevin Creighton
12 September 2025

I have a friend who, like me, is "into guns." We talk about the latest and greatest hardware out there. We go to the range together. He's a good pistol shot and wants to get better. He understands the rules of gun safety and lives them every day. The biggest difference between us is that when I am finished with a practice session on the range, I make sure my defensive pistol has a round in the chamber and is loaded to capacity with all the safeties engaged, then I put it in a holster on my person.

My friend, on the other hand, places his empty gun in a case, then puts the case in his vehicle and drives off. If you ask him (and I have), he'll say that yes, he is concerned about his personal safety. That's why he bought a pistol and why he practices with it. He'll also acknowledge that yes, carrying it unloaded in your car or tucked away in some hard-to-reach part of his home is not optimal. He knows that if he needs to defend his life or the lives of his loved ones, it'll be in the blink of an eye, and as such, that empty, unloaded gun that's way out of reach might as well be in Nepal for all the good it will do him. However, despite knowing all of this in his head, he does not carry on a regular basis and doesn't make concealed carry a part of his lifestyle.

The First Step Is Taking A Step

Here's a clue for all of you in a similar situation: No one, in the history of everything, has ever accidentally fallen into carrying a pistol. It takes effort and intent to drag around a pound or more of lead, steel and maybe polymer around with you every day and keep it out of sight of those around you. This is true of almost everything around you, though.

No one fell into being a good cook; it takes effort to learn how to prepare food in a creative, tasty manner. No one ever fell into being a good musician; every rock star can tell you about the hours and hours of practice they put into honing their craft.

If you understand that you are your own first responder and want to take charge of your personal security, the only way to do it is to do it. Take that first step, and carry your pistol on your person in a safe holster with a round in the chamber.

There are ways to make this first step a bit easier. The first is to carry your pistol in your holster around the home as you go about your daily routine. After all, we didn't learn to drive on a freeway, we learned on the streets in our neighborhood that we were used to. Same thing here. Get comfortable with your gun in a comfortable environment. This has the added bonus of giving you a chance to find out if some of your choices about holster, belt and pistol are less than optimal.

Once you're comfortable carrying inside the house, it's time to take it on the road. Avoid the temptation to install a car holster in your vehicle. Think about it: Police officers drive around all day long and carry a pistol while doing so. Yes, they have a long gun secured in their car for emergencies, but their everyday carry gun is carried on them every day, in a holster on their belt, not stored in a car holster somewhere.

Why? Because they know that if they need their pistol, they will need it right this very second, not after a lengthy process of returning to their car and retrieving wherever it was stored. We say "When seconds count, the police are just minutes away," so the fewer seconds it takes you to get your pistol, the better.

Walk The Walk

Once you're in your car, your destination for this journey will be your local big box discount store. Years ago, when I started my concealed carry journey, we would talk about

Continued...Concealed Carry: the First Steps

"The [Big Blue Box Store that Shall Not Be Named] Walk," which was a trip to a certain big-box store (that we all know...) done with the specific goal of getting used to the feeling of having your pistol discreetly on your person, ready to go.

The "walk" is simplicity itself. Go into the store. Walk to a back corner of the store, like the dairy department or something similar. Select a product for purchase there (I tend to gravitate to the ice cream section, which explains why I'm 30 pounds overweight...). Take it to the front and pay for it. Walk out of the store.

Once you're in your car, reflect on what happened. Did anyone notice you were carrying? Were there any incidents with your firearm, or was it just a normal day doing a normal thing?

I'm going to go out on a limb here and say that when you do your Big Blue Box Store Walk, it'll be just a normal thing for everybody around you, but a big deal for you.

And nobody will notice, because nothing happened. However, you have just made concealed carry a part of your lifestyle.

Keep it up.



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Focus on SAGA's 40 Year Insignia



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

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

Order on our website:
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