



SAGA Snippets

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SAGA Response to the Crime Statistics Released on 18 February 2022

SAGA has noted with dismay and concern the alarming level of crime in South Africa. This, despite the blasé statement by Police Minister Bheki Cele that “significant decreases in most crime categories” has been recorded. Who does he think he is fooling?

Mark Twain is reported to have said “there are three kinds of lies; lies, damned lies and statistics”. Believing what the Minister says needs to be taken with a rather large pinch of salt.

In his opening address, the Minister greeted no less than 8 persons, entities and functionaries from the National Commissioner to heads of entities, all involved, in some way or another, in law enforcement. He said that “there have been significant reductions in the number of crimes committed and reported to the SAPS.” One is left to wonder what contribution these dignitaries have made to this “significant reduction”.

He touched on the main causes of murder, being arguments; vigilantism; robberies and revenge or retaliation. He mentioned some alarming statistics but did not say what the police – and in particular the VIPs in his address – were, or were going to do about it.

He discussed rape and listed some statistics, adding that there had been a decrease in rape cases. He omitted to give the reason why this is so.

The obvious reason is not that there was a decrease in the occurrence of these cases, but rather a reduction in the reporting of these cases due to the distrust that complainants have in the ability of the police to deal effectively in such matters. He singled out the policing areas where the reporting of rape was the highest but once again, was silent on measures to combat it or steps to replace incompetent commanders.

The Minister then went into great detail to highlight the success of a single member in the arrest of a serial rapist. He spent most of his time concentrating on crimes against women and children including gender-based violence – again highlighting only a few successes but not setting out any initiatives to deal with the matters except to say that gender-based violence desks were to be established and that more than 90 000 police officials had been trained in victim empowerment. He spoke of the success that DNA tests have had in identifying offenders linking them to various cases.

Then, almost in passing, he referred to farm attacks saying that 11 persons had been killed and that 3 of these were persons “murdered” by farm owners or farm managers. Once again he was silent on any strategies to address this serious matter.

As far as property-related crime is concerned, he said that the good news is that there was a decline of between 7% and 20% in the occur-

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Special points of interest:

- *SAGA Response to Crime Statistics*
- *Myths about Self-Defence for Seniors*
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- *Self-Defence Awareness*
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Top 2 Myths About Self-Defense for Seniors

by Wendy LaFever

4 February 2022

There are a lot of strange tropes floating around in American popular culture about self-defense, many of which are so counter intuitive that it's often difficult to know where to start when refuting them. Recent reports that more and more seniors are taking interest in armed self-defense prove that whether you yourself are entering the world of retirement and grandkids, or have relatives who are, the right to defend yourself against criminal acts doesn't expire when you cash in your 401(k). Here are the top two myths about self-defense for an aging population...along with the facts.

Myth 1: Senior citizens rarely need to defend themselves against significant threats.

One of the most famous regular columns featured in NRA Publications is "The Armed Citizen." These are reports of regular people defending themselves against criminal attack culled from local news sources around the country. Because this is such a common occurrence, it's impossible for us to print all such reports, but the archives are certainly instructive. Merely reviewing "Armed Citizen" columns for the last few weeks gave us four instances of senior citizens defending themselves with firearms.

Keep in mind that these are only reports in which the victim's age was listed in the local report—they aren't always. Furthermore, the astute reader will note that 75 percent of these incidents were resolved without any injury to the criminal. It's quite common for innocent citizens who have deterred an attack with no shots fired to not report the incident to the police, so it's likely that there are far more such occurrences than the news would reflect.



Finally, remember that predators prefer easy targets. Seniors are particularly at risk because not only are they seen as being weaker physically, but living on a fixed income often means that they are financially unable to move away from high-crime areas.

Myth 2: Firearms don't give senior citizens an advantage during a criminal attack.

The myth here is that senior citizens are simply unable to use a firearm effectively due to physical problems related to aging. Although it's true that as we age we can expect a certain decrease in our eyesight and reaction times, the extent to which it happens varies on an individual basis...and as with any other skill, the more time you spend shooting, the less the skill will degrade.

Jerry Miculek, possibly the greatest shooter of all time, is 63 years old. Ed McGivern set a world record in shooting at 59. And on a personal note, up until five years before his passing at the age of 88, my grandfather continued to regularly win state and local skeet championships, besting men and women a third his age. → →

Continued...Top 2 Myths

However, the above is really the answer to the wrong question. The right question is

“What else besides a firearm gives an elderly person any kind of a fair chance against a younger, more physically powerful aggressor?”

A third point to consider is that the vast majority—up to 98 percent, according to *More Guns, Less Crime* author John Lott—of armed-citizen events end without a shot being fired. For many criminals, the mere sight of a gun reminds them of urgent business the next county over.

All law-abiding citizens, regardless of their age, race, gender or income, have the same right to defend themselves against criminal attack. With the proper training in safe firearm use, situational awareness and a personal security strategy, self-defense is no myth...it's a reality.

<https://www.nrafamily.org/content/top-2-myths-about-self-defense-for-seniors-1/>

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SAGA would like to thank all active members for their support - by virtue of our membership we are able to continue working for firearm rights for responsible gunowners.

Should you have any queries please contact the office on 031-562-9951 or email saga@saga.org.za



Beijing Olympics 2022 Biathlon

The Beijing Winter Olympics have wrapped up and the medal standings for the exciting sport of Biathlon was :

- 1 Norway with 14 medals
- 2 France with 7 medals
- 3 Sweden with 4 medals
- 4 Germany with 2 medals
- 5 ROC with 4 medals
- 6 Belarus with 1 medal
- 7 Italy with 1 medal

The Biathlon events were held at the National Biathlon Centre in the Zhangjiakou Zone. This was one of three new venues constructed in the Guyangshu Cluster with capacity for 6000 spectators. The Zhangjiakou Zone is located 180km northwest of Beijing, in Hebei province.

There were 11 biathlon events:

Women's
 7.5km Sprint
 10km Pursuit
 12.5km Mass Start
 15km Individual
 4x6km Relay

Men's
 10km Sprint
 12.5km Pursuit
 15km Mass Start
 20km Individual
 4x7.5km Relay

Mixed Relay 4x6km (W+M)

A maximum of 210 quota spots are available to athletes to compete in biathlon at the games. A maximum 105 men and 105 women may qualify.



Each biathlon event is treated as a race, with athletes skiing through a trail whose distance is divided into shooting rounds. Depending on the event, missed shots result in additional time or distance being added to the athlete's total

The word "biathlon" comes from the Greek word for "two tests", and is today seen as the joining of two sports: skiing and shooting.

Biathlon has its roots in the snow-covered forests of Scandinavia, where people would hunt on skis with rifles slung over their shoulders. In the 18th century, Norwegian skiing regiments began organising military skiing contests, which served as a precursor to the biathlon in modern times.

3 Tips to Protect Against Home Invasion

<https://www.nrafamily.org/content/3-tips-to-protect-against-home-invasion-2/>

by Kevin Creighton

27 December 2021

At a Cub Scouts meeting a few years ago, my son and I were tasked with creating a home fire escape plan in order to earn a merit badge. We wrote out what we'd do in case of fire, how to tell if the fire's outside your door and how to move through smoke. We teach fire safety to our children in order to keep them safe from a fire inside the home, but what do we teach them how to be safe from violence entering our home from the outside?

If you look at the floor plan for a typical home, you'll soon see that there are obvious potential points of entry for the bad guys to come in. The plan to secure this home (or yours) is threefold:

- Secure the exterior
- Strengthen the interior
- Prepare a refuge



1. Secure the Exterior

You know that old joke about the two hikers running from a bear and the one turns to the other and says "I don't have to run faster than the bear, I just have to run faster than YOU!"?

That's what the outside of your house should look like. You don't have to live in Fort Knox to be safe, you just have to make your home appear a little more difficult to break into than the home next door to it. If someone really, really wants to get into your house, they're going to get in, but any casual burglar is going to look for an easy mark to victimize, and not a bank vault.

Some quick and easy ways to secure the exterior of home are:

Exterior lighting: You don't need to light your home like a prison yard in order to make it safer. I have a simple decorative lighting system in the front yard and some spotlights in strategic locations that light up the dark corners around my house. They make my house look great and also make burglars consider going to another house down the block.

Bushes and shrubs: Consider planting some bushes beneath accessible windows in your home that look attractive yet have some thorns and pointy bits that will discourage a crook from entering through that window. Also, keep the other plants in your yard trimmed so that they don't provide cover for the crooks as they prepare to enter your home.

Signs: I am not a big fan of the "I don't dial 911, I dial .357!" type of sign in the yard: Why advertise to crooks there's highly desirable prizes for them (your guns) inside your home? If they know there are guns inside your house, all they have to do is wait until you leave and enter at their leisure. If you have a burglar alarm (more on those later), advertise that fact instead: It gives crooks one more reason to move along to another house. → →



Continued: 3 Tips to Protect Against Home Invasion

2. Strengthen the Interior

Burglar Alarms: While it's true that the alarm noise probably won't scare a burglar off, an alarm watches over your home when you're not around. Also, an alarm system with a smoke detector can alert you to a fire inside your home when you're not there. The fact is, you can't watch over your house 24/7, but an alarm system can. In addition to all this, an alarm system connected to your doors and windows can give a few vital seconds to make ready and grab the important gear you need to protect your family.

Exterior Doors: These are a big weakness in most houses or apartments. If your homeowner's association or landlord allows it, consider installing a decorative steel security door or something similar on the front and back doors. If that's not possible, reinforcing the jamb, striker plate and hinges will slow down most break-in attempts to the point where they'll consider giving up and trying something else.

Windows: Are there locks on the windows in your home? Are you using them?

Pets: Dogs have been used as a warning system and theft deterrent for thousands of years, and they perform that role admirably to this very day.

3. Prepare a Refuge

Okay, so now your dog is barking and the alarm is going off and the bad guys are in your home. What do you do?

At this point, you should get you and your family to a safe place and keep them there until the threat is over and help arrives. Your job isn't to defend your big screen TV; your job is to keep you and your family alive and safe. If the plan for a house fire is to get your family out of the house as quickly and safely as possible, the plan for a home invasion or armed burglary most likely be to get your family into your safe room as quickly as possible. Just as a good fire

escape plan has two escape routes for every family member planned out in advance, a good home defense plan has a plan and a backup plan in case that first one fails.

Where should your safe room be? Depends on the home. Remember, time should work in your favor, not the bad guys', so your safe room needs to be somewhere you can get to ahead of the bad guy and hold him off while you wait for help to arrive. What are the most-likely break-in points for a home invasion, and where would you and family go to be safe if that happened?

What should your safe room look like? Simply put, it should be more secure than any other room in the house. Make sure the door to the safe room locks, and reinforce the door with a heavy-duty striker plate at the very least. Safely store a loaded firearm in the safe room, and team it up with a first aid kit, flashlight and a charged cell phone to summon help.

I realize that this is sobering stuff to think about, but it can happen to anyone. If you have smoke alarms and a fire extinguisher inside your home because you've accepted the fact that fires happen inside the home, you should also realize that your house might be targeted for theft or violence and plan accordingly. Accidents (and crime) happen: It's what we do to prepare for them that determines if there's a successful outcome for us...or the bad guys.



Self-Defense Awareness: That Old Gut Feeling

<https://www.nrafamily.org/content/self-defense-awareness-that-old-gut-feeling/>

By Jim Willson

December 15, 2021

A friend of mine recently recounted walking across a shopping center parking lot with his family. While headed for their car, he spotted a man standing around who just seemed out of place. My friend said the guy didn't look particularly scruffy or gangsterish. In fact, he couldn't really describe anything about the man that bothered him, but it just made him nervous.

My friend's response was to unfasten his covering garment so that he could quickly get to his defensive handgun, if necessary. And he positioned himself so that he could keep an eye on the stranger while he assisted his family in getting into the vehicle. Once inside the car, he made sure all of the doors were locked and left the parking lot without hesitation. Essentially, he went Condition Orange.

My friend also admits to sort of laughing at his own alarm. He laughed, that is, until he saw the evening newscast. The news channel posted a photo of the stranger he'd seen earlier, and told of his arrest for beating and robbing a citizen in that same parking lot later in the afternoon.

We can talk all we want about awareness and advanced defensive skills, but we should never ignore the old gut feeling. I can't begin to explain it in a scientific fashion except to say that it is something that our subconscious picks up from our five senses—something that we are not conscious of because we are pre-occupied with other things. Essentially, it is our mind saying, "HEY, YOU'D BETTER WAKE UP!"

Just about every woman I've ever talked to could tell about being around some men who just made her feel uncomfortable. The

guy may have said or done nothing out of the way, yet the feeling existed. This may not be the time to say, or do, something rude or unkind, but this is simply not the guy to ask when you need a ride home from the office party.

Being alert and recognizing that gut feeling doesn't mean that you have to go John Wayne on a person. It means you just have to be alert to what could potentially be trouble. Just yesterday, in the feed store parking lot, I saw a guy staring at me and not smiling as he came across the lot in my direction. I unzipped my vest and continued towards my own vehicle. As the guy got close, he smiled, stuck out his hand, and said, "Hi, we met at the cowboy gathering last year." We had a nice visit and he had no idea that my gut had told me to get ready.



SAGA Corporate Membership



Here is a list of our current Corporate Members for 2022.

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.

If you are interested - or know someone who may be interested - in becoming a SAGA Corporate member please contact the office for more information.

Join via the SAGA website using the Corporate Application tab on the Join SAGA page.

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