



SAGA Snippets

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What's Happening at SAGA?

SAPS Temporary Permit System to Help with the Delay in the Printing of Licence Cards

16 September 2022

SAGA, as well as other organisations, has received a directive from the SAPS dated 12th September 2021 that deals with the delay in the printing of firearm licence cards.

The delay will be resolved by SAPS issuing a temporary authorisation prior to receipt of the actual licence card.

SAPS will be able to issue an "Authorisation to possess a firearm for approved licences" until the applicant receives his or her licence card. It has been reported that the permit system has been established but that there are technical problems.

SAGA recommends that applicants grant SAPS a few days to iron out these technical issues before going to your DFO to obtain the authorisation.

SAGA appreciates the effort on the part of SAPS to resolve this issue and that SAPS are taking a proactive and positive approach to resolve the licence card printing issue.

Amnesty Applications

SAGA is pleased to advise that many more amnesty applications have now been granted.

SAGA is still working on the class actions and any members who have waited longer than 4 months for applications are welcome to submit their details on the following link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeEfUyzJTkpvuxvFQlhR3kJJoJ3Bww6qf_hHbgjJdbTXSXEQ/viewform

NOTE: If your name is already on the link, there is no need for you to register again unless you have further applications to deal with.

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Special points of interest:

- *What's Happening at SAGA?*
- *4 Reasons to Learn the Isosceles Shooting Stance*
- *SAGA Membership*
- *Negligent Discharge*
- *Capability vs Capacity*
- *SAGA Corporate Membership*

4 Reasons to Learn the Isosceles Shooting Stance

By Brad Fitzpatrick

12 September 2022

There are a number of popular shooting stances employed today, including the Weaver, the Isosceles, the Chapman and others, and arguments can be made for each one. But the most popular is the isosceles, and for most shooters it is the best option.

The name is derived from the fact that the arms and body, when viewed from above, form an isosceles triangle with both arms near full extension. It's utilized by police and competitive shooters, and it's become the primary stance for many personal-defense instructors.

Here are some key points that make the isosceles one of the top options for defensive shooting.

1. It's Natural

The isosceles stance begins with your feet shoulder-width apart and your weight slightly forward over bent knees. The strong-side leg is either parallel with or slightly behind the other leg with the toes pointed toward the target, and most shooters find that this stance is natural and comfortable. Since the stance is natural it also allows you to get into shooting position more quickly, a major concern for defensive shooting. The isosceles stance rests your weight comfortably on your feet, and with both arms extended (the elbows shouldn't be locked) this stance allows you to shoot for extended periods without getting exhausted. When you are finished shooting you simply stand up and you are in a natural upright stance without having to move your feet.



2. It Allows For Rapid Movement

Because you are facing directly at the target with your shoulders in line with your feet, the isosceles stance offers a wide field of view and you can comfortably rotate your body to engage targets on your weak side without feeling "bound up" as you can in other stances (such as the Weaver). Having your knees bent and your weight on the balls of your feet allows for rapid movement, too, so you can quickly move forward or back, left or right as needed. The isosceles stance, then, lends itself naturally to movement drills that can be incorporated later as the shooter becomes more comfortable and proficient with a firearm.

3. It's Versatile

One of the great features of the isosceles stance is that it works just as well for shooting a pistol as a carbine. When you transition from a handgun to a rifle or defensive shotgun, all that you need to do is simply bring the firing hand back to the pistol grip and you are already in proper position, eliminating the need to learn to assume different positions. In addition, that square-shouldered stance helps absorb rifle recoil for faster follow-up shots, and having one stance eliminates the need to modify your shooting position based on the firearm in your hands.



Continued...

4. It's Easy to Master

It's been my experience that new shooters can pick up on the isosceles stance very quickly, and within a few sessions at the range they are comfortable with this position. Since most people naturally stand upright with their shoulders parallel to their feet, it takes very little training to adjust the weight and lower the body slightly and lean forward—the basic components of the isosceles stance. Rather than trying to remember arm positions and elbow angles, new shooters simply bring their hands together (in the preliminary stages of training without a firearm in their hands) and push both arms forward toward the target. This training also promotes bringing the gun up to the head rather than lowering the head to meet the sights of the gun, a critical element in proper shooting. New shooters will gain the confidence they need quickly and will be more comfortable when shooting.

<https://www.nrafamily.org/content/4-reasons-to-learn-the-isosceles-shooting-stance/>



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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.

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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).

Negligent Discharge: 4 Most Likely Shooter Mistakes



by Frank Melloni
20 September 2022

The three rules of firearms safety (**ALWAYS** keep the gun pointed in a safe direction; **ALWAYS** keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot; **ALWAYS** keep the gun unloaded until ready to use) are geared toward eliminating negligent discharge or, at the very least, putting that unwanted round safely into the berm.

An ND is a sign that you need to get back to basics or seek more training. That said, there are some common scenarios that are most likely to produce an ND. Here are the top four that I have found ...

1. Loading a semi-automatic shotgun

Semi-automatic shotguns arguably have the most complicated feeding mechanisms among all of the firearms types out there. Therefore, shortcuts become rather tempting. To save steps, most shooters drop a round through the ejection port, send it home, and then roll it over to fill the tubular magazine. Simple enough, just so long as your pinky doesn't get snagged inside the trigger guard on the backstroke. Should that happen, you are going to get a lot of looks, and the heavy recoil might also be enough to knock the shotgun off of your shooting bench, landing it in an unsafe direction.

To stave this one off, it's best to leave the chamber empty while filling the tube and then put the gun into your shoulder to top off

the last round. This keeps the rest of your fingers out of harm's way, and establishes better support and control over the muzzle direction.

2. Retracting the slide on a semi-auto handgun

When it comes time to unload a semi-automatic handgun, the first step is to remove the magazine and then yank back on the slide to expel the last cartridge from the chamber. While simple enough, there have been instances where shooters touched off that last round unintentionally. Typically, it involves their finger already on the trigger or at least in the trigger guard. If they slip while pulling the slide back, the forward momentum is usually enough to slam their finger into the trigger and is typically accompanied by a grasping action.

The key to avoiding this one is twofold. One, keep your finger away from the trigger at all times and learn what it feels like when you are not doing so. Two, understand that unloading is never a hurried activity. Take your time and ensure that it happens safely.

3. Tripping with a hunting rifle

The days of hunting rifles with 100-pound triggers are over. Today, manufacturers seek to make the triggers on these firearms as light as possible, as hunters desire this for more accurate shooting. That being said, it doesn't take much to set one off, which should always be in the back of your mind when walking on uneven terrain. The woods can be best summed up as "a trip and fall waiting to happen."

Basically, there are two kinds of hunters: those who have fallen and those who haven't fallen yet. A trip and fall with your finger near the trigger is almost always going to result in an ND with a minimal margin for "safe direction." The best practice is to make your way to your hunting stand or blind with an empty chamber. In the odd event you scare something up along the way, a skilled rifle shooter should be able to work the bolt fast enough to take a shot.



Continued ...Negligent Discharge

4. Slipping when cocking a revolver

Revolver triggers can be the best you've ever pressed or your worst nightmare ... all depending on if you are firing it in double action or single action. To get that nice single-action trigger press, the hammer must manually be cocked (for some that's the only way to fire them at all). However, if during the process your thumb slips off of the spur and your finger is on the trigger? BANG.

Most revolvers safeguard against this with a transfer bar safety; however, the action of putting pressure on the trigger purposely defeats this mechanism, as it is designed to protect against negligent discharge from dropping the gun on its hammer.

So what's the solution? Well, you guessed it; keeping your finger away from the trigger when you cock the hammer.

Looking at the four scenarios closely, you'll notice a common thread; the shooters all interacted with the trigger. This means that the same solution can be applied to each: Keep your fingers away from the bang switch unless you intend to fire.

While this sounds simple, it's essential to know that your trigger finger has a natural tendency to rest on the trigger. This is because gun manufacturers know that you can't see this area of the gun when you assume a shooting position. Therefore, most designs put your finger directly in line with the trigger when you pick up a firearm. In short, even if you've never touched a gun before, you already have a "bad habit."

You might have also noticed that I never mentioned: "engaging a mechanical safety" in the preceding text. This is because that is not always an option, nor is it guaranteed to work. The best mechanical safety extends from the palm of your hand, it's called a trigger finger, and it should be your primary.

The best internal safety is between your ears. Focus on the task at hand, don't get complacent and maintain good trigger-finger discipline ... it's a habit for life.

<https://www.nrafamily.org/content/negligent-discharge-4-most-likely-shooter-mistakes/>

Capability vs. Capacity: What's the Difference?



As a woman, when it comes to defending yourself or your loved ones, you need both capability and capacity.

by Jo Deering

27 September 2022

In the concealed-carry community, we talk about self-defense a lot, but it's almost always in general terms. We use the phrase "defend yourself" and we all kind of know what it means, but the details are never brought up. That's because, frankly, they're really uncomfortable.

In order to successfully defend yourself against an attack on your person or on someone else, you need two things: capability and capacity. What does that mean?

Capability

Capability is the physical ability to defend yourself. As humans who consider ourselves toward or at the top of the food chain, we're not all that physically impressive as far as defenses go. We don't have the fangs of a wolf, the claws of an eagle, the brute strength of a gorilla, or the sheer size of an elephant. We're really pretty squishy, soft and defenseless when you think about it, so we don't have a lot of capability for defense. Our defense is all in our brain, which allows us the ability to create and use tools, including defensive tools.

For personal defense, the most effective tool we have at our disposal is the firearm. Capability isn't necessarily baked into the firearm—if you don't know how to use it, you're still not capable of defending yourself—but we call firearms "the great equalizers" for a good reason.

If you have a firearm and know how to use it properly, you have the capability to defend yourself against a predator.

Capacity

If capability is the physical ability to defend yourself, capacity is the emotional ability.

Having a proper self-defense tool and knowing how to use it gives you the capability, but if you can't actually go through with the act of pulling the trigger when you're under attack, you don't have the capacity. The gun does you no good if you're not willing to use it.

It's very easy to overlook this aspect of self-defense, but don't make the mistake of dismissing it. Most of us spend all of our training and mental energy on the capability part and take the capacity part for granted, but the truth is, you need to sit down and go through some serious mental exercises to sort through the emotional aspect of using deadly force in defense of your own life or someone else's. It's important to think through these things while you're calm and not in danger, because there won't be time for hesitation later.

Contemplate some questions you can't possibly know the answers to until you're in the situation, but which you should think about nonetheless.

What would it be like to physically take someone's life, no matter how justified? How might you feel in the moment? How might you feel the next day and the next month? What would you do in the immediate aftermath, when you're dealing with bodily fluids, ringing ears, maybe a growing crowd, and a dead or wounded or dying bad guy as you're waiting for the police to respond?

We never discuss this because it's a terrible



Continued ...Capability vs. Capacity

reality no one wants to think about, but you need to be emotionally prepared for all the physical mess involved in self-defense. That's capacity.

And it goes deeper. Defending yourself with a firearm is at least hands-off, which gives us a bit of emotional (and physical) distance from the self-defense act. What if you're in a gun-free zone and you have to defend yourself with a knife? A golf club or baseball bat? A chair? A can of pepper spray? A rock? A pair of scissors? Your bare hands? Let's face it—as women, we're physically outmatched by most attackers. Even when you're smaller and perhaps weaker, could you at least attempt to go hands-on with a predator and inflict damage? Or are you too intimidated and afraid? It's 100 percent normal if you are, by the way.

Take it to the detail level. Assuming you're capable (i.e., you're strong enough and you're close enough), do you emotionally have what it takes to slash someone with your pocketknife and deal with the physical mess

that causes? To stab a would-be kidnapper in the neck with a pen? To press your thumbs into the eye sockets of an attempted rapist and dig in for all you're worth? What happens if your attempt succeeds?

I know. It's gross. It's uncomfortable to even think about, and it's uncomfortable for me to write about. I'm not sure I even have the capacity to do that myself, to tell you the truth.

But change the equation a little bit—what if your kids are around? What if they're the ones being threatened? Does your emotional ability to perform absolutely any savage act necessary to save them suddenly go up? For many of us, the answer is probably yes. That's the vicious-when-she-needs-to-be, protect-at-all-costs, no-fear-in-the-moment mama bear instinct deep down inside of you that you need to tap into. That's capacity.

<https://www.nrawomen.com/content/capability-vs-capacity-what-s-the-difference/>



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