



SAGA Snippets

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SAGA Gun Gauge: Elections 2024

Many members will have seen the **Gun Gauge: Elections 2024** report which SAGA released on 10 May 2024.

If you have not seen the report it can be found at:
<https://www.saga.org.za/NEWS/PRESS-RELEASES/>

This report was prepared as South Africans prepare for the elections on Wednesday 29 May 2024.

SAGA believes that by understanding the stance of each political party on key issues like firearm ownership, is crucial for informed voting.

SAGA does not endorse any particular political party. Our intention is for members to be able to consider how each party's stance aligns with their individual views on firearm ownership and the broader implications for safety and freedom in our society.

As promised in the report, any additional responses would be included. We have now received input from the Organic Humanity Movement (OHM) party and the process of updating the report is in progress.

In the mean time the OHM responses appear here:

Organic Humanity Movement (OHM) Party

Question 1: Protection of the Right to Self-Defence

Statement: South Africans should have the right to use firearms for self-defence in their homes and communities provided they do so responsibly and in accordance with the law.

Answer: 5 (Strongly Agree)

Question 2: Support for Sports Shooting, hunting & collecting

Statement: South Africans should have the freedom to participate in sports shooting, use firearms for hunting & be able to collect firearms, provided they do so responsibly and in accordance with the law.

Answer: 5 (Strongly Agree)

Question 3: Protection of Firearm Owners' Rights

Statement: Political parties should actively work to protect the rights of law-abiding firearm owners and ensure that any proposed firearm law does not unduly restrict those rights.

Answer: 5 (Strongly Agree)

Question 4: Opposition to Further Gun Control Measures

Statement: South Africa does not need additional gun control measures as existing laws are sufficient.

Answer: 5 (Strongly Agree)

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Special points of interest:

- *SAGA Gun Gauge: Elections 2024 - Update*
- *SAGA Corporate Membership*
- *SAGA Membership*
- *Firearms Light and Torches*
- *Essential Concealed Carry Accessories*
- *The Easier Route...the Safer Route*



Continued...SAGA Gun Gauge: Elections 2024

Party Representatives' Statements:

The current South African Government, in line with the United Nations Agenda 21 wants to disarm law-abiding citizens, which comes with several detrimental consequences.

The right to self-defence is the cornerstone of liberty. A government that wants to disarm a nation is a government that wants to exert totalitarian rule. Many people might argue that new gun control laws will lessen crimes, however criminals do not obtain weapons legally and they are not responsible licenced gun owners.

Citizens of the country don't only need the right to bear arms, but should be encouraged to do so, so that they can protect themselves from criminals, extremists, and from a government that wants to bring harm to its citizens.

South Africa has a large hunting and recreational firearm community, an industry that is under great threat with the government's growing firearm restrictions. The way in which OHM proposes to re-structure government, places the individual as the highest form of government. So, when it pertains to your personal safety, you are responsible, then your family, then your community. If all else fails, that is when you turn to local government for help, and if local government cannot provide the solution, then you turn to national government.

Under the current Constitution, criminals are aware that their rights are more important than the rights of law-abiding citizens. Criminals usually have no regard for human life and are not afraid to commit crime because their rights are protected. The fact that criminals are armed whilst citizens are not, puts the people of our country in a very difficult position when it comes to keeping safe and being free. Criminals should be afraid to commit crime, and this can only be achieved through citizens who are responsible, prepared, and able to defend themselves in any situation.

Personal defence comes with the choice to arm oneself. Law-abiding citizens should have the choice and the right to bear arms. OHM proposes thorough screening and competency testing in the gun ownership and licensing processes. Citizens who are found competent should be licenced and each firearm that is purchased should be registered under his/her licence, and this should be kept on record.

Processes should also be in place to revoke the license of a gun-owner that is found guilty of committing a crime with a licenced weapon. There should also be proper recording of such offences and offenders.

Our current Constitution, under the Bill of Rights, states that a person has the right to life, however it does not state that a person has the right to protect their own life. The government thus takes upon itself the responsibility of protecting the lives of its citizens, which can result in unnecessary and unjustified control of law-abiding citizens.

OHM opposes this and believes that the Constitution must be amended to affirm the right of citizens to protect life and property. OHM has a 10-point crime plan:

1. Don't be a criminal.
2. Understand the world is not a safe place.
3. Get a gun license and carry a registered firearm.
4. Protect your property where you work and live.
5. Install surveillance within your property boundaries which only you have access to.
6. Send your family for self-defence training.
7. Have a family emergency plan for various situations.
8. Be involved in your community. Knowledge is power.
9. Don't wait for the police to rescue you.
10. Never trust ANY government, even in a new system. This is particularly integral to a healthy democracy that prioritizes individual liberty.

Our 6 principles are Individual liberty, protection of life, respect for the earth, self-reliance, continuous progress and national unity. We believe in limited government, lower taxes and freedom from government, corporate and global control.



SAGA Corporate Membership



**SAGA Corporate Members professionally representing
Firearm owners, Dealers & Associations at the highest level.**

**The members listed below and over the page are all proudly
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Find out more about Corporate Membership by contacting us:

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SAGA Personal 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 cell-phone number **066 003 9226**.





Firearms Light & Torches

By Ridwaan Syed
SA Tactical Institute
Proud Corporate SAGA Member

My first Duty Light was a D-Cell Maglite that resembled a baton. We have come a long way since then. Fast forward to today and we carry multiple lights for various reasons. Here are some useful considerations in the choice and use of hand-held torches/ flashlights with or without the use of firearms:

Output: There is a difference in output; lumens rating for brightness (at the source) and candela for adequate penetration (think reach). You should endeavour to find a generous but balanced amount of these two attributes for tactical use. Most lights are advertised with their lumens rating so look for 500 – 1000 lumens as the middle ground. Too much light isn't always a good thing!

Beam Distance: A longer beam distance (greater candela) provides better illumination and visibility at a distance. You should also consider the barriers that you may need to contend with e.g. fog.

Durability: Opt for a flashlight with rugged construction, preferably made from aircraft-grade aluminium or similar materials, and with water and impact resistance. Check for ANSI standards and IPX ratings (for resistance against dust, and water).

Size and Weight: Consider portability and ease of handling, if you will be carrying it for extended periods. Also consider pocket clips like the Thyrn Switchback or a pouch. It's always good to carry a few extra battery cells as well. Law Enforcement (LE) Carry methods may differ from Everyday Carry (EDC) – think body armour, exposure to the elements, etc. On my personal duty rig I run a retractable cable for retention.

High-Quality LED: LEDs usually last up to 25x longer than older-generation incandescent bulbs. They consume less energy and generally help batteries last longer. They may produce more visible light and run for longer.

Colour Rendering: A warmer, yellowish light beam tends to be more penetrative than super white light.

Battery Life: Choose a flashlight with long battery life or rechargeable batteries for extended use. Drop-in battery cells are a true lifesaver when there's no time to charge on a cable. Built-in cell torch designs often don't warn you when they are running low, but drop-in cell lights can have an output step-down which is indicative of a low battery.

Beam Type: Decide between a focused beam for distance (hot-spot) or a wide beam for broader coverage, depending on your intended use.

Additional Features: Look for features like momentary on/off mode for "strobing" techniques used for the self-defence disorientation of an opponent. Multiple brightness levels can be helpful for utility and versatility e.g. searching for your kid's toy under the couch. A light with independent controls can be a true winner. Strong bezels may act as a striking/impact tool if necessary, albeit this isn't the best LE practice as an officer should carry dedicated impact tools on his person.

Ease of Use: Ensure the flashlight is intuitive to operate, especially under stress or low light conditions. A tail-cap button makes this possible, especially when using gloves. Stay away from too many buttons and clicks. Less equals more.

Brand Reputation: Stick to reputable brands known for producing quality lighting equipment and tools. Most militaries and law enforcement agencies around the world choose premium-quality brands and the prominent firearm instructors do too. These kind of brands are usually known for reliability and good customer support.

PS. Do not stress too much about the front of your light getting a bit warm. Heat is a by-product of illumination.

We generally supply lights from brands like Cloud Defensive, SureFire, Streamlight as many of their models are designed by tacticians and are suitable for the training that we provide.

You can contact Ridwaan by email at sa.tactical@gmail.com or training@satactical.co.za



Essential Concealed Carry Accessories

https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/essential-concealed-carry-accessories/?utm_source=newsletter

By Kevin Creighton
18 May 2024

Choosing to carry a gun on a regular basis is a momentous decision. You've realized, along with a growing number of people, that there may not be a police officer around when you need one, and you've concluded that you have the temperament needed to safely carry a gun.

Deciding to take care of your own personal safety is crucial because you are, and always will be, your own first responder. Carrying a pistol with you allows for more options in defense of your life that not having a firearm gives you. For most of us, the chances are slim that we'll ever need a gun to defend our lives, and that is a very good thing indeed. It's not the odds of having a lethal-force encounter that matter, but rather the stakes—and the stakes when guns are involved are extremely high for everyone.

So what other things might you need to accompany a concealed carry pistol to help keep you safe?

Safe Means to Store the Gun

"Safe" is a relative term. If you live alone or with stable, properly trained adults you can trust, you could make an argument that "safe" might mean keeping a loaded pistol on the nightstand if it's not in a holster on your person. For me, with two young children, this is not "safe" at all, and I keep my concealed carry guns either on myself or in a quick-access safe. I've tested how fast I can get to a gun inside a safe if I really need it, it rivals the speed of finding a pistol inside my nightstand drawer. In addition to this, keeping something in the same place every time eliminates the time you waste searching around for your gun.

Spare Magazines

Because they get slammed into the gun over and over again or dropped onto the ground, magazines are a disposable item. I consider three extra magazines a bare minimum to have on-hand for any pistol that I own, and I have at least five spare magazines for all of my competition or carry guns.

Ammo

A no-brainer, but I'm always amazed at how many people buy a pistol and then don't buy defensive ammunition for it.

Quick ammo primer: There are essentially two types of ammunition for handguns; full metal jacket bullets (FMJ), most commonly used for target practice and plinking, and jacketed hollow-point ammunition (JHP) which expands on impact, typically used for hunting and self-defense.

In general, you want to use hollow points in a defensive gun because they increase the ability of a pistol round to cause enough trauma to stop an attacker, which then increases the chances of you stopping the threat to your life. However, smaller caliber guns (typically .380 ACP and smaller) usually don't have the oomph needed to penetrate deep enough to cause enough damage to stop a threat, so choose your ammo carefully if you carry a smaller gun.

Which brand of ammo to choose is the subject of endless internet and gun store debates, but when all is said and done, any modern, bonded, jacketed hollow-point ammunition will work. Make sure you buy a spare box or two and run them through your gun to check for potential malfunction issues before you trust your life to any ammunition.

Holsters and Gun Belts

Note that I said "holsters," not "holster." You don't own just one pair of shoes, and you'll probably soon find that one holster won't do the trick by itself. Get a good gun belt as well, because a stiff belt that distributes the weight of your gun around your entire waist makes carrying much, much easier.



Continued...Essential Concealed Carry Accessories

A Knife

I have a small folding blade clipped to my trouser pocket pretty much all the time. I like this sort of knife because it's darn useful and it fits deeper into my pocket than most knives so it doesn't scream "Knife!" to my co-workers and friends.

If I'm out and about, I back that up with a fixed blade knife concealed under my shirt near my belt buckle because it's easy to grab with either hand at that location, and if I need a knife to defend myself, I'm probably going to need it right quickly.

Less-Lethal Defensive Options

A Flashlight

Want to avoid becoming a victim in a scary place on a dark night? Have a flashlight and turn it on when things get dark and dicey. Crooks are not looking to attack a prepared, aware individual; they're looking to attack someone who looks and acts like a potential victim. Having something in your hand that signals to the world that you are watching where you are going tells a crook to look somewhere else for his/her next score. Decent flashlights can be quite small, so there is really no reason not to have one with you at all times.

Pepper Spray

I'm getting too old to rely on my hand-to-hand skills, and pepper spray gives me more options besides my defensive pistol. Introducing lethal force like a gun or a knife into a situation where less-lethal force could be employed brings the specter of having to introduce yourself to the American legal system. Carry pepper spray, and give yourself a self-defense option other than "BANG!"

A Tourniquet

A few years ago, 22-year-old Elisjsa Dicken dropped an active shooting attack in a mall in Indiana by making a tough shot when everything was on the line, and he has been rightly commended for his actions. However, his girlfriend was with him at the time, and she also saved lives that day by improvising tourniquets for those wounded in the attack. It

worked, but I think we'd all agree that having a purpose-built tourniquet with you that you can trust is a lot better than jury-rigging something and hoping for the best. In addition to this, a tourniquet (and other trauma gear) comes in handy in any life-threatening situation, not just after the bullets stop flying.

Other than that, make sure you have your smartphone with you: A text can get through when the phone lines are jammed from over-use, and having a camera to document even minor things like a fender-bender comes in handy. Also, consider keeping a larger first aid kit that can deal with serious injuries in your car or somewhere else (and get training to use it). A pre-arranged self-defense legal plan is a good idea as well.

And have fun. You're not carrying a gun because you are paranoid or want to act macho; you're carrying a gun so you can enjoy your life without messy interruptions.

The Easier Route...The Safer Route

by Sheriff Jim Wilson

25 May 2024

The other day I posted a comment about training and how good training provides a lot of shortcuts to the student. A reader replied, "When it comes to personal defense, there are no shortcuts." Well, dear reader, I beg to differ.

Working with a good trainer minimizes the time we spend, the effort we take and the mistakes that we make. Take for example, a simple thing like trigger control. Yes, we might go to the shooting range and work that out on our own, but the expense would be lot of time and a whole lot of ammunition. On the other hand, that trainer will often have students performing a good trigger press having fired less than 100 rounds of ammo.

In addition, when trying to learn on our own, we often are simply not aware of the mistakes that we are making. We don't realize the importance of a good, athletic stance while shooting, and we aren't aware of all the wasted motion involved in our draw stroke. A couple of hours under good instruction will fix all of that instead of us going months and months, still wondering what we are doing wrong, and in the end, we have fewer bad habits to overcome.

Another value of defensive training is learning the mindset and having a better understanding of criminal behavior. Being in the midst of an armed robbery or home invasion is not the best time to learn those things. On-the-job



training is not the best way to learn about gunfighting or related matters. Obtaining training from one who has some experience dealing with criminals is not only a shortcut, it's also a life-saving shortcut. We can quickly pick up tactics and techniques that will save our lives.

Finally, good training embeds gun safety into our minds and being. Those of us who go armed owe it to our fellow citizens to never place innocent folks in danger. Accidents are inexcusable. Training helps us adopt basic safety rules that work and the commitment to follow and enforce them 24/7.

So, yes, we can learn a lot on our own. Of course, that would take thousands and thousands of rounds of ammunition, a lot of it wasted. And then there is the wasted time, energy, and motion. And we don't even want to talk about the negligent discharges that might occur. Or we can simply shortcut all of that with good training. Good training creates a solid foundation upon which our own personal defense is constructed.

A shortcut? Sorry, pal, good training is definitely a shortcut...an important, valuable shortcut.

<https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/the-easier-route-the-safer-route/>