



SAGA Snippets

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SAGA Calls for Balanced Approach in Crime Prevention Following New Murder Statistics

In light of the recent crime statistics published by the South African Police Service for the second quarter of 2023-2024, the South African Gunowners' Association (SAGA) has issued a statement emphasizing the need for a more comprehensive approach to crime prevention in South Africa.

The report details that out of 6,786 murder cases, firearms were involved in 3,106 incidents, accounting for 45.8% of the total. However, a higher percentage of murders, 54.2%, were committed using other means. Knives (14.5%), sharp instruments (8.3%), blunt instruments (3.1%), body parts (2%), and stones or bricks (1.7%) accounted for a substantial number of cases. Additionally, there were 1,666 unspecified cases, representing 24.6% of the total.

Damian Enslin, the Chairman of SAGA, highlighted the importance of this data in understanding crime trends.

"These statistics challenge the prevalent perception that firearms are the leading cause of murder in South Africa. It is crucial that our approach to crime prevention encompasses all factors contributing to violence, not just gun control," said Enslin.

SAGA, as an advocate for responsible gun ownership, stresses the importance of a balanced approach to gun control that respects the rights of lawful citizens while ensuring public safety and their right to defend themselves. The association is actively

engaged in dialogue with government bodies, law enforcement, and the community to develop effective strategies to reduce crime and violence.

"We urge policymakers and law enforcement agencies to consider these findings in their crime prevention strategies. Addressing issues like socio-economic challenges, mental health, and policing efficiency is vital for enhancing safety in our communities," Enslin added.

SAGA reaffirms its commitment to responsible gun ownership and its role in contributing to the safety and security of all South Africans. The association continues to be at the forefront of advocating for the rights of gun owners while promoting public safety and crime prevention.

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Special points of interest:

- *SAGA Calls for Balanced Approach in Crime Prevention*
- *Live With It*
- *False Bay Sports Shooting Club Open Day*
- *SAGA Corporate Membership*
- *Gun Safety: What are Misfires/ Hangfires?*
- *How Far We've Come*
- *90-Day Export Permit Halt*



Live With It

<https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/live-with-it-1/>

by Sheriff Jim Wilson

18 November 2023

Lately I've been re-reading the works of that grand old man of sixgunning, Elmer Keith, and I noticed that Mr. Keith had the same advice that was later offered by Col. Jeff Cooper; live with your handgun. The savvy handgunner has their gun on, or within reach, during most of their waking hours. But, actually, that's not enough. On a regular basis, it is important to handle it, shoot it, and practice with it. That's what it really means to live with your defensive handgun.

As a young peace officer, my first duty gun was a 4-inch Smith & Wesson Model 19. I shot some of our department matches with it but the smartest thing that I did was to start handgun hunting. The .357 Magnum cartridge was plenty powerful for Rio Grande turkey, javelina, feral hogs and even our Texas Whitetail deer. The hunting experience really helped to learn to judge distance, press the trigger smoothly and even handle moving targets. The bonus was all of that good, wild game that went into my freezer. Handgun hunting gave me a graduate course in gun handling long before I ever heard a shot fired in anger.

The desire to live with my handgun also drove me to handloading because that was the only way that I could afford to shoot a lot. The side benefit to that was that I learned a great deal about cartridge development, velocities and the various kinds of bullets that were available to the handgunner.

Today, I know that times are tough but I have trouble sympathizing with the person who is continually buying new guns but can't seem to find the funds needed to get professional training. The smart thing to do is to get that training and then put a lot of rounds down-range practicing what has been taught. And,

to really conserve funds it is a great idea to get some dummy rounds and do some regular dry practice at home. And handloading is still a good way to cut costs for live-fire practice.

Living with the defensive handgun doesn't mean just having a gun and keeping it nearby. We budget good training, we practice what we've been taught and we shoot every time we have a lawful chance to put some lead in the air. I'll probably never be the game shot that Elmer Keith was or a fast shot like Bill Jordan... but it won't be from not trying.

False Bay Sports Shooting Club OPEN DAY

**Saturday 2nd December 2023
from 10:00 until 16:00**

The SAGA Chairperson and many SAGA Representatives will be at the annual False Bay Sports Shooting Club Open Day on Saturday 2nd December.

The Range will be open to the public and there will be many types of firearms to shoot.... black powder muzzle-loading firearms, cowboy guns, modern pistols and rifles, and even a .50 calibre sniper rifle.



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!*

Sign up as a Corporate Member on our website today!



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Gun Safety: What Are Misfires/Hangfires?

By NRA Staff

17 November 2023

A misfire is a failure of the priming mixture to be initiated after the primer (or rim of a rimfire case) has been struck an adequate blow by the firing pin, or the failure of the initiated primer to ignite the powder. This term is also commonly used to refer to a failure to fire caused by an insufficient hit on the primer (perhaps more appropriately called a "light hit").

A misfire is experienced as the complete failure of a cartridge to fire when the trigger is pulled and the hammer or firing pin falls. A light firing pin hit is probably the most common cause of misfires, but occasionally they may also result from deteriorated or defective ammunition. When a light firing pin hit is the cause of the misfire, a shallow indentation of the primer cup will usually be seen when the misfiring cartridge is removed from the chamber.

Though not dangerous in themselves, misfires should be treated with caution, as it is impossible to initially distinguish a misfire from a hangfire. Thus, whenever there is a failure of a cartridge to ignite, the shooter should use the proper safety procedure for handling hangfires (see below).

A hangfire occurs when there is a noticeable delay between the impact of the hammer or firing pin on the primer and the actual discharge of the firearm. Typically, with a hangfire, the shooter will pull the trigger, causing the hammer or firing pin to fall, but no shot is produced immediately. Inside the case, however, the ignition process has been initiated and, after an unpredictable delay period, the gun discharges. Like a squib load, a hangfire can be produced by the use of deteriorated ammunition, or ammunition whose primer or powder charge has become contaminated.



The danger of a hangfire lies in the fact

that it is often mistaken for a misfire. This, in turn, can result in two distinct types of hazards. First, a shooter who assumes that a non-firing round is a misfire may immediately open the gun's action to remove the malfunctioning cartridge. A cartridge that ignites when thus unconfined can cause damage to the gun and serious injury to the shooter. Moreover, a shooter who assumes that he or she has suffered a misfire may fail to exercise proper muzzle control, such that the gun may be pointing in an unsafe direction when it unexpectedly discharges.

Any time the hammer or firing pin falls and the gun fails to fire, a hangfire should be assumed. The firearm should not be opened or unloaded, but should be kept pointing in a safe direction for 60 seconds with a modern cartridge—and two minutes for a muzzleloader. This is sufficient time for any hangfire to complete ignition. If one minute passes and the gun does not discharge, the situation is actually a misfire. The firearm should be unloaded and the offending cartridge inspected for light primer indentation, contamination, etc.

If a firearm that is normally reliable produces hangfires or misfires with a particular ammunition (particularly ammunition that is old or potentially deteriorated), discontinue use of that ammunition and dispose of it in accordance with local regulations.

<https://www.nrafamily.org/content/gun-safety-what-are-misfires-hangfires/>



How Far We've Come

https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/how-far-we-ve-come/?utm_source=newsletter

by Sheriff Jim Wilson

4 November 2023

As many of you know, I am a life-long student of the history of the American West, especially the lawmen and outlaws. Just yesterday, I read a piece about a frontier lawman, in this case Wyatt Earp, pulling his handgun and hitting a troublemaker over the head. In fact, this "buffaloing", as they called it was quite common and considered a proper response to certain threats and conduct.

Of course, back in those days the old single actions that most folks carried were robust enough to take such abuse. The more modern double-action revolvers and semi-automatics could be more easily damaged and possibly cause a negligent discharge. The only time I saw someone hit with a gun was when a fellow officer hit a thug over the head with his DA revolver, causing the gun to discharge and wound two bystanders.

In time, courts and juries began to take a dim view of using the handgun as a club. And our good, modern training, with an emphasis on safety, along with modern less-lethal options like OC spray and tasers, has pretty much caused the practice to be a thing of the past.

Another thing that a western historian will notice is the old-time practice of leaning on the butt of a rifle or shotgun with the muzzle resting in the dirt, possibly allowing foreign objects to get into the bore of the gun. Even worse are the photos of individuals resting the

gun muzzle on the toe of their boot. Sadly, in more recent times, it has been the practice of some shotgun competitors; something that I hope is currently being discouraged. Years ago, I had a friend who had a horribly mangled right hand from resting it on the muzzle of his loaded .410 shotgun; it's a wonder that he had a hand at all.

In my own case, as a young officer, I attended numerous law enforcement firearm classes. One thing that they had in common was the fact that no one said anything about keeping your finger off the trigger, much less keeping it out of the trigger guard entirely. To my knowledge, the first that this was emphasized was in conjunction with Jeff Cooper's Modern Technique of the Pistol in the late 1970s. We now call it Gunsite's Rule #3, the Golden Rule, and there is no telling how many negligent discharges and injuries this training has prevented.

Sadly, the old-time handgun men had to learn the hard way what worked and what didn't work, what was safe and what wasn't. In the interim, the National Rifle Association began to put gun safety into the forefront of all firearms training and individual firearms instructors have followed suit. Nowadays, just about any firearms class you attend begins with a safety lecture and that is exactly as it should be.

We certainly can, and should, enjoy the history, stories, and photos of our frontier days. But we should also take time to be thankful and mindful of the great advances that have been made in terms of gun safety. A lot of the old-time gunmen might have lived a lot longer if they had had the same training that is available to the modern shooter.



90-Day Export Permit Halt Comes As A “Shock”

https://www.americanrifleman.org/content/90-day-export-permit-halt-comes-as-a-shock/?utm_source=newsletter

by Guy J. Sagi

7 November 2023

The halt in new permits to export firearms, ammunition and related components to certain nations posted on Oct. 27 by U.S. Department of Commerce came with no notification, despite the financial strain on affected firms. The pause is effective for 90 days and could become permanent—at least under the Biden administration—if a concurrently announced review determines it meets “U.S. national security and foreign policy interests.”

The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), the trade association for the firearm industry, told American Rifleman it was not consulted or notified in advance that any change was coming. There was also no public comment period. As a result, many of NSSF’s 10,000 members—manufacturers, distributors and retailers—are scrambling to modify production and staffing schedules. The industry is a key player in the nation’s inflation-plagued economy, generating 172,697 jobs with an economic impact of \$24.15 billion last year.

One manager for a major manufacturer, who asked their identity remain anonymous, independently confirmed the change was a complete surprise. “Some of the countries (example: Thailand) do a lot of business that are not on the list of 40 countries,” they wrote in an email. “We are going to see how this plays out, but it is shocking and unexpected.”

Permits will continue to be processed for the 40 nations listed as Wassenaar participants on the Code of Federal Regulations, plus Israel and Ukraine, according to the Department of Commerce announcement.

Firearm Impact

American Rifleman reached out to several companies to gauge impact on their business. All politely declined to comment, but a statement made by Christopher J. Killoy, president, CEO and director of Ruger on Nov. 2 indicates it may be nominal on his firm. “I think the headlines were a little deceptive in that they made it sound like all firearms were being banned,” he said during a Nov. 2 conference call with investors. “But right now, 90 percent of our exports are not impacted based on the countries that are specifically allowed by that. And typically, our export business, as you like to remember, typically goes between 5 percent and 6 percent ... our export team is really on top of this, and I don’t see a major impact from this unless it were to expand based on the guidance we’ve currently got from the administration.”

The same is likely not true for others in the industry, however, at least based on NSSF’s 2019 Industry Reference Guide, the latest available. It provides a detailed, country-specific analysis of firearm exports. U.S. manufacturers exported 324,457 semi-auto pistols to Thailand, for example, between 2008 and 2017. It ranked number two on the 64-nation list and was beat only by Canada—a market that’s since dwindled. Revolvers, where Thailand earned top spot on the podium, are a separate category.

Total pistol shipment volumes in that study provides a better overall glimpse of the halt’s potential economic impact. In semi-autos alone, during that 10-year period, 1,971,542 domestically produced models shipped from the United States. If the new permit halt was in place during that same decade the total drops to less than half. Subtract figures from Canada and Australia (to reflect increased restrictions)—377,190 and 50,347 respectively—and the international market for American-made semi-auto handguns is hovering at somewhere around a quarter of its 2017 mark.



Continued...90-Day Export Permit Halt Comes As A “Shock”

The effect isn't as bad for shotguns. The number U.S. manufacturers shipped in those 10 years came to 1,365,883. The figure drops to 990,011 after subtracting destinations affected by the halt—a loss of roughly a quarter of the market.

Another industry executive told American Rifleman, again under condition of anonymity, that it's their understanding the current halt doesn't affect law enforcement and military orders. It is, however, of little comfort for firms whose sales are primarily or exclusively commercial.

Ammo

The permit halt includes ammunition and components. Major manufacturers contacted by American Rifleman politely avoided comment at this time and Federal offices asked to provide cartridge destinations and volumes have yet to respond.

The financial setback may be more serious for that sector, however, as global demand for American-made ammo has grown significantly. In 2005, for example, 213,258,682 units (including components, but not shotshells) were shipped to destinations outside of the United States. Last year that number more than tripled to 793,395,541.

There's no slowing in that trend. The latest figures available show ammunition units shipped to other nations in June 2023 totaled 72.3 million, an 8.7 percent increase compared to the year before.

Gear

Gun and ammunition permits don't hold an exclusive in the halt. The announcement's wording is unclear on exactly which accessories are included, but export numbers indicate jobs are threatened.

Last year, for example, there were 474,743 riflescopes shipped abroad. Rifle and shotgun accessories came in at 902,192, according to an NSSF report, and suppressors 13,575.

Outreach Paralysis

The Seattle Times reported last week that the Department of Commerce is reviewing its support and participation at the annual Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade Show, also news to the owner of the event, NSSF. The Department's attendance ensures compliance with regulations by manufacturers, whether importing or exporting.

Outreach efforts by Federal agencies are routine at trade shows, and considered a resource to those businesses attending, as well as taxpayer benefit. The face-to-face information provided there minimizes subsequent clerical errors, erroneous filings and questions that drain manpower hours when government employees are forced to wrestle with them remotely. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology division, for example, attends the Consumer Electronics Show—the world's largest trade show in that industry—in pursuit of that mission.

No Communication With The Industry

NSSF Managing Director of Public Affairs Mark Oliva said the organization has yet to receive official communication from the administration or Department of Commerce about the permit halt, but emphasizes the development wasn't completely unexpected. It was a request made in a letter sent by Everytown/Students Demand Action to President Joe Biden shortly after he took office. It may also have been an agenda item when the administration's new Office of Gun Violence Prevention held a roundtable meeting recently.