



SAGA SNIPPETS

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Holidays and Firearms

By John Welch
December 2018

For many, 2018 was not a good year – we experienced unprecedented fuel-price hikes; our economy is in a shambles; we learnt new terminology, such as ‘state capture’; the celebration by the firearm owners who failed to renew their licenses for the success that SA Hunters achieved in the Gauteng North High Court was short-lived when the Constitutional Court overturned it; the same High Court ruled in GOSA’s favour when it temporarily interdicted SAPS from implementing any plans of action or from accepting any firearms for which the license had expired for the sole reason that such licenses had expired. The police were further prohibited from demanding the surrender of such unlicensed firearms; the SAPS minister withdrew his amnesty application from parliament and that after he had publicly promised that it was going to happen; a draft amendment bill seeking to radically amend the Firearms Control Act seemed to have been leaked and which put the proverbial cat among the pigeons. All these, and many more challenges, in various degrees of intensity, will face us in 2019.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

The challenges facing the law-abiding firearm owner going on holiday are more immediate and need serious consideration. If you go away on holiday you obviously leave your firearms locked away in your safe. Unless you have a proper security system, criminals will have enough time and opportunity to break open the safe or even remove the safe and empty it.

Despite your premises being properly protected, it is advisable that you take additional measures to safeguard your firearms, at the very least, so that they cannot be used by the thieves. It is advisable that bolts, barrels, slides, firing pins, hammer springs, etc, be removed and locked away in another safe. Bear in mind that a firearm part that forms part of the definition of a firearm, needs to be

locked away in a prescribed safe. Anything else may be locked away somewhere else. You may also wish to tie down all the temporarily deactivated firearms with a cable. It makes the removal more cumbersome and it may buy valuable time for your security company to arrive and catch them in the act.

In terms of the Firearms Control Act, you are not allowed to remove your firearms and place them in another safer storage facility, such as a bank storage vault, unless you have obtained permission from the Registrar. You may obtain a section 21 storage permit from your DFO that will allow another competent firearms owner to store your firearms in your absence. Just make sure, though, that your firearms will be insured under such storage circumstances.



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You may also hand your firearms to a licensed dealer for storage. He will probably charge you storage fees, but your firearms may be safer there. Just make sure the firearms are not entered into his stock register, as this may only be done if you have signed a transfer of ownership form. You obviously do not want to do that.

Many gun owners take a self-defence handgun along when they go on holiday. Often, though, they do not consider the consequences – what to do with the firearm at the hotel, tent, self-catering facility, caravan, etc, when they arrive at their destination, or even en route to their destination. You should establish in advance whether the hotel has safes in the rooms. Bear in mind that unless a firearm is carried on your person or is under your direct control, it must be locked away in a prescribed safe. A steel safety box in your caravan or tent or in the ceiling of the holiday cottage is neither safe nor prescribed.

SAGA recognises and respects every free law-abiding citizen's right to take informed decisions about her or his right to be armed and to defend her- or himself against unlawful and violent attacks. It is, however, our duty to help you make informed decisions.

For various reasons many people do not go on holiday – they rather stay at home, invite friends over for a braai, or go visit friends. SAGA members should know by now what my views are about self-

defence and self-defence firearms: if your firearm is not within your reach when you read this article, you are not serious about self-defence. The best firearm in the world is useless if locked away in a safe at the time you need it.

You need to consider carefully where you are going to carry it or place it (you may spend time at the pool, at the braai, with the children, watching television, etc). Remember too that your children may be properly educated about firearm safety – but what about their friends? You may be very careful and diligent about locking away your firearm, however, friends you visit may not be as diligent, and his children just might want to boast about their father's "big gun". Good friends will not take offence if you ask them whether their firearms are locked away or under their direct control, and neither should you.

During the holiday season most people tend to relax – some relax by using more alcoholic beverages than usual. Members are reminded that you may not handle a firearm while under the influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug having a narcotic effect. Persons carrying firearms for self-defence must show restraint and be responsible in this regard. Now that the use of dagga for personal use has been legalised, we may see an increase in violence as many people do not know to what extent they are affected by a drug having a narcotic effect. And remember, the same principle is applicable to prescription drugs. Should you be tempted to use more alcohol than usual, or a prescription drug, or other drugs, even at home, rather dispose of your firearm, either permanently or temporarily while you do so.

SAGA members are a responsible bunch of people – think before you do something; think about the consequences of your actions; think about others and what they may or may not do; and only then do the right thing.

You deserve a break – enjoy it but do so responsibly. Best wishes for a safe festive season.

**SORRY WE'LL BE
CLOSED!**

Please note that the SAGA Office will be closed from Monday 24 December 2018 and will re-open on Tuesday 3 January 2019.

The SAGA Trustees and staff wish you and your family all the best for the festive season and the new year.

Crime-Proof Your Kids

<https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2018/12/2/crime-proof-your-kids/>

by Brad Fitzpatrick
December 2, 2018

Like so many other people I believe that the world was a safer place when I was a child. Statistically, I know that isn't true; data shows that there were higher murder and assault rates in the 1980s than there are today, but at that time I felt insulated. And I enjoyed that aspect of my childhood. Social media and the internet hadn't yet begun bombarding us with steady updates on human suffering. Ignorance was bliss. The world, at least back then, seemed like a friendly place full of friendly people.

But violence against children existed then and it exists now. According to a paper published by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, children and young adults ages 12-19 were twice as likely to be the victims of violence as the population as a whole. In 2015 the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children assisted in more than 13,700 cases of missing children. Of that number, 11 percent were abducted either by family members or strangers. What's more, the internet has removed barriers and allowed strangers into our homes. The Department of Justice has initiated an Internet Crimes Against Children task force aimed specifically at identifying online threats to children.

Those are sobering statistics, more so now that I have two children of my own. Like other parents, I want my kids to have the skills required to stay safe without spending every waking minute in

fear for their life (that's my job, after all). My children need to know that not everyone is good, but that there are defenses that will help them protect them from danger. I want my children to have the tools to help safeguard themselves against crime.

It's our responsibility to protect our kids as much as we can, but as they mature they will be exposed of more and more of the outside world, a key to development, growth and eventual self-sufficiency. We, as parents, need to teach our skills survival skills for a modern world. Here are some guidelines for helping crime-proof your child from the National Crime Prevention Council:

1. Make Them Aware:

Don't allow your children to be ignorant to the fact that others could potentially pose a threat. The old adage that they shouldn't talk to strangers is true, but they should also recognize the warning signs from known individuals. If an adult who is not you or your spouse asks them to break the rules that you have set for them, they should be aware that this is a warning sign of an adult who is not to be trusted. Adults they can trust will not try to undermine your authority as their parents by telling them that it's OK to deviate from your agreed-upon route home, get in their car or stay out late. They should also know that any adult who asks them to keep secrets from you is giving them a red flag that says "danger."

2. Make Them Assertive:

None of us want to be embarrassed by our children, and of course it's an important part of our job to teach them manners. However, they should know that they shouldn't let manners stand in the way of their own personal safety.

Help them understand that if an unknown adult asks your child to do something that makes them uncomfortable, they need to feel free to say no, to yell for help or to escape the area and then to tell you as soon as possible. They should understand that if a stranger knocks on the door, they don't need to answer, even if the person knows they are inside. Children should know that you will always listen to them, and that they should learn to trust their instincts with regard to personal safety.

3. Help Them Communicate:

Kids need to have open lines of communications with a safe adult, and they need to be encouraged to let you know when something bothers them. On the flip side, know where your kids are and help them identify safe places and travel routes when they are old enough to be on their own. Cell phones are for more than texting with friends and playing Minecraft, too. A phone can be a dangerous distraction, drawing a kid's attention away from their surroundings and leaving them vulnerable, or a tool that helps them stay safe by instantly connecting them with adults they can trust.

4. Identify Safe Places and People:

Kids need safe spots—the home, school, a nearby fire or police station—where they can expect to find help and security. Assist them in identifying those places by pointing them out as you go along a route they need to walk or bike. Also, teach your kids to recognize trustworthy adults like police, teachers and firefighters. If your children feel threatened, they need to vocalize it and must be able to rely on those people for assistance.

Gun Industry Restrictions Will Hurt Workers

by Zita Ballinger Fletcher
Saturday, December 8, 2018

Many people who seek to infringe on Second Amendment rights advocate the passage of “harsher gun laws” to allegedly benefit the common good. But does anyone actually understand what “harsher gun laws” mean for a state’s economy?

Most advocates for arbitrary and unconstitutional restrictions on the freedoms of gun manufacturers claim to be targeting only certain businesses and customers. This logic is false. These misinformed reformers make the naïve assumption that the gun industry is a separate entity from the rest of the American economy. Nothing could be further from the truth. In reality, the gun manufacturing industry—like the automobile manufacturing industry—is intrinsically entwined with the broader economy all across the United States.

Every time rashly adopted “harsher gun laws” cause a manufacturer to impose cutbacks or move, it affects ordinary people’s lives and their ability to earn an honest living.

According to the 2018 Economic Impact Report of the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), firearms and ammunition manufacturers contributed an average of \$51 billion to the nation’s economy—not just by selling guns, but by stimulating many diverse jobs including retail, printing, box manufacturing, plastic manufacturing and small metalwork. The industry and



its employees also created an average of \$6.78 billion in property, income and sales-based taxes in addition to over \$717.81 million in federal excise taxes, according to the report.

Legal blows aimed at gun manufacturers will hit ordinary workers in ordinary jobs—like workers at food-delivery companies serving workers at manufacturing plants. Cuts to gun manufacturers and employee layoffs will also drain revenue from stores and restaurants located in areas where workers live.

“For every state that has been unfriendly to gun manufacturers and passed these restrictive laws, there are usually two or three states that are friendly and more than happy to welcome those manufacturers,” said Mike Bazinet, NSSF’s director of public affairs.

That’s good for the gun manufacturers. It gives them the opportunity to take their economic growth and jobs with them. In 2016, Tennessee experienced an economic boost when Beretta moved its gun manufacturing operations there. Earlier this year, Weatherby Inc. announced a move from California to Wyoming, where the firearm company is projected to create 70 to 90 jobs

and over \$5 million in payroll within five years.

Clearly that’s a boost for some states. Others aren’t so lucky. “When gun manufacturers are impacted in a negative way, or when they pick up and move, it will definitely have an effect on other businesses around them,” said Bazinet.

Every time rashly adopted “harsher gun laws” cause a manufacturer to impose cutbacks or move, it affects ordinary people’s lives and their ability to earn an honest living.

Citizens who believe that restrictive gun laws will benefit society are being misled by misinformation. Forcing workers out of their jobs and causing negative ripple effects in the economy will not benefit any state. The only people who could possibly benefit from massive losses in any major industry are the minority of multimillionaires who play with other people’s capital investments to line their own pockets. The vast majority of people who will definitely suffer from blows aimed at the gun industry are local small business owners, average retail employees, and industrial workers across America.

<https://www.americas1stfreedom.org/articles/2018/12/8/gun-industry-restrictions-will-hurt-workers/>

Watch this space ...for more interesting firearm snippets