



SAGA SNIPPETS

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Firearms Amnesty - The Procedure

17 December 2019

By John Welch

In November we advised of the Minister of Police's announcement to declare a firearms amnesty for a period of 6 months with effect from 1 December 2019. We also advised of the flawed process that was followed to declare the amnesty and the Minister's indication that the notice of amnesty will be rectified and again published in the Government Gazette.

A further Notice has since been published on the 13th December 2019 – see the Notice on our website. The Notice lists 46 police stations to which firearms may not be surrendered.

At SAGA we are aware that people who may wish to surrender their firearms are concerned:

- * that the firearms and ammunition may land in criminals' hands;
- * that they, themselves, would be investigated for whatever sinister reasons;
- * that the fact that they had failed to renew their licences would be held against them when they apply afresh for licences;
- * that should their applications for licences be refused they would forfeit their firearms;
- * or because their competency certificates have also expired, they would not be issued with fresh licences.

In his media briefing on 28 November 2019 the Minister repeatedly mentioned that gun owners who had failed to renew their licences would have the

opportunity to renew their licences. In terms of the current legal position this is not possible since a licence that has expired is null and void and of no effect. In fact, the Constitutional Court (in the Minister of Police v SA Hunters and Game Conservation Association's case) clearly ruled that once a person's licence has expired s/he is in possession of an unlicensed firearm. In the so-called Guidelines pertaining to the firearms amnesty, dated 28 November 2019, the National Commissioner stated that, "a person who surrenders a firearm in compliance with a notice ... may apply ... for a license in respect of that firearm".

Also note section 28 of the FCA which states that:

- "(1) A licence issued in terms of this Chapter terminates -
- (a) upon the expiry of the relevant period contemplated in section 27, unless renewed in terms of section 24;
 - (b) if surrendered by the holder of the licence to the Registrar;
 - (c) if the holder of the licence becomes or is declared unfit to possess a firearm in terms of section 102 or 103; or
 - (d) if it is cancelled in terms of this Act".

SAGA is of the view that this whole matter could have been avoided had the Minister and SAPS just had the courage to listen to the firearms community. The solution, quite simply, was an amendment to section 24 of the Firearms Control Act, providing for the late



renewal of licences, both during the 90-day period before the expiry of the licence, and thereafter, with or without an administrative penalty, depending on the circumstances.

The Guidelines to the Amnesty state that "All firearms surrendered must undergo Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS) testing to determine whether it might have been involved in crime". During all previous amnesties this has proved futile as not a single firearm was linked with any crime. We would have thought that with the current crime rate (with violent crime as high as ever), the testing should be limited to firearms for which there are no previous licences, and not for firearms where the licences had merely expired.

In theory, the fact that a person has failed to timeously renew their licence, should not be held against them when they now apply for a licence for the surrendered firearm. With all applications for licences, whether for a firearm for self-defence, occasional sport shooting or hunting, dedicated



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hunting or sport shooting or collecting, the law prescribes the requirements regarding motivation – these need to be complied with. Should a licence application be refused because of an applicant's failure to have renewed in time, the Registrar opens himself up for an appeal.

Under section 136 of the FCA, firearms that are surrendered to the police and for which licences, upon application, are not granted or for which licences were not applied for, are forfeited to the state and will be destroyed. This forfeiture is without compensation. Section 134 provides that no compensation is payable to a person in respect of a firearm or ammunition forfeited to the State in terms of this Act if the relevant licence, permit or authorisation was cancelled in terms of this Act because the holder of the licence had contravened or not complied with a provision of this Act or a condition specified in that licence, permit or authorisation. The probable interpretation is that if a person has failed to renew the licence then he has contravened or not complied with, a provision of the Act.

Obviously, if a person wishes to dispose of a firearm with a licence which has not expired, he or she may sell it to a dealer, or a private person or surrender it to the police (no amnesty is needed to do this).

The possession of a valid and relevant competency certificate is a prerequisite to the issuance of a licence to possess a firearm. Accordingly, should your competency certificate have lapsed with the licence of your firearm, you may apply for a new licence for the surrendered firearm only after a competency certificate has been issued. Since the amnesty is for a 6-month period, SAGA advises

that if you contemplate applying for a fresh licence, you now apply for the relevant competency certificate, wait for it to be issued and then surrender your unlicensed firearm while simultaneously applying for a new licence. In his Guidelines, the National Commissioner does not address this issue.

The Guidelines further provide that unwanted and unlicensed firearm parts must also be surrendered. In the Guidelines a firearm part is defined as, "a slide, bolt or breechblock of a firearm or a device designed to be attached to the barrel of a firearm in order to muffle or moderate the report of that firearm (silencer)". Where this definition comes from is unclear as section 94 (1) defines a 'firearm part' as a slide, bolt or breechblock of a firearm; and subsection (2) states that no person may possess any firearm part unless he or she - (a) holds a licence in respect of a firearm capable of bearing that firearm part; (b) holds a dealer's licence, manufacturer's licence, gunsmith's licence, import, export or in-transit permit or transporter's permit issued in terms of this Act; or (c) is otherwise authorised to do so. Neither a sound moderator, silencer, muzzle-brake or flash hider needs to be surrendered.

As previously noted both the amnesty process and the notice are flawed. The National Hunting and Shooting Association (NHSA) have advised that they are in the process of interdicting the Amnesty process. Those persons who wish to utilise the Amnesty may do so - SAGA believes that every free and responsible person has the right to make her or his own informed choices.

If, however, you wish to surrender an unwanted or unlicensed firearm, please make sure that the forms are correctly filled out and

that you receive a receipt for everything you have surrendered - and it is advisable to take a photo of the firearm and ammunition.

Members are reminded that firearms and ammunition may only be surrendered to the Designated Amnesty Official, whereas all licence applications must be lodged with the Designated Firearms Officer (a misnomer since not all DFOs are officers) of the police station responsible for the area in which the applicant ordinarily resides or in which the applicant's business is or will be situated, as the case may be. Although the idea is to coincide the two officials, it will not be possible in all instances. And since a person may surrender a firearm in any area, s/he may apply for the licence only in the area where s/he ordinarily resides. The SAPS' Amnesty Guidelines will be published on the SAGA website.

At this time it may be prudent however, in light of the imminent High Court action by the NHSA, for those persons in possession of firearms with expired licences to await the outcome of this court case, rather than surrender firearms to SAPS, as the whole situation may change once more. We will keep you informed of developments, especially regarding any amendment or fresh amnesty notices and litigation.

SAGA believes that every person has the inalienable right to protect his life, his bodily integrity and that of others who, at the time, cannot do so themselves. And accordingly, SAGA believes that every person has the right to arm himself to exercise such right. We believe that government has NO right to interfere with these rights of free people.

5 First-Timer's Firearms Fears (& How to Overcome Them)

Extracted from:

<https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2019/11/19/5-first-timers-firearms-fears-how-to-overcome-them/>

by Frank Melloni

Tuesday, November 19, 2019

Hey, let's face it, the first time any of us stepped on the range we were intimidated. As with anything new and potentially dangerous we naturally had a few concerns.

Some of us may have had a bad experience already with a firearm, and those concerns turned into downright fears. Others still had been indoctrinated by false claims of both the media and the big screen.

I still remember my first day on the range, and now that I'm an instructor, I always put myself back in those shoes when I train a new shooter. After doing so professionally for close to 10 years, I have identified the top five fears that new shooters have, and some advice to help them deal with it.

1. Shooting yourself

It shouldn't surprise anybody to see this at the top of the list, as everyone wants to go home after any fun activity. The truth is that the shooting sports are statistically some of the safest activities in the world, especially when compared to contact sports. Explaining this to a new shooter often helps ease their minds and allows them to focus on the first lesson, safety.



2. Recoil

Most students come to us worried about "kickback." When that phrase comes up I like to help them with their terminology and explain that the proper term is recoil.

But, yes, as confirmed by Sir Isaac Newton, for every action there is an equal but opposite reaction. Lead going downrange means steel moving uprange. Sure firearms kick a little bit, so we like to minimize that by using heavier guns, smaller cartridges or a combination of both. Nothing is softer to shoot than a full-sized rifle or pistol in a rimfire caliber. Again the goal here is to generate a "that's it?" response. When it's time for a centerfire I have the students load just one round into the gun the first few times they fire it. We do this because should they drop the gun after it fires, they will be dropping an unloaded gun. Of course, this is a highly unlikely scenario, but letting them know that they are working with a one-round "safety net" eliminates that fear and helps the student concentrate on the other aspects of firearms safety, as well as marksmanship.

3. Noise

My friend Oleg Volk says "A gun without a suppressor is like a car without a muffler." I couldn't agree more with this statement and thus use a suppressor anytime I can when teaching a new student. Of course, this is a problem in many states and other means must be examined.

Quiet comes in a lot of different forms, such as the use of subsonic ammo. This offering is available for a number of cartridges, with .22 Rimfire being the quietest. Other ways to bring the noise down is to use longer-barreled firearms and utilize outdoor ranges as often as possible. An outdoor range, especially if that particular range is void of a pavilion, is a substantially quieter environment to discharge firearms.

Of course, doubling up on the hearing protection (earplugs and earmuffs) will also cut down on the guns' report.

4. Action bite

"I have a friend that needed stitches after pulling the trigger the first time." Yes, many of us have heard about "That Guy" before we picked up our first guns.

The truth is that guns are not designed to hurt the user whatsoever. Before I let a student pick up a gun I ALWAYS demo a proper grip, as well as an improper grip.

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When showing a student how to grip a revolver I take a minute to show them the soot around the cylinder gap and explain that high pressure burning gas is emitted through there. Next, I fire a full cylinder with a proper grip and show them that with a little knowledge they have nothing to worry about.

As for semi-autos I simply fire and talk about how the slide moves. During this demonstration, I remind the students that my support hand thumb NEVER wraps around the backstrap, as this action will gouge a chunk out of it.

5. "Everyone's gonna look at me"

Yep, many times a student is self-conscious of their early performance. While I'm no Dr. Phil, I often do have to play the role of tactical psychologist and help new shooters learn to deal with the looks experienced shooters are giving them.

For starters, they're not...No I mean it, really...nobody cares that you're new, and nobody is paying attention to your shooting. Anybody worth their salt on the range is too busy paying attention to their own target.

Gun owners are some of the most understanding and accepting people I have ever met and newbies are an everyday occurrence.

When I am working with someone with this concern, I ask them to point out some easy to recognize characteristics of the other people on the range. When they fail to answer I point out that the same way they aren't obsessing over the other shooters, the other shooters aren't obsessing over them.

Now if it's a group class I always like to start off by asking for a show of hands of "how many people have been to the range fewer than five times." In nearly every introductory course it is somewhere around 92 percent of our clientele that has a hand in the air. Knowing that they are among shooters of the same skill level helps them feel less out of place, and again helps them concentrate on safety and marksmanship.

Overall, firing your first shots should be a memory that lasts a lifetime—but for the right reasons.

Watch this space ...for more interesting firearm snippets

Gun Safety Rules Don't Need to Change with Times

by Patrick Sweeney
November 10, 2018

What is one of the biggest changes in shooting in the last generation? Bonded bullets? High capacity? Polymer pistols? Nope, the rules. As in: The four rules. (See below for the full set.)

Codified by the late Jeff Cooper, at Gunsite, the four rules of safe gunhandling have been passed on by every shooter through Gunsite, and beyond, to the point that there are people who don't know where they originated. A lot of shooters just know them, kind of like the background microwave radiation: it has always been there.

Well, they weren't.

When I started shooting, back in the neolithic era, you had to be safe, but the "rules" were a catch-all of each shooter's experiences. Some knew some, some obeyed others. My learning is an example. My late father was almost shot by a fellow soldier, in a farmhouse in Belgium while getting ready to go out on patrol, due to the fact that the other G.I. was not paying attention to the muzzle. As a result, two decades later, one of the sharpest rules dad instructed us on was keeping the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.

But someone else, whose father hadn't had that experience, might not care about muzzles. And yes, life on ranges, and hunting, back then, could be scary.

The four rules are not just a quick recitation of the basics, but an interlocking set of rules that are both safety and custom, manners and security, respect and obligation.

Rule One is simple: you treat all firearms as if they were loaded. Again, my father was an exemplar here, but his instruction came in a broader scale: "All guns are loaded, all dogs bite, all snakes are poisonous." If you treat all guns as loaded, then you won't have a problem when one of them really is. Ditto dogs and snakes.

Rule Two buttresses Rule One, and adds a layer of protection. Since you treat them as if they were loaded, you obviously don't point them places they ought not to be pointed.

Rule Three works in support of Rules One and Two, since it is highly unlikely that a firearm will discharge if you keep your finger off the trigger.

And Four? One of our club members lost his cell phone (back in the early flip-phone era) when he dropped it on the range, and plinked at what was obviously just another tin can downrange. If he had remembered that he hadn't tossed that many cans out, and walked back downrange to investigate "That shiny thing" before shooting it, he would not have had to replace his phone. Breaking Rule Four can be worse than just anew phone.

Now, you will see posters, T-shirts, handouts and range rules that list more than the four, you can see five, eight, 10 or 20 rules when you include range rules, which can be sort of like Home Field Rules used to be in baseball "The big oak tree in right field is foul-ball territory."

If your gun club insists that you not shoot targets lying on the ground, that's a home field rule. It is time-and-place specific, and not part of The Four. They should be listed separately, not all lumped onto a poster with The Four.

The beauty of The Four is that you can shoot anywhere, use the four rules and be safe. And, the reinforcing aspect keeps you safer. If you break a rule, you can be ejected from a match, range or club, but it is unlikely someone will be hurt. It might just be an embarrassing episode, like my club member. (No, it wasn't me, I didn't have a cell phone back then.) Break two of them, and the risk of injury goes up.

The rules work, so stop trying to "improve" them. Don't re-write them, don't go adding paragraphs of extras to each, and keep the home field rules separate.

The Four Rules are now so deeply ingrained in good shooters that we gun writers regularly get letters, emails and comments complaining when it looks like we've broken one of them. Odds are, we haven't, but it is good to be reminded. They are that important. The late colonel got them right, he put them in the right order, and he knew how to use the English language. Learn them, and leave them alone.

Rule One: Treat all guns like they are always loaded.

Rule Two: Never let the muzzle cover anything which you are not willing to destroy

Rule Three: Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on the target

Rule Four: Always be sure of your target and what's behind it.

<https://www.americas1stfreedom.org/articles/2018/11/10/gun-safety-rules-don-t-need-to-change-with-times/?NRARelatedContent=true>

5 Things "Anti's" Don't Get About Gun Owners

<https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2019/12/2/5-things-antis-dont-get-about-gun-owners/>

by Daniel McElrath - Monday, December 2, 2019

1. Carrying a Gun Eventually Ceases To Be a Big Deal

Many people who don't own guns -for the purposes of this discussion, we'll call them "non-gunners"-have often never even touched a gun. That fact has imbued the inanimate chunk of metal with mystery and undue fear, fear they think must be universal. They don't understand that to someone who carries daily, a firearm becomes as common as your keys or wallet. Like your keys or wallet, you keep your carry gun with you at all times, but you are not constantly aware of it. If you need it, it's there-like many of the cards in your wallet-but beyond keeping it under your secure control you don't worry about it. You don't go around thinking "Boy, oh boy, I'm packing a gun!"

2. One-Size-Fits-All Safe Storage Doesn't Work

While you often hear that the traditional nuclear family is no longer the standard, non-gunners often assume that one-size-fits-all safe storage regulations can prevent gun tragedies. First, they don't understand that there are two types of such tragedies: An unauthorized person getting hold of a gun and using it negligently or criminally; and a righteous citizen being unable to get to his or her home-defense gun because a particular type of safe storage had rendered it inaccessible.

Non-gunners think that children are the only ones who have to be kept from guns, but really, there are potentially a whole slew of people who must be denied ac-

cess. Your kids, sure, but also their cousins and friends; untrained adults in the household; house guests; those suffering addiction, dementia or mental illness; or burglars or home invaders. At the same time, you may have need for rapid access to your home-defense guns. Also, you may have a large collection that is rarely accessed, or sporting guns you access frequently for weekly contests. If it's a particular hunting season, you may need a particular gun several times a week during the season, but not at all during the rest of the year.

Then there's your living situation. Do you live in an apartment in the city, a single-family home in suburbia or a cabin in the woods? Do you live alone? With an adult roommate? With small children?

Non-gunners rarely consider any of these factors. That's why safe storage regulations need to allow appropriate, flexible approaches to securing firearms, with the specifics left to the person who understands the situation the best: the lawful gun owner.

3. Warning Shots and Wounding Shots

Almost everything about firearms as seen in movies or on television is wrong. That is not some nefarious plot by the Hollywood elite as much as it is adherence to the principle that everything is subservient to the narrative. If something helps further the narrative, then it doesn't matter whether or not it is accurate. That's why you'll witness shotguns being double-shucked, Glocks having their "hammers" cocked and Uzis firing a thousand rounds from a single magazine. People cluck their tongues when they know something is ridiculously incorrect, but too often assume anything they don't have specialized knowledge of is being presented with abso-

lute accuracy. People who don't know guns really think you can just fire a warning shot or "shoot to wound" in a crisis, because that's what actors do onscreen. They don't know that in many jurisdictions, warning shots are illegal. And they certainly don't know that most defensive uses of a gun occur in low light, at great speed and under incredible stress against an adversary who is on drugs, alcohol or adrenaline, or who is suffering from mental illness. The armed citizen isn't some veteran gunfighter with nerves of steel; he or she is an average person in fear for their lives and/or the lives of their loved ones. They're lucky to get a telling, center-of-mass hit at all. Expecting someone to "wound" a particular body part under such conditions is just absurd.

4. Not Everyone Who Has Fired A Gun Is A Gun Expert

"Documentarian" Michael Moore earned a marksmanship medal as a child and used that to portray himself as, if not an expert, then at least someone who was once enmeshed in the gun culture. That, alone, was enough for some non-gunners.

In truth, having once fired a gun does not make one a gun expert any more than flicking a light switch makes you an electrician. Most cops rarely draw their guns, and thus simply view them as just another tool on their Sam Browne belt. And just because someone was in the military doesn't mean they were ever anything beyond competent with a firearm. Yet people who oppose the Second Amendment often use such people as "experts," and non-gunners lack the insight to know the difference. Also, having shot a gun, carried a gun or killed a deer doesn't make you an expert on Constitutional law.

Continued....5 Things "Anti's" Don't Get About Gun Owners

5. Firearms' Big Tent

There is no "typical" gun owner/shooter. For some reason, people who don't shoot think that people who do must be Elmer Fudds or Rambo wannabes. Because it's not part of their lifestyle, they have a laughable notion of what people who shoot must be like.

Most gun owners don't even hunt. Some have guns for informal target shooting, formal target shooting, action games, clay target games, etc. Some own guns for home protection, but don't carry. Some carry for personal protection beyond the home. Some are collectors. Some are re-enactors. Of course, many do hunt, but even among them you have dedicated big-game hunters, upland bird hunters, waterfowlers, small-game hunters, varminters, etc.

Some people participate in multiple disciplines, but many do not. And, of course, many gun owners simply inherited firearms and thus became gun owners though they rarely, if ever, actually shoot.

How can we expect understanding from those who don't even know who we are? We can't. That's why it's important to continually serve as staunch-but respectful-ambassadors for gun owners. Often, the one thing that stops someone from morphing from being a non-gunner to being an anti-gunner is a friendly invitation to a range.

SAGA Office Annual Closure



Please note that the SAGA Office will be closed from midday on Friday 20 December and will re-open on Thursday 2 January 2020.

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

What The Mainstream Media Won't Tell You About Violent Crime

<https://www.americas1stfreedom.org/articles/2019/12/1/what-the-mainstream-media-won-t-tell-you->

by Brian McCombie
December 1, 2019

Annually, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) publishes national data on the prevalence of crimes of all types. Recently, the FBI's "2018 Crime Statistics" revealed that, yet again, violent crime in America has declined.

Unfortunately, the mainstream media, in its never-ending quest to promote more gun control, gave this data little to no coverage. Why not? Given their biases, it doesn't feel cynical to say they don't want to let people know about this wonderful fact because it runs counter to their narrative that America is an increasingly violent place.

If the mainstream media were to truly examine the numbers and then print what they found, they would have to explain how the FBI's 2018 statistics mostly show a 30-year decline in violent crimes. A decline, it should be noted, that coincided with a huge increase in the number of civilian-owned firearms and with the expiration of the "assault-weapons" ban. Many in the media told us in 2004, when the Assault Weapons Ban of 1994 sunset, that ending this gun ban would cause the homicide rate to go up.

Data gathered by the FBI tells a different story: "The [2018] violent crime rate fell 3.9% when compared with the 2017 rate; the property crime rate declined 6.9%.... The estimated number of three violent crime offenses [murder, nonnegligent manslaughter and aggravated assault] decreased when compared with estimates from 2017.... [M]urder and nonnegligent manslaughter offenses fell 6.2%, and the esti-

mated volume of aggravated assault offenses decreased 0.4%."

Violent-crime rates in America hit a low point in 2014, according to the FBI—the lowest since 1970. The violent-crime rate in 2018, by comparison, represented the third-lowest rate since 1970.

To the extent the mainstream media even dealt with the FBI statistics, based on a search of 20 major media outlets, they briefly noted the general decline and then talked about places where violent-crime rates were higher than average—they did this, however, without noting that these areas tend to have the strictest gun-control laws.

Some media outlets opted to focus on the one category where the numbers are up: rape. But these articles didn't then mention that gun rights also empower women. What a missed opportunity. They could have interviewed victims who have since armed themselves or firearms instructors who teach women how to protect themselves. But again, that wouldn't fit their narrative.

Meanwhile, another very interesting statistic was circulating among the gun community, though as always, the mainstream media ignored it. According to Dr. John Lott and the Crime Prevention Research Center (CPRC), "The number of concealed handgun permits has increased for the third year in a row. The figure now stands at over 18.66 million, a 304% increase since 2007. It's also an 8% increase over the number of permits we counted a year ago in 2018."

And the actual numbers are even higher because we don't have precise data regarding how many people lawfully carry firearms in 16 states. Why? Those 16 states have some form of "constitutional" carry.

So, the FBI data proves that violent crimes are down, and the CPRC data shows the number of concealed-carry permit holders is increasing fast. Does this mean that the increase in people carrying concealed is making America safer? The mainstream media won't even entertain that question.

Scientifically speaking, there are many factors at work here. These include various crime-prevention programs, local economic conditions and a host of other sociological and legal factors that can affect violent-crime rates. Still, it is dishonest of the media to ignore the fact that more people are carrying.

Unfortunately, we don't often see honest analysis of gun-related issues from the mainstream media. They prefer to push the provably false narrative that violent crime is plaguing America because of the availability of firearms. They like this storyline because they want people to believe we need more gun-control laws.

Another constituency that was silent on the new FBI findings were, surprise, the gun-control groups. An internet search of the websites for the Brady Campaign, Everytown for Gun Safety and Moms Demand Action found no reference to the FBI crime report and no mention that violent crimes are in a steady decline. Actually, all three websites made rather sensationalist claims about violent-crime increases.

Perhaps that's not shocking; after all, if these groups admitted the truth about the decline in violent crime, their reason for being would dry up. As would, one suspects, their fundraising efforts.