



SAGA SNIPPETS

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Should You Carry Your Gun With an Empty Chamber?

by Sheriff Jim Wilson
Monday, June 24, 2019

Some folks still persist in carrying their defensive auto pistol with an empty chamber. I suppose that some of them do this because an older family member with military service told them that was the way it was done. Perhaps someone with little defensive knowledge—and less gun knowledge—told them that this was the safe thing to do. The fact is that defensive pistol training has come a long way in the past 50 years. Beyond a doubt, carrying with an empty chamber is a bad idea—so bad an idea, in fact, that it could get you killed.

First of all, carrying with a round chambered is not a safety issue if you have purchased a quality defense gun from a reputable manufacturer. Further, it is not a safety issue if you have taken that quality defense gun and enrolled in a professional defensive school where you are taught to manage and handle your gun in a safe manner. Quality guns don't go Bang all by themselves. It is nearly always the untrained individual who is holding it that is responsible for the negligent discharge. If you are going to carry a defensive gun, buy the best quality you can afford and learn to handle it properly.

You must also realize that the most dangerous criminal attacks occur at very close range and happen very quickly. So quickly, in fact, that you simply might not have time to chamber that round and defend yourself. This is not idle

speculation on my part because there have been a number of documented cases in which armed citizens were killed before they could get that round chambered in time. Look them up on the internet if you feel like getting depressed.

The quickest way to chamber a cartridge is to use both hands. But the simple fact is that you might not have both hands available when you most need them. One or the other of your hands, or arms, might be held by one of your attackers. Or you might have already sustained a wound in your appendage. And, yes, there are ways to chamber a round one-handed, but these require more time and some additional skill. And time, particularly, is something you won't have a lot of during a criminal attack.

Semi-automatic handguns are quite popular today for personal defense, and many other shooting disciplines, but they may not be the best choice for a particular individual. If, after receiving professional training, a person still doesn't feel safe carrying with a chambered round, their best move might be to go to a double-action revolver. DA revolvers have been doing a yeoman's job as personal defense guns for over 100 years. However, a person still needs professional training in order to safely and effectively use one for personal defense.

This business of carrying with an empty chamber comes



from people who, while they might mean well, really don't know what they are talking about. They clearly don't have the experience or knowledge to be discussing the subject at all. The sad news is that if you carry with an empty chamber, you have very likely lost the fight before it ever started. Get a good gun and some good training to go with it. And, finally, learn to fight smart. You won't regret that you did.

<https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2019/6/24/should-you-carry-your-gun-with-an-empty-chamber/>



11 (Cheap) Ways to Make Your Home a Castle

by Jeff Johnston
Monday, July 8, 2019

We all want 24-hour armed security and a car fitted with bulletproof glass, but the reality is, most of us aren't wealthy enough to turn our places into Ft. Knox. Rest assured, though, that in addition to getting a firearm and training as a last resort against crime, there are some easy, inexpensive things you can do to protect your home. Here are our top 11.

1. Install video cameras:

Cameras aren't the end-all for home defense, but they can certainly help. Cameras can record a face and solve a crime after the fact, but what they are better for is preventing crime. That's because if thieves see cameras, they are likely to pick an easier home—one that doesn't have them.

I have a camera system from FLIR that allows me to see my home remotely, so I can check it while I'm away. If I'm at home and I hear a noise, I can see what's going on outside before I come to the door. But security isn't all about the system itself. In installing the system, professional security companies think of other things.

2. The cameras don't even have to be real:

"Dummy" cameras are cheap, but their presence bolsters your home's defensive posture. In fact, you can even use a dummy camera as a decoy. A criminal intent on breaking into your home may try to break or cover any obvious security cameras. So place a dummy in a likely spot for a real camera, then, if possible, hide a real camera somewhere that looks at the dummy. This way you'll be able to see a villain if they target what they think is the real camera.



3. Shed some light on the matter:

"Keep your house's perimeter lit up," says Frank Orman, whose company specializes in home security systems and tactics. "Even simple motion detectors work great. The light catches the neighbor's eye, and they also catch the attention of the would-be burglar. It's an excellent deterrent."

4. Fortify your exterior doors with deadbolts or other devices:

Simple door knob locks are too easy to pick and to kick. If your outside doors don't have deadbolts, have them installed. If you're a little bit handy, you can do it yourself; all you need is a special drill bit and a deadbolt.

5. Use trail cams:

Unlike security cameras, which tend to be hard-wired into your home's electricity, trail cameras work on batteries and are designed to be hidden. Put one in a place where it's likely to pick up a bad guy when he's coming onto or leaving your property. If you live in the country, hiding a trail cam is easy: Set it up in a tall tree where even if a criminal sees it, it will be a huge commitment to destroy.

If you live in town, however, you'll have to be more creative in hiding the cam; the challenge is, you don't want it taking a photo of every single car that drives down the road or person who walks the sidewalk. But you could put one in a tree facing your back door, or vulnerable basement sliding door, for example.

6. Boundaries, boundaries, boundaries:

"Fences lend security," explains Orman. "While they may not deter a criminal from trespassing, a fence, if crossed, leaves you no question that the trespasser has a plan and is not there by accident. I also advise marking your fence with 'No Trespassing,' 'Beware of Dog' and 'Smile, You're on Camera' signs placed around the perimeter."

7. Get a dog:

While a dog isn't cheap, exactly—it will cost you thousands over the long haul—a dog who naturally barks at strange smells and strange people is one of the best crime preventers known. If you're sleeping, he'll wake you up. If you're home alone, he will be your early warning system with his keen senses. And if your dog is home but you are not, it takes a brave villain indeed to enter despite the growling, yapping canine that's just on the other side of the window. Likely, the bad guy will choose another house.

8. Install a hotel-style lock on your bedroom door:

For some reason, placing a lock on your bedroom door sounds odd to some people. But why? Do you not lock your outside doors? A lock on your inner sanctum gives you a last line of defense. Besides, if you are asleep and

Continued....11 (Cheap) Ways to Make Your Home a Castle

someone breaks in and enters your bedroom, your gun or nin-jitsu does you little good. (Here's one I like. The lock makes a loud clanging noise if the door is opened without throwing the lever off first.) Unless you sleep like a hibernating grizzly bear, surely if someone breaks your bedroom door down you'll wake up. If you're awake and armed, you have a chance. If you are awake and armed behind a locked door, you have the advantage.

9. Put your lights on a timer:

Whether you are away on vacation or just not home at night, buy a timer system for a few of your interior lamps. Then set them to turn on and off at random times to give the illusion that someone is home. Most criminals won't break into a home if they think someone is there. It's bad for business.

10. Secure your vehicles:

"If your vehicles stay outside, be sure to remove any garage-door openers, items that may have personal information or spare house keys," says Orman. If you don't, the criminal can obtain access to your house if they can they open your vehicle...and, sadly, most cars aren't terribly difficult to break into. Park vehicles under lights or in open areas that can be seen and, reminds Orman, "always set the alarm and lock the doors."

11. Have a plan:

This is perhaps the least expensive thing you can do to keep your household safe, but it's likely the most important. Simply talk with your family about what will happen should the unthinkable happen. Devise a secret knock that alerts other family members it's not an intruder at their door. Have a meeting place...and a backup meeting place.

Tell family members whether you want them to go to a safe room, a secure hiding place, or if you want them to flee to a neighbor's. For many families, a good plan involves the wife staying in the bedroom with a gun and cell phone while the man goes and fetches the kids. Make sure that when a family member calls 911, they know to inform dispatchers that the homeowner has a gun, and what that person (you) looks like. You just need a plan, and a backup plan, and you need to talk about it now, before something happens. Your goal here is not to worry your family members; if you have a relatively secure home, a gun and a plan, it is the home invader who should be worried.

Extracted from:

<https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2019/7/8/11-cheap-ways-to-make-your-home-a-castle/>

SAAADA v The National Commissioner of Police and Others

By John Welch

Case No. 38807/2019; High Court of South Africa, Gauteng Division, Pretoria

On 9 July 2019 the South African Arms and Ammunition Dealers' Association (SAAADA) brought an urgent application in the North Gauteng High Court to interdict the Registrar (National Commissioner of Police) from utilising its new policy not to allow a licensed gunsmith to replace a barrel of a licensed firearm.

The second part of the application was a review of the (unilateral) decision taken by the respondents and communicated to the applicants on 28 May 2019.

The court was requested urgently to only adjudicate the first part of the application, where after the second part will in due course be set down for hearing on the ordinary opposed motion roll.

The issue for determination was whether the Act and Regulations properly construed permit of the interpretation placed upon them by the respondents and if they do not, whether the applicant is entitled to the interim relief it seeks.

The question, therefore is not about licensing, but about replacing the worn barrel of a licensed firearm with a new barrel.

The court interpreted section 59 of the Act and regulations 50 and 51, especially the terms "repair, customize, custom build, adapt, modify and assemble" as referred to in regulation 50. Then, on 11 July, ruled that a gunsmith may work on a firearm and keep the individual components of firearms in stock for that purpose.

It further found that regulation 51 (a) provides that the Registrar may permit the gunsmith to acquire and keep in stock any part of a firearm, including a main firearm component. It is self-evident that a barrel would constitute a main firearm component.

After considering (and rejecting) the police's contentions, the judge made the following order:

(i) An interim interdict is granted interdicting the Respondents from implementing the policy decision communicated on the 28 May 2019 not to authorize the replacement of barrels under section 59 of the Firearms Control Act 60 of 2000;

(ii) That the respondents are ordered to accept and process all applications to replace barrels for licensed firearms;

(iii) That the Respondents are ordered to consider every such application received for the replacement of a barrel, on its own merits.

(iv) That the respondents are ordered to pay the costs of the application to date of this order.

* SAGA made a financial contribution towards the costs of this court case.

Background Checks Fail to Keep Criminals Unarmed

You hear the same call for action in the wake of almost every tragedy involving a firearm: "We need background checks," the gun haters say. "It's a cure-all that will wipe out all such crime in our country."

So about 20 years ago, the anti-gun crowd no doubt whooped when the National Instant Criminal Background Checks System (NICS) was created. "Finally, we'll have no more crime involving guns," they said.

But the gun-control crowd is overlooking one thing: Criminals don't obey the law. If they did, they wouldn't be criminals in the first place.

It should come as no surprise, therefore, that a 2019 report by the U.S. Sentencing Commission (USSC) shows that when someone who has committed a crime with a gun in the past is released from prison, that individual is more likely to become a repeat offender compared to an inmate who served time for an offense that did not involve a firearm.

Not only that, but those who had used guns during the commission of a serious crime also ended up back in the justice system more quickly.

The U.S. Sentencing Commission is an independent agency in the judicial branch of government created by the Sentencing Reform Act (SRA) of 1984. Congress enacted the SRA in response to widespread disparity in federal sentencing, ushering in a new era of federal sentencing by creating the USSC and promulgating federal-sentencing guidelines.

The new USSC study shows that 68 percent of felons involved in crime with a firearm were back in custody within the eight-year period of the study. The median time on the street before they were back in the system was 17 months. Criminals who didn't use firearms posted a 46-percent recidivism rate, and they were out for a median span of 22 months.

As further proof that background checks are fallacious, consider this. Criminals themselves admit they don't typically go through normal channels to get a gun. A U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) study confirmed more than half of those incarcerated for crimes involving a gun acquired the firearm through back channels. The main source was the underground market—which was the supply line for 43 percent of criminals.



Some 25 percent said they got a gun from a family member or friend; 7 percent said they found it, and 6 percent said they had stolen it. Only 7 percent said they purchased it under their own name.

Background checks are nothing more than a smoke-and-mirrors approach. Rather than reducing the incidence of violent crime, the NICS system has merely added cost and a layer of bureaucracy to the lawful purchase of firearms.

Like most of the so-called solutions gun haters devise, background checks have done nothing but make it more difficult for law-abiding citizens to exercise their Second Amendment rights to keep and bear arms.

<https://www.america1stfreedom.org/articles/2019/7/20/background-checks-fail-to-keep-criminals-unarmed/>

by L.A. Luebbert - Saturday, July 20, 2019

Watch this space ...for more interesting firearm snippets

6 Survival Items You Should Carry Every Day (Only 1 is a Gun)

SURVIVAL KIT

The topic of “EDC,” or “everyday carry,” has really taken off in recent years. Recently I got to thinking about all the “stuff” I have on me as I go about my daily life. Most of these items have multiple uses; they can be used to perform simple jobs or pressed into defensive situations should the need arise. These are the things I need, or might need, in order to make my life easier and safer...and what I recommend for a beginner to the world of self-defense.

1. Gun

If, when and where you can legally carry, do it. Period. Your defensive handgun, no matter how big, small, old-school or fresh-off-the-assembly-line, will absolutely neither do you nor anyone else any good if you are not wearing it when it is needed. The 9mm versus .45 ACP debate will not matter the slightest if your handgun is in the safe at home when you find yourself in the middle of an active shooter situation while out running routine errands. No place is immune from danger.

2. Knife

I cannot go about my daily business without at least one sharp knife. Most days I have two, one medium-sized, sturdy one for everything that might come up from opening the mail to cutting hay strings and numerous other utility needs. The second, smaller one is for important tasks like slicing an apple, cutting off a piece of dried sausage for a snack, etc.

Knife considerations depend largely on what you intend to do with it and where you live. Much of the time I carry a knife in a scabbard on my belt. In rural America a knife on your belt is pretty normal, at least where I live. In some downtown metropolis it might be suspect and very much out of place and could even be illegal. Be sure to know the law applying to knives in your area.

3. Flashlight

Years ago I started wearing a small, clip-style flashlight above the third button of my shirt. It's hardly noticeable yet very handy. I know, your cell phone has a light. That's for minor illumination needs, okay? Not real or potential defensive situations. It doesn't have to be big, but it does need to be bright. A flashlight must have the ability to provide sufficient light for target identification. Temporarily blinding the bad guy in a confrontation is an added bonus. If you don't already carry one, you will find all sorts of handy uses for a compact, bright flashlight during your daily activities, even in the daytime. There are many options out there that are small and light enough to comfortably carry in a shirt or pants pocket.

4. Cell Phone

I miss the days when the only possible way to carry a cellular phone was in a vehicle! We are well past that, as virtually everyone has at least one cell phone. Society has evolved to a need, be it real or self-imposed, to be in constant cellular communication. Make sure you have yours charged-up and with you in case you really need to call 9-1-1 in an emergency situation.

5. Cash

While we're on the topic of daily essentials, carry some cash with you. Credit cards are wonderfully portable, but one electrical glitch or major power loss, and it might be very beneficial to have a few real bills on you. (And, believe it or not, there are still places that will not accept credit cards!)

6. Multi-Tool

The multi-tool can really get you out of a jam. I have used them and seen them used to repair vehicles, fences, administer first aid—you name it. I try to keep one handy at all times, if not on my person, then at least the truck console, or in my backpack while hunting, hiking and ATV-ing.

by Shane Jahn
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