



SAGA SNIPPETS

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Holidays & Firearm Safety

By John Welch
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What follows, is not new – I have dealt extensively with this topic, but it is worth repeating it in condensed form, to serve as a constant reminder.

BE ALERT! BE SAFE!

Firearms, like a good dog, add so much value and pleasure to the life of the owner that one tends almost to forget the responsibilities attached thereto. Crime in South Africa is out of control, and hardly a day goes by that one is not directly or indirectly affected by it. Since criminals (hard and opportunistic) seem to also have the constitutional right of freedom of movement, they do surveillance in residential and rural areas to check out movements of home and farm owners with a view to striking when the opportunity is right. And since loitering and trespassing are hardly considered crimes by the police, you will not get a reaction from them and even your friendly private security reaction units' hands are tied.

One needs to take all reasonable steps to prevent becoming a victim of crime. This is applicable irrespective whether one stays at home for the festive season or whether one goes away to a holiday destination. Especially after the tyrannical lockdown period, many citizens believe they deserve a break away. Others of course will remain at home. Despite the current curfew, criminals



will be looking for easy victims.

An easy victim generally is the one who is not alert and whose body language shows it. A person who does not take cognisance of her or his surroundings, who does not take notice of the car that follows them home, who is constantly on their mobile phone or busy with other activities without realising what is happening in the immediate environment, is not alert. S/he is in condition **white**, which spells trouble. Despite your ability to multi-task, we advise that you refresh your understanding of the alert levels, and remain in condition **yellow**, from where you can quickly move to **orange**, and, if necessary, to condition **red**.

Let me remind you that these colours are indicative of your alert levels and should, accordingly, be part of your lifestyle.

Surviving a violent confrontation is not primarily dependent on the weapons you may be carrying, but on your alertness. Anyone serious

enough about survival must practice regularly to move from one colour code to another.

For instance, if you approach your home and you are about to open the gate (electronically or otherwise), you must be extra alert and seriously take note of your surroundings and of anything suspicious. Once you have parked, you must still be wide awake until you have entered your home and established that all people are safe, and nothing is out of place. This means that, basically, you must remain in condition **yellow**.

And before you tell me all this is meaningless unless you are armed, not so! Should you detect something suspicious, you may take immediate action by not stopping at your home and by driving



Continued...Holidays & Firearm Safety

to the police station (for whatever this may be worth). However, should you be serious about survival, you will have a firearm close by. Based on my mentor, Jeff Cooper's dictum, unless your defensive tool (firearm, knife, baton, etc) is within arm's reach from you when the trouble starts, you were not serious about survival. It almost goes without saying that you should be fully competent in the effective utilisation of whatever your defensive tool is.

The benefit of all non-firearm defensive tools is that they are not subject to the same safe-keeping provisions of the Firearms Control Act (FCA). Only a firearm must be locked away in a prescribed safe unless it is on your person or under your direct control. And when it is on your person or under your direct control, you must ensure that it is not readily removed from you or from where it was placed (never advertise that you carry a gun and never unnecessarily show your defence gun to anyone. Bear in mind if you show your defence gun to friends, you will have to make it safe ... and when it is safe, it is practically useless!). Also take care of the keys to your safe. It is criminal to not do so.

Not only do criminals pose a problem to your safety and security, but so do children. Your children may be well brought up, with good gun manners, but the same cannot necessarily be said about their friends. Make absolutely sure that your firearms are properly locked up in your safe and that your keys are also safeguarded. Kids are extremely intuitive and will find the keys (or the gun if you did not lock it up in the safe) – they have watched you opening the safe.

Be circumspect when you consume alcohol. Alcohol does affect your ability to react and your responsibility. And intoxicated people tend to boast and act stupidly. Avoid this.

If you are fortunate enough to go away on holiday, carefully consider whether your self-defence firearm will be safe while you travel, especially should you be involved in a collision or have to stay over at a hotel or other facility. Be prepared to take your firearm to the lounge or dining room since there may not be a suitable safe in the room. Also bear in mind that management will have additional keys or codes to open the safe in the event of your losing your key or forgetting the code. Currently no other safe-keeping devices have been approved for gun storage, accordingly, a car or caravan safe is not regarded as a prescribed safe.

Also consider carefully what you intend doing with your firearm at your destination, especially if you stay in a caravan or tent or guest house. The safe-keeping facilities may be found wanting. Also bear in mind that a Colt 1911 or Glock 34 is not easily concealed when you are wearing beach clothes or your holiday attire.

SAGA members are a responsible bunch and we trust they will jealously safeguard their firearms, at home or on holiday, and that they will not contribute to crime and jeopardise our right to lawfully possess and use firearms.

Being law-abiding, responsible, and safe distinguishes us from criminals. Enjoy the festive season responsibly.



Please note that the SAGA Office will be closed from midday on Wednesday 23 December and will re-open on Monday 4 January 2020.

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

The Swiss Rifle Club (SRC)



In South Africa there are three Swiss Rifle Clubs (SRC) - in Cape Town, Johannesburg and Durban. There are about 30 Swiss Rifle Clubs abroad, mainly in Europe, Canada, USA, Australia, New Zealand and Argentina. All are affiliated and subject to the rules of the Swiss Shooting Sport Federation (SSV - www.swissshooting.ch) and through it to the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF - www.issf-sports.org).

Swiss shooting caters for the broad-based shooting public in addition to the elite. It is the third largest sporting federation in Switzerland, after soccer and gymnastics (which is very popular in German-speaking countries).

The Cape Town and Johannesburg clubs are SAPS accredited Sport Shooting Organizations.

Most sport shooting in Switzerland is done with private service rifles and handguns i.e. the venerable Schmidt-Rubin based straight-pull Kar.-31 bolt-action, the Stg.-57 and the Stg.-90 military rifles, the latter two in semi-auto versions only permitted. The elite use Olympic target rifles for special competitions. No scopes are permitted.

Rifle shooting is at 300m, while the handgun shoots are at 25m and 50m.



Once every five years the SSV holds an 'Eidgenössisches Schützenfest' or 'Tir Federale' (Federal Shooting Festival) for which cities and/or regions compete.

The city that wins the bid has an Organizing Committee to plan the event, which takes place over a period of 4 weeks, with a few rest days in between. Historically between 36,000 and over 50,000 shooters participated, with the record number of participants in the late 1970s being 79,000 shooters!

Shooters can take part in about 15 different competitions, including a special shoot for veterans (+60). A special day is set aside for the 'Auslandschweizer Schützenvereine' (Swiss Shooting Clubs abroad). SRC Johannesburg has taken part since 1995, while the SRC Cape Town took part in 2005, 2010 and 2015. They came 3rd in 2005 and 2015, and won the event in 2010.

The 2020 event has been postponed to 2021 and will hopefully take place in the Canton of Lucerne during June/July 2021 (www.lu2020.ch). SRC Cape Town is planning to take part with about 20 members.

There are additional 'Eidgenössisches Schützenfest' for Veterans (+60) and for Juniors (<20) held at different venues and in different years.



Shooters can also take part in several Cantonal Schuetzen-festivals every year such as the 31st Aargauer Kantonschützenfest 2022 which has been postponed to

2023 (www.agksf2022.ch).

As the Swiss say: "Guet Schuss!" (Good Shooting!)

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The SafeCitizen Campaign

By John Welch
November 2020

SAGA members will recall that we distributed the media statement of 29 October 2020 made by the SafeCitizen Campaign. Since then we have had a few queries about their media statement, like “Does SAGA subscribe to their principles embodied in the media statement?” and “Does SAGA support this organisation?”

SAGA supports all organisations that promote the right of free citizens to responsibly and lawfully possess and use firearms.

Since SAGA’s inception in 1985, it has worked towards a safe society, by *inter alia*, promoting the right to keep and bear arms for lawful purposes and by sensitising law-abiding and responsible citizens that they in fact are the first responders to violent crime.

Since the police and even private security are seldom on the scene of a violent crime, an alert, well-trained and armed citizen is responsible for her or his safety. Even in those years, when farm attacks were far less than today, we advised farmers to be alert and ready to dispel violent attackers.

You have a constitutional right to life and freedom from victimisation, and you have the correlating obligation to enforce this right. Accordingly, SAGA supports the campaign’s idea to promote community safety.

SafeCitizen also supports the right to be armed. Where their expertise, within the whole of the firearms community becomes vital, is in contributing towards dispelling the lies and false information spread by the anti-gun lobby. We agree that lawfully armed citizens are responsible persons, and a positive factor in the safety of any community – thus acting as a deterrent to violent crime.

Government needs to be convinced of our well-intended and constructive efforts to partner with it against crime.

Since SAPS is in shambles a concerted approach by the whole firearms community is required to convince government of their role in the prevention and combating of crime. The firearms community can play a vital role in restoring sound relations with SAPS and to join forces against criminals.

Dr No Pistol on Auction

Dr. No Walther PP Pistol Auctions For Quarter Million

by NRA Staff
Friday, December 11, 2020

Here at NRA Family, we're just a little bit fascinated by movie guns! Whether Hollywood gets gun handling right or hilariously wrong, we do love observing firearms engineering as displayed on the silver screen.

Naturally, one of the most famous "movie guns" is the Walther PP, used by Sean Connery in his first Bond movie, Dr. No. That gun was recently auctioned by Julien's Auctions in Beverly Hills for over a quarter of a million dollars.

Here's a fun bit of movie trivia: In the film, "M" (Bernard Lee) introduced the gun as Walther PPK. It wasn't; it was actually the Walther PP, a precursor to the PPK.

In 1929 Carl Walther introduced the Walther PP ("Polizei Pistol," which works out fine in English if you pronounce it out loud), to the public. Walther mainly manufactured the PP in caliber 7.65MM (.32 ACP). It was far ahead of its time in terms of design and ergonomics, and thus Walther's first breakout success. Since then, approximately one million Walther PPs have been produced.

What's the difference between the PP and the PPK? Well, in addition to the latter being the "headline gun" for future 007s, it was Walther's refinement on the PP. The acronym stands for Polizeipistole Kriminal (which also works out pretty well in English if you pronounce it out loud). Walther introduced it in 1931, and since then over half a million PPKs have been manufactured...and, of course, become the standard equipment of many Bond heroes.

Because of its unique silhouette and rounded-off design, many gun enthusiasts consider this the most beautiful pistol ever built.

Reliable and iconic, it's no wonder that this special example that accompanied Sean Connery's Bond through his many adventures sold for 256,000.

<https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2020/12/11/dr-no-walther-pp-pistol-auctions-for-quarter-million>

Watch this space ...for more interesting firearm snippets