



Bullet Hole in the Floor

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Two Basic Reasons For The Accidental Discharge

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An instructor in the police Academy told me years ago that for anybody who was around firearms for any great length of time had to consider safety on a minute by minute basis. Basically being aware of your firearm and it's condition continuously. He also stated that it wasn't a matter of if you had an accidental discharge... it was a matter of **when**. Statistically speaking, the more you drive the chances of being in an automobile accident go up, right?

I also learned that following the gun safety rules will keep someone from being hurt in an accidental discharge. For example, if you squeeze the trigger and the pistol goes off while it is pointed

in a safe direction - theoretically no one will get hurt. If they do then obviously the gun wasn't pointed in a safe direction.

I learned several years ago that there are really only two basic reasons for an accidental discharge. **Ignorance and carelessness.**

Let me explain the concepts and the differences and then follow it up with a personal experience (I'm going to put myself in the doghouse on this one).

Ignorance is when somebody just does not have an understanding of the concept. It's not stupidity, generally. It's an honest to

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Gun Review of the Ruger SR9



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The SR9 is a full size semi-auto pistol with a 17+1 round capacity. This gun is comparable in size & shape to the Glock 17. It will even fit some Glock 17 holsters. The model I have has the Brushed Stainless steel slide. This is my everyday carry gun & the weight is easy to handle. Even loaded with 18 124gr loads I hardly notice it is there.

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Two Basic Reasons For The Accidental Discharge

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goodness state of being uneducated on the matter that includes basic safety practices, terminology, and gun etiquette.

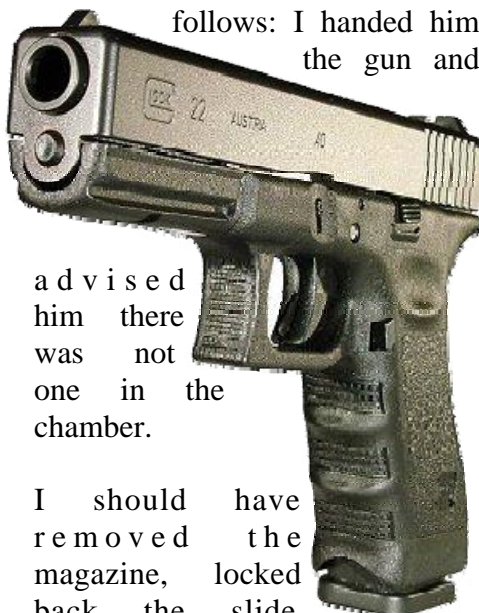
Carelessness, on the other hand, is a matter of disregard and complacency. Remember, I said I was going to put myself in the doghouse.

Years ago I had just become a young police chief and my first task at hand was the hiring and commissioning of some new recruits. One night I had several officers in my office. One of the officers who I had just hired as a reserve came in for the night to work a "lonesome" shift, meaning he was going to be the only one on duty. This officer had seventeen years law enforcement experience. I assumed that since he had seventeen years experience (I only had about ten at the time) he was well versed in firearms safety and terminology. I was wrong.

He explained to me that he had to sell his pistol and did not have one to work the shift. He then took a seat at the desk. I told him it wasn't a problem. I unlocked a

drawer in the desk that was closest to the floor and removed a Glock Model 22 in .40 caliber to loan it to him. The magazine was full and there was not one in the chamber.

The first mistake I made was as follows: I handed him the gun and



advised him there was not one in the chamber.

I should have removed the magazine, locked back the slide, visually and manually inspecting it and ensuring he did the same after I handed it to him. BUT... since I was so sure his experience would be adequate I just handed him the gun with the notification of an empty chamber.

As I was bent over real low, attempting to fish the two spare magazines out of the drawer, I heard the distinct sound of that Glock slide being racked.

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Arm Yourself!

Four young men loitering near a dumpster approached a Wing Zone takeout driver while he was making a delivery. According to witnesses, the suspects demanded money and one of them flashed an illegally possessed gun. The driver, a concealed carry permit holder, didn't hesitate. He drew his handgun and fired four shots while attempting to run. One of the suspects was shot and fell to the ground. He was arrested at the hospital. His accomplices fled. Two were arrested, and one remains at large. Police said there had been several pizza delivery robberies in that area during a six-month period. (WLEX-TV, Lexington, KY, 03/12/11)

After hearing his back door being kicked in, Michael Carter, of Kansas City, Missouri, grabbed his gun. Confronted by an invader, he pleaded with the man to leave. Instead, the intruder charged, forcing Carter to fatally shoot him in the chest. The break-in was the second for Carter in less than a week. Police said of the incident, "You have [here] a perfect example of the appropriate use of a firearm in the home." (The Star, Kansas City, MO, 4/10/97)



Local NRA Field Representative

Missouri - Gregg Pearre
(573) 761-5466
gpearre@nrahq.org

NRA Women's Events

- Silhouette - Wright City, MO
June 4-5
- Smallbore Rifle - Marshall, MO
June 11-12
- Action Pistol - Billings, MO
June 12

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June 20-24
Time Cole (703) 267-1626
tcole@nrahq.org

Gun Shows

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June 18-19 Kansas City, MO
June 24-26 Columbia, MO
June 25-26 Independence, MO



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Two Basic Reasons For The Accidental Discharge

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I instantaneously thought, "He's putting one in the chamber and holstering. Ready for the night. It's OK." I barely had time to process this thought when an ear deafening shot rang out. The bullet missed my head by barely an inch, went into the floor directly in front of my face, shattered and came back up in several pieces, sweeping the left side of my face.

After securing the weapon, my other officers inspected me for any life threatening wounds. I was bleeding pretty good about the left side of my face but fortunately I had no fragments penetrate.

His first exclamation was that I told him the gun wasn't loaded. The other officer's politely reminded him that what I said was that there was not one in the

chamber. Makes no difference to me. As far as I was concerned, I was just as much at fault as he was. I was the first one to break the rules through carelessness and complacency. He was the second one to contribute through ignorance. Carelessness and complacency actually caused me to be more at fault than he was. After all, I knew the rules. I told you I was going in the doghouse.

This was a bad situation that turned out good. No one was hurt and we both learned that day an important lesson. Take nothing for granted.

Now that I've told you my story and confessed to my sins, I can only hope that you will not be too hard on me. I hope this experience will be a friendly reminder to others. Keep the rules and above all... keep those guns unloaded and actions open when passing them from one person to another.



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Gun Review of the Ruger SR9

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The specifications are:

Caliber: 9mm Luger

Weight: 26.50 oz

Sights: Adjustable, High-visibility 3-dot sight system

Length: 7.55"

Height: 5.52"

Width: 1.27"

Grooves: 6

Barrel Length: 4.14"

Twist: 1:10" RH

Grip Frame: Black, Glass-Filled Nylon,

Unique reversible backstrap (flat or arched); Ambidextrous manual safety and mag release; Built-in picatinny rail



I took it straight out of the box to the range & loaded it up with Federal 115gr FMJ. It worked with no problems. The trigger was smooth & the recoil was easy to handle. I got a nice grouping at 7 yards but was hitting to the left about 1 1/4". I tried with my left hand & was hitting to the right with good groups.

Since I was here to test ammunition as well as accuracy I loaded it up with an assortment of JHP. One magazine was loaded with Winchester Supreme Elite 124gr +P JHP and a few Remington 115gr JHP. The other mag was loaded with several different loads of JHP in random order. All of it fired off without a hitch & the +P loads felt no different than the others. My groupings were good but again I was hitting to the left or right depending on which hand I used. A quick look at the Lee Precision pie chart showed I needed to adjust my trigger finger but with all my ammo spent I went home to give it a good cleaning & practice some dry firing and trigger control. I also changed the Backstrap to the arched position.

My next trip to the range after some grip adjustment & trigger practice was much better. I fired Federal 115gr FMJ and at 7 yards I put a ragged hole in the bulls-eye with a few flyers but most were in a 2" group. At 10 yards I was hitting a little high but grouping at about 3". Even firing at 50' braced against the stall wall I was able to put my last 10 rounds in about a 5" group with one flyer. Not bad for an old man with bad eyes & a touch of arthritis!

It has shot very well in some friendly competitions at the range shooting steel plates and an informal IDPA shoot. I really do like this gun. It's easy to handle, easy to disassemble & clean. Not so heavy to carry as my Ruger P95 was & it conceals fairly well in an OWB holster. I'm seriously thinking about getting the SR9c (compact) for better concealment when it's needed & it will use my SR9 mags as well so my equipment costs will be reasonable.

One feature on the SR9 I did not like was the magazine disconnect safety. Since most malfunctions of semi-autos are magazine related, one being the mag coming out by touching the release button, I took that feature out. It was easy to do & there are several videos on YouTube to show you how. So in conclusion, I recommend the SR9. Ruger has a reputation for being rugged, reliable & the price was reasonable. It is a good fit for those that like the Glock 17 but are reluctant to have a gun without an external safety.