

THE AMERICAN GUN OWNER

IN THIS ISSUE #17

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TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE (QUIZ)

COMING UP NEXT MONTH:

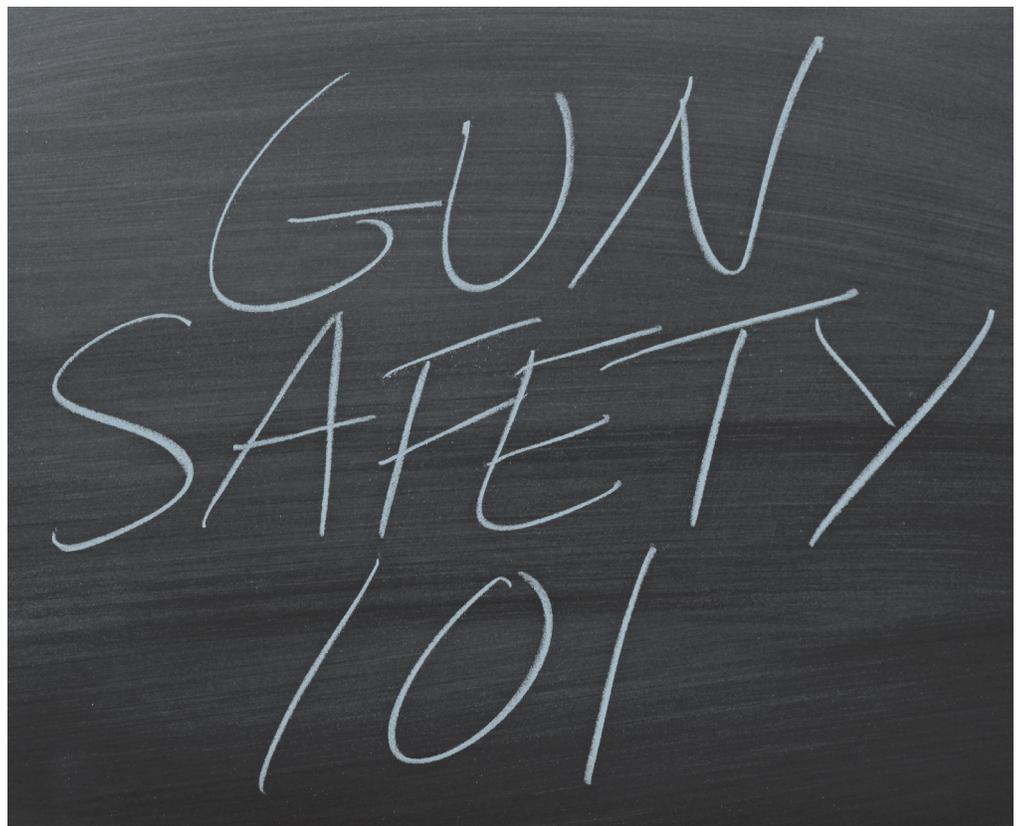
- ▶ 2020 POLITICAL GUN DEBATE
- ▶ U.S GUN LAWS: KNOW YOUR RIGHTS
- ▶ SKILL ARTICLE: DEFENSIVE USE OF FIREARMS

The American Gun Association (AGA) provides information, tools, training, and support for gun owners throughout the USA.

The AGA stands for and advocates responsible gun ownership, as well as protecting our right to bear arms. Our mission is simple: **protect our guns, protect ourselves.**

ANNUAL PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST

As the year comes to a close, we thought it'd be helpful for all gun owners (new and old) to create an annual preparedness checklist.



We've got a quick reminder of 10 gun safety rules, a guide on how to kick the new year off safely, and even some training tips to share with you.

GUN SAFETY - 10 RULES TO LIVE BY

As humans, we tend to fall into routines and stop consciously thinking about why we do certain things the way we do.

In some cases, this can be a good thing –

in others, not so much. And when it comes to gun safety, being mindless can lead to accidental injury or even death.

Article continued on page 4



American Gun

A S S O C I A T I O N

The **American Gun Owner** is the official monthly publication of the **American Gun Association (AGA)**. We provide you with **information, tools, training, support, and an active online community**.

WHY WE EXIST

There are many threats to your safety and security, and gun ownership is being challenged more than ever before. We support and defend the rights of responsible gun owners throughout the USA.

OUR MISSION

Over the years, AGA has helped over **85,000 gun owners** stay safe and secure.

We help to educate and inform you about how to stay safe. Our goal is to provide you with at least **10x the value** of your modest membership fee.

OUR MEMBERS

Our members are hard working Americans like you, from all walks of life, backgrounds and locations, united in advocating the right to own firearms to defend themselves and their family. Our members are aware of the serious responsibilities that come with owning guns, and safety is their #1 priority

YOUR AGA ELITE MEMBER BENEFITS:

* The option to **test and keep gear** valued at up to \$85.00 for FREE (just cover the shipping and handling). Look out for the emails and text messages, as well as announcements in the Facebook Group

* Thousands of **discounts, savings and giveaways** on movie tickets, oil changes, pizza, car rental and much much more. Many members tell us they're saving in the region of \$150.00+ every month! Go to <https://gunassociation.memberdiscounts.co/perks/register> to access your benefits instantly!

* This **monthly printed publication** delivered to your door, with **articles, tips and training on developing new skills**, along with a **test** to evaluate your progress.

* The **online community** on Facebook, where our members share ideas and tips about family protection. To join, visit www.Facebook.com/groups/AmericanGunAssocation/ and click on the **+Join Group** button. Please allow 24 hours for approval, although it's often much faster.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS? CONTACT US:

Email: support@gunassociation.org

Call: 512-782-4624 (7am-11pm CST M-F, and 10am-7pm Sat)

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MEET THE EXPERTS

CRAIG CAUDILL



Craig Caudill has spent a lifetime practicing and teaching survival, preparedness and self-reliance, skills. He is the director of the Nature Reliance School and teaches these skills in the midwestern and southeastern U.S.

He is an incredibly active blogger and writer for several different blogs and self-reliance magazines. He has appeared on educational television teaching self-reliance skills multiple times.

He has a worldwide student base who study with him through his online self-reliance school. Craig considers himself a student in all things and is regularly studying with other instructors, thinking and practicing outside the box of conventional wisdom, and honing both his abilities and teaching methods.

His students have included military operators, law enforcement special response units, and many average ordinary law-abiding citizens.

JEREMY PARSONS



Jeremy Parsons is a former Marine sniper with multiple combat deployments overseas. He is truly a world-class expert at handling firearms.

Jeremy is a native of Austin, Texas. He joined the Marines at the age of 20 and quickly realized his passion for both the military and for shooting.

His passion for helping and instructing other gun owners led him to open a business where people can learn to be proficient with their firearms and feel more comfortable owning them.

Once hitting his unit he signed up for the scout sniper indoctrination and made his way into the platoon.

After a deployment to Iraq, he attended and graduated from Scout Sniper School and gained the title of **Marine Scout Sniper**.

Following a deployment to Afghanistan and starting a family he decided to leave the Marines and spend more time at home.

When returning to Austin his passion and skill lead him to start a company that would allow him to do what he loves to do, namely instruct and shoot.

CHRISTINE ZÁDOR



Christine Zádor is the President & CEO of San Joaquin Rifle and Pistol Range, Inc. (SJRPR) located in Linden, CA. Her parents opened the range in 1979. Christine has dedicated herself to carrying on her parent's legacy by continuing to operate and develop the range today. Christine's dream is to make San Joaquin Rifle and Pistol Range a top-notch shooting facility.

Christine Zádor has created a long history of success in several different industries, however her true passion is in the firearms industry. Before taking ownership of SJRPR she attended the University of Southern California, where she played water polo and won an NCAA Women's Championship. She later co-founded a water polo board company named Zaqua Boards, and has been coaching water polo for many years.

Ever the adventurer, Christine also enjoys swimming, hiking, horseback riding, and traveling to meet and learn stories of Veterans in determination to make a difference in their healing process.

Christine is an avid shooter and currently competes in the USPSA, American Marksman, and competes in nationwide competitions.

Annual Preparedness Checklist

Continued from page 1

Thus, here are 10 gun safety rules to live by:

1. Always keep your gun unloaded when not in use, and store your ammunition close enough to quickly load it when SHTF.
2. Handle every gun as if it's loaded – even if you're certain it isn't.
3. Never point your gun at anything you don't intend to shoot.
4. It's all too easy to accidentally squeeze off a shot, so keep your finger off the trigger until you're ready to fire.
5. Always check to make sure your barrel is free from obstructions, especially if you're out and about in the dirt or water.
6. Never fire at anything unless you know exactly what you're aiming at, including whether your bullet will pass through it or ricochet off of it.
7. Use (and properly maintain) your gun's safety mechanisms, but don't rely on them at the expense of all other safety steps.
8. Protect your eyes and ears when using any firearm.
9. Become familiar enough with your gun that you can disassemble and reassemble it in the dark.
10. Always, always properly maintain your gun – including regular cleaning.



WHAT GOES UP MUST COME DOWN

Firing your handgun in the air to mark the new year is something of a tradition. But it flies in the face of gun safety.

Firing into the air is simply dangerous and irresponsible. The bullet will come down again and there's a strong possibility of it hitting someone fatally.

It's highly illegal to do so in any case.

And if you're hosting a party, make sure your firearm is safely locked away where no one is able to access it.

The last thing you want is for a guest to get overly enthusiastic while drinking and accidentally shoot someone.

DRY FIRING SAFELY

Can't afford to head to the range as often as you'd like?

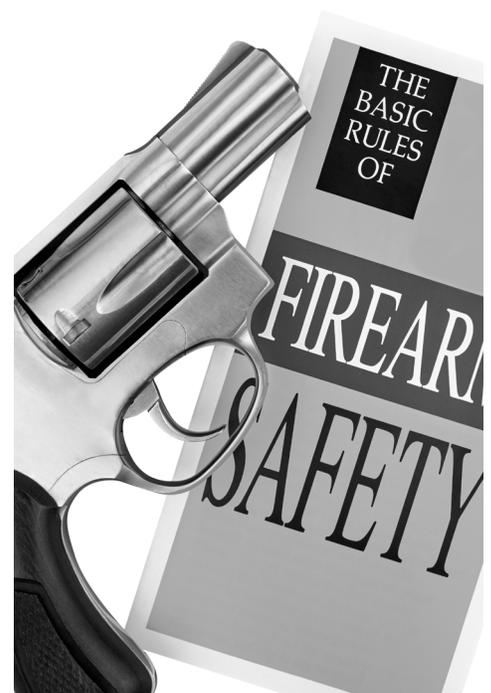
Christmas bonuses tend to disappear pretty quickly thanks to the great tradition of giving gifts and hosting

Christmas and New Year's parties. Then January rolls by, and you're checking the couch for spare change.

Don't let your finances get in the way of practicing your shooting.

Simply set up a safe area outside, against a wall you know can handle the force of a bullet.

Use a designated dry firing target,





make sure all ammunition is out of sight, and double-check your weapon is unloaded.

Bearing in mind the safety tips we shared on the previous page, practice your dry firing for about 15 minutes a day. This way, you don't overdo it – and you don't slack on your preparedness either.

FINAL WORD

Next up in this month's newsletter, we're going to do some training on ammunition storage.

This is an often overlooked aspect of gun safety, but it's super important. You might be surprised at how much you learn!

TOP FACEBOOK GROUP CONTRIBUTORS THIS MONTH

These are the top contributors from the last 28 days.

1		Seth Roeder
2		Michael Venia
3		Jimmy Machado
4		Odie Kozme
5		John Knopp

Congratulations to the top contributors in the AGA Facebook group!

Join us on Facebook at www.AGAmembers.com for tips, ideas, news, and more.



Be sure to check out the latest news in your exclusive AGA Facebook community.

www.AGAmembers.com





SHOULD GUN SAFETY BE TAUGHT IN SCHOOLS?

Across the nation, schools are already teaching kids about safety-first practices.

This includes fire drills, tornado drills, why it's important to call 911 in an emergency, and even how to react in an active shooter situation at school.

So should gun safety also be taught in schools?

A CONTROVERSIAL TOPIC

Some people feel it would be brainwashing our kids into accepting gun culture, or desensitize them to the potential dangers of firearms.

Just about everyone who actually owns 1+ legal firearm, who also went through training themselves, point out it has the opposite effect.

Many, however, agree it's ultimately not the school's responsibility to teach kids about gun safety.

If you have a firearm (or firearms) in your home, it's up to you to make sure your children are safety conscious.

Still, does that necessarily mean teaching gun safety in schools is a bad idea?

We don't think so.

IT'S PART OF OUR HISTORY

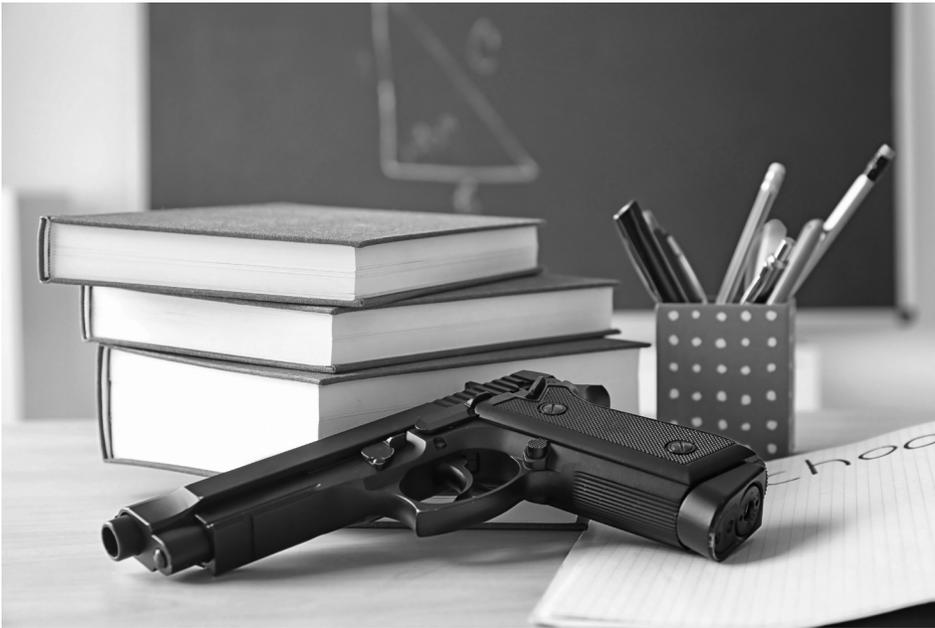
Forget the fact we already have so many safety-oriented programs in our school, where gun safety could easily be included.

The use of firearms is a fundamental part of our history as a nation – so much so that kids as young as 6 were often entrusted with hunting rifles.

We were teaching our kids about gun safety back then – why not now?

Granted, things are different today.

Even though many of us continue to enjoy hunting, for the vast majority, it's no longer our primary means of



gathering food.

And even though homeschooling is becoming more widespread in recent years, it still adheres to a curriculum that can be somewhat parallel to what's taught in public schools.

But the fact remains: this is part of America's history – and a fundamental part at that.

IT CAN – AND WILL – HELP

A major contention point in the argument against teaching gun safety in schools is that allowing kids to become more familiar with firearms puts them at more risk of abusing guns.

No one wants another school shooting – and many parents are afraid a gun safety class will train and potentially arm the next shooter.

But let's look at a parallel example.

The question of whether or not gun safety should be taught in schools is similar to the question of sex education.

There was (and in some areas still is) major push-back against introducing sex education.

Many parents felt it would encourage promiscuous behavior and/or it was up to them when to teach their children about safe sexual practices.

Sound familiar?

Well, it was deemed a public safety issue and got pushed through. Now, teenage pregnancy and STD levels are much lower than before.

Is it so hard to see the parallels?

Is it so hard to see how teaching gun safety in school can help combat the negative stigmas attached to gun ownership, let alone gun violence?

Hopefully not.

Either way, we have high hopes for the future.



AMMUNITION STORAGE DOS & DON'TS



We tend to place a lot of focus on how to properly and safely store our firearms, and that isn't a bad thing... unless you're overlooking ammunition storage as a result.

Ammunition storage can be the difference between function and failure – and in a survival situation, the difference between life and death.

So unless you're only buying enough ammunition to use on a trip to the range or hunting grounds, you need to know the ins and outs of ammunition storage.

Whether it's to spread expenses by saving ammunition for the next hunting season, stocking up on hard-to-find calibers, or preparing for a SHTF scenario, these ammunition storage dos and don'ts will save you a lot of grief.

Let's get started!

THE BASICS

Let's start with the 3 most basic principles of proper ammunition storage: keep it dry, cool, and shaded. Master these, and you could potentially preserve your rounds for years, even decades.

Keep it Dry

Moisture is easily the biggest enemy to ammunition preservation, and if you don't safeguard against it, you might as well throw your hard-earned cash into the lake.

It can corrode your casings and bullets, compromising the functionality and accuracy of your rounds. Even worse, moisture wreaks havoc with your primers and renders your powder useless.

A couple quick tips for keeping your ammunition dry:

Don't store your ammunition in areas likely to attract moisture and humidity, such as a damp basement, shed, attic, or even a garage known to flood in heavy rains

Always use an elevated pallet or shelf to keep your ammunition off the floor, where moisture absorption is likely

Use a hygrometer (or any other humidity-measuring tool) to monitor your ammunition storage area

Keep it Cool

Heat is another enemy to ammunition's shelf life.

To be fair, modern ammunition is designed and manufactured specifically to remain usable in extreme temperatures.

But that doesn't mean you can be lax in this area.



In fact, the most common rule of thumb (as put forward by the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute, SAAMI) is to aim for somewhere between 55°F and 85°F.

Anything approaching 150°F should be avoided (think the back of your truck, for example).

You also want to keep the temperature of your storage relatively stable.

It's not so much exposure to cold or warm temperatures that's a major problem: it's a fluctuating temperature between the two.

When the temperature is constantly changing, the many different components of your ammunition get worn down.

Play it safe by using a thermometer to monitor the temperature of your ammunition storage.

Keep it Shaded

UV rays are dangerous, not just for human skin, but for your ammunition too. Don't believe us? Just think of how it affects your car.

Ideally, you want to store your ammunition in a safe, which will protect it from all UV rays.

However, if you don't have an ammunition safe, you should store your ammunition in a closet that can be properly locked.

This also helps protect against moisture and fluctuating heat, though you still have to be mindful of where you place the ammunition safe.

ORGANIZING AND MAINTAINING YOUR AMMUNITION STORAGE

Now that we've taken a look at the bigger picture, let's focus on the details that will make or break your ammunition storage.

That's right – even if you get all 3 of the basics right, you could still be practicing bad ammunition storage habits.

Ammunition Containers

An easy option for organizing and maintaining your ammunition is simply keeping it in its original packaging.

This works well enough, even with cardboard cases, provided you safeguard against any moisture reaching the inside of your storage unit (be it a lockable closet or a proper ammunition safe).

Of course, sometimes we don't get our ammunition in ideal packaging.

Plus, if you want to be super safety conscious (which you should be), you'll probably want to use a proper metal ammunition can.

Plastic options also work, but they're not exactly good for the environment and won't protect against UV damage when transporting your ammunition.

Be careful with ammunition cans regardless. Check the rubber gasket on a regular basis to make sure it isn't degraded.

Another major benefit of using ammunition containers is portability. When SHTF, you won't have time to move a 300lb barrel.

By using smaller containers you can easily stack and/or load onto a furniture



dolly, you can quickly relocate your ammunition without difficulty.

Moisture Control 101

Even with a properly intact rubber gasket, it's important to take extra steps to prevent moisture from reaching your ammunition.

Silica gel packets, wood boxes (or panels to line the inside of your metal cans), and sawdust are awesome for absorbing any moisture that sneaks into your storage unit.

If you have the cash flow for it, go the extra mile by using a dehumidifier too.

Labels Are Your Best Friend

We don't care if you're only stocking one type of ammunition: use labels on all your containers.

For one thing, it helps you easily organize your collection based on the ammunition's age.

When you decide to head out to the range, do you really want to spend an

extra 20 minutes trying to figure out which ammunition is the oldest (and should therefore be used up first)?

And if you have multiple ammunition types, then labels will also help you keep track of things like caliber.

AMMUNITION STORAGE SAFETY

If you haven't caught on by now, you really need to spring for a proper ammunition safe ASAP.

Not only will this help you meet all 3 basic guidelines on proper ammunition storage, but it will keep your stash safe too.

That's why it's called a safe, right?

Plus, storing your ammunition in a safe protects against two types of human threats: unaccompanied minors who decide to play with your ammunition and thieves looking to stock up on a valuable resource.

If you can spring for this option, be sure to keep your ammunition safe in a lockable closet. Just make sure you can reach it for a quick reload if SHTF at home.

FINAL WORD – MAINTENANCE AND DISPOSAL

Get the dos and don'ts of proper ammunition storage right and your rounds could potentially last for decades.

Just remember to do maintenance checks at least every 6 months.

Preferably, you should check your ammunition and storage every 3 months, especially at the beginning and end of summer and winter.

And if you find any of your ammunition is passed its expiry date (for any reason), take good care to dispose of it properly.

You can do this by contacting your local law enforcement agency and asking them to either collect it from your house, or arrange a time for you to drop it off.

Shipping damaged ammunition to the manufacturer also sometimes works, but it can get expensive.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

After studying this training, we encourage you to test your knowledge with this quiz. The answers can be found at the bottom right hand corner of this page.

1: What areas are bad for ammunition storage?

- A. Basements, sheds, attics, and the floor
- B. Elevated areas
- C. Your safe

2: What is the ideal temperature range for ammunition storage?

- A. 35°F to 150°F
- B. 55°F to 85°F
- C. 45°F to 95°F

3: Should you keep your ammunition shaded?

- A. Yes, because sunlight can cause temperatures to rise
- B. Yes, because the UV rays can negatively affect your casings
- C. Yes, for both of the above reasons

4: Will the original packaging be good enough?

- A. Yes, but only sometimes
- B. Always, so long as it's still stored away properly
- C. Never, you should always transfer your ammunition to different containers

5: What advantages do smaller metal containers have?

- A. Portability
- B. UV protection during transportation
- C. Both of the above

6: What is the best way to protect against moisture?

- A. Switch exclusively to lightweight wood boxes
- B. Use desiccants like sawdust or silica gels and a dehumidifier
- C. Avoid having beverages near your storage

7: Why should you carefully label ammunition storage containers?

- A. Because it looks neater
- B. Because it keeps your ammunition organized
- C. Because it helps you to be more mindful of your storage

8: Why is a safe preferable to a lockable closet?

- A. It protects against accidental use by unaccompanied minors
- B. It better protects against thieves who could easily break a lock
- C. Both of the above

9: How often should you do maintenance checks on your ammunition storage?

- A. At least once a year
- B. Every 6 months only
- C. Every 6 months at least

10: What should you do with damaged/expired ammunition?

- A. Contact law enforcement to arrange for them to pick it up and dispose of it for you
- B. Ship it back to the manufacturer (if they accept damaged ammunition)
- C. Either of the above is a suitable option

QUIZ ANSWERS

1a, 2b, 3b, 4a, 5c, 6b, 7b, 8c, 9b, 10c

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