



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

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URGENT SAFETY NOTICE

BARNARD RIFLES AND OTHER MODERN RIFLES WITH ADJUSTABLE CHEEKPIECES

An accident on 4 July 2015 at Bisley, fortunately resulting in only minor injury, has highlighted a safety issue.

In the accident, the firer had partially withdrawn a live round, so that it was engaged in the boltface by the extractor. While attempting to feed the round into the chamber, a slight rotation and lateral movement of the bolt when fully open allowed the cocking piece to be repositioned outside rather than inside the groove in the adjustable cheekpiece. When the lateral movement was reversed, the cocking piece fouled on the cheekpiece and was released, allowing the firing pin to fall on the cartridge, which fired outside the breech.

All owners of modern target, match and F class rifles are to check that it is not possible for any part of the stock to foul any part of the firing mechanism. Owners of Barnard rifles are additionally advised to check the knurled cap that retains the firing pin for full engagement on a regular basis.

Barnard actions are particularly susceptible to the problem identified, but it is at least theoretically possible that it could arise on a Swing, Paramount, RPA or other modern action where the cocking cam rotates complete around the firing pin to allow the firing pin to hang on the trigger sear. Actions derived from the Mauser, such as the Musgrave, Parker-Hale 1200 and Cadet Target Rifle, are not susceptible to the problem.

I W ROBERTSON
Technical Investigations Co-ordinator
National Rifle Association

1600 hrs 5 July 2015