

I refer to Carl's unfortunate accident when clearing his .40 STI.

Having owned the first .40 STI in the country I was also the first to experience this phenomena. It happened during a national at the Central Gauteng range in about 1996 I think. The pistol jammed during a speed shoot, I put my left hand over slide and whacked the grip to clear the stuck cartridge. The resultant detonation blew pieces of brass through my left index finger, middle finger and palm. I still have no feeling in these fingers which makes giving Roger the finger somewhat poetic as he built the gun for me. The second time this happened was also at a National, this time at the Cullinan range. Same scenario, this time I took a DNF, the RO promptly took the pistol and before I could stop him gave the pistol a good thump - kaboom. Fortunately no harm this time.

I know of this happening to Adrian Burrows as well on two occasions if I am not mistaken.

The diameter of the .40 case and the positioning of the ejector in the pistol frame results in these ejection detonations. I cringe every time I see people do a Hollywood clearing of the pistol by rapidly racking the gun to attempt to flip the cartridge out of the chamber and catch it. Incidentally I have not heard of any other calibre in these guns giving the same problem.

I now carry a rod with me in my bag for use at the practice range to simply tap the cartridge out from the front if it gets stuck. I gauge all my rounds before matches since the above incidents and have never experienced a jam in matches after procuring this inexpensive and essential piece of equipment.

Damn, I wish I could have attended the last World Shoot

Regards

Nick du Plessis

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Sorry to here about Carl's accident.

But this is a matter that came up on the last level IV shoot at Cullinon . The same thing happens there I could not remember who it was {I think it was Jim Vaun Jim sorry if it was not you} but on the debriving of the RO's Johnny did ask all the RO's to check for this practice and discourage it. I personally ask numerously for competitors to try and stop using the practice of the hand over the chamber when they load or unload. This person was lucky to only sustain bad cuts on his hand.

All That I want to say is that this is not new and if the people will not take note of it it is going to happen again.

PS that time is was a Bull M5 frame also with an extended extractor.

Cor Rossouw