

## Do you Really Know How Your Firearm Operates?

How does my firearm operate? What do you mean? Of course I know. I pull the trigger and it goes off, right? Well, yes and no.

**One of the rules of firearm safety is to know how your firearm operates.** To do this, you need to know the intricacies of your firearm. It is true that you basically aim the firearm at your intended target, pull the trigger and Voila! You discharged your firearm. The more important question is "Did you hit your intended target or did you miss?" Even more important, "Did you fire your firearm when you pulled the trigger?"



**There are some basics** that everyone who handles a firearm needs to know. You start with reviewing the owners or users manual. I know that most people just want to assume they know everything but I'm sure you'll agree, we don't know it all. If we did, we wouldn't be where we are in life and we'd all be living our dreams. So if we humble ourselves to accept the fact that we don't know it all, then we and the people around us will be that much safer with and around firearms



### New Firearms

New firearms typically come with manuals. You'll reinforce some information that you might already know about it and may discover other important information that you don't know about. Information such as:

- Does your firearm have a safety or not?
- Is your firearm single action, double action, or both?
- Does your firearm have a de-cocking mechanism or not?
- How do you clean and lubricate your firearm?
- Where is the magazine release?

- What type of guarantee does the firearm come with?
- Does the cylinder rotate clockwise or counter clockwise?
- How and where do you send it for repair?
- Are there types of ammunition I shouldn't use?

### Pre-owned Firearms

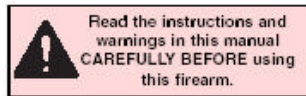
If you buy a pre-owned firearm or inherit one and the firearm doesn't come with a manual, you can usually get one from the manufacturer. You can either call their customer service group or you can visit the manufacturer's web site. Manufacturers are more than willing to make this information available to you as a service rather than run a risk of having you or someone you know or care about being a statistic because you didn't know how to properly use their product.



**Smith & Wesson**

Safety & Instruction Manual

SW99 ~ SW99 QA  
SW990 ~ SW990L



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Once you know how your firearm operates, you need to practice with it

### The 2 Most Common Causes of Firearms Accidents are...

Remember, the two (2) most common causes of firearms accidents are ignorance and carelessness. Ignorance is not knowing about the firearm, or being unaware or uninformed about the firearms you're going to be using or not knowing about safe gun handling rules.. Carelessness is knowing about the firearms and what you're supposed to do, but just not doing it. Carelessness is being irresponsible. One of my favorite sayings comes from the more recent Spiderman Movies. On more than one occasion, Peter Parker, AKA Spiderman, makes the statement: **With Great Power Comes Great Responsibility.** I'm not sure how much more power one can have than the power to take a life. That being the case, we don't want to be careless and become or cause a statistic, do we?

**About the author:** Mike Burchman is a Massachusetts State Certified Firearms Instructor, a Utah State Certified Concealed Firearms Instructor, and a NRA Certified Instructor and Range Safety Officer. If you're a Massachusetts Resident and would like more information on firearms safety courses or instructions on how to use a firearm, please contact Mike Burchman at 508-361-4554 or visit [www.homegunsafety.com](http://www.homegunsafety.com).