

Firearm's Malfunctions and clearing them!



Safety

CAUTION

When performing these drills, use all cautions necessary to ensure a safe environment for yourself and others.

You assume all risk involved with this topic. All firearms are dangerous and they should be used with all safety precautions!

Malfunctions

One important aspect of gun ownership that every person should know is how to quickly and safely clear a handgun misfire or malfunction.

By quickly and safely clearing a misfire, you are able to protect yourself and also prevent an accidental discharge of your firearm.

All firearm's can and will malfunction.

Revolver vs. Semi-Auto

Revolver

One of the biggest advantages of revolvers is if you have a malfunction, most can be solved by simply pulling the trigger again.

Semi-Automatic

The problem with semi-automatics is that the malfunctioning round is blocking the next round or a failure to feed another round; so you need to know how to quickly clear the malfunction so you can defend yourself.

Firearm's Malfunctions

Types of Malfunctions

FTE/FTF Malfunctions

FTE

(Failure To Extract)

This is when the firearm discharges the round and fails to extract the spent round from the chamber.

This could happen because of a bad extractor, bad/damaged casings, ect...

FTF

(Failure To Feed)

This is simply when the firearm fails to feed another round into the chamber.

Many people get this by placing a loaded magazine in their firearm and forgetting to rack a round into the chamber or an improperly seated magazine.

FTE/FTF Solution

“Tap-Roll/Rack-Access.” “Tap” – tap the magazine and ensure it is properly seated in the grip. “Roll” – roll the firearm approx. 90 degrees to the right while “Racking” the slide to eject the used cartridge (For FTE). Now “Access” the situation to determine if you must continue shooting. **Note: The ejection port should face the ground, this will allow the round to easily fall out (gravity is your friend here). This will work for both left and right handed shooters.**

FTE/FTF clearing

Tap



Roll



FTE/FTF Clearing (Easy)

Rack



Access



Misfire

A misfire occurs when the firing pin strikes the primer and it does not fire.

This is a common type of malfunction. When this happens wait 30 seconds before clearing the round. You may end up having a delayed discharge of the round. After waiting proceed with clearing the malfunction.



Misfire Solution

“Tap-Roll/Rack-Access.” “Tap” – tap the magazine and ensure it is properly seated in the grip. “Roll” – roll the firearm approx. 90 degrees to the right while “Racking” the slide to eject the misfired cartridge. Now “Access” the situation to determine if you must continue shooting. **Note: The ejection port should face the ground, this will allow the round to easily fall out (gravity is your friend here). This will work for both left and right handed shooters.**

Misfire Solution

TAP



ROLL



Misfire Solution

RACK SLIDE



ACCESS



Stove Pipe

A stovepipe occurs when the casing that has been ejected is caught in the ejection port by the slide.



Stove Pipe Solution

I teach the same objective; “Tap-Roll/Rack-Access” procedure as used to clear the Misfire malfunction. Why? Under stress, it is important to react quickly and naturally. If you have a different method of clearing each malfunction, you are more likely to panic or spend precious time diagnosing your problem instead of fixing it.

Note: The ejection port should face the ground, this will allow the round to easily fall out (gravity is your friend here). This will work for both left and right handed shooters.

Stove Pipe Solution

TAP



ROLL



Stove Pipe Solution

RACK SLIDE



ACCESS



Double Feed

Double Feed: this malfunction occurs when a round is in the chamber and a second round attempts to feed into the chamber. This results in a true jam. On most semi-auto's, the slide has limited motion and the magazine will not eject by pressing the magazine release.



Double Feed Solution

When the firearm does not fire, immediately execute the immediate action drill of “Tap-Roll/Rack.” Upon performing this with a double feed malfunction, it becomes immediately clear that you have a double feed because the slide will not function normally. The clearance procedure can be summarized as follows: First “Strip out the Magazine (let it fall).” Second, Rack the slide 2 or 3 times to clear it of all ammo. Third, Insert a new loaded magazine. Fourth, Rack the slide to chamber a round. Fifth, access your target and fire if necessary.

Double Feed Solution

TAP



ROLL & RACK



Double Feed Solution

STRIP OUT MAGAZINE

RACK SLIDE 2 OR 3 TIMES



Double Feed Solution

INSERT NEW MAGAZINE



RACK SLIDE / CHAMBER ROUND



Clearing Malfunctions Tip

It is important to keep the immediate action drill (Tap-Roll/Rack-Access) for all three malfunction identical at the beginning. If all three malfunctions were cleared differently, then under extreme stress, it would take time you don't have to access the malfunction and decide how to clear it. Stay simple!

Damaged Rounds

Always check your ammunition as you load your firearms. Sometimes ammunition is damaged when produced at the factory. This can cause a malfunction; which is preventable.



Train In Clearing Malfunctions

You can train yourself in clearing malfunctions real easy. All you need is some dummy/snap cap rounds in your caliber.

You can easily mix a dummy round with your live ammo when at the range and when your gun doesn't work (due to the dummy round), clear the malfunction as needed. For standard FTE/FTF malfunctions, you should have them cleared in about 3 to 4 seconds.

Setting up a double feed is easy too; just place a round in the chamber and then place in a loaded magazine in the firearm and then let the slide go forward. This will create the double feed and then clear it. Try to complete this drill in under 9 seconds.

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