



MEMBERS UPDATE

January 2022

A person wearing a light blue jacket, dark pants, and a large orange backpack is hiking up a snowy mountain slope. The person is seen from behind, and their shadow is cast on the snow. The background shows a vast, snow-covered landscape under a clear sky.

**WHAT EVERYONE
NEEDS TO SURVIVE
A HARSH WINTER**

Which Ammo to Buy?
A Guide to Defensive Rounds with Stopping Power

Short Barreled Shotguns:
The Laws, Home Defense, and "Not" Shotguns

How to Buy Real Estate for Your Self-Reliance Fortress

NEXT ISSUE: *Defensive Shotgun Rounds*

RAOS

OFFSET SIGHT



With its unique 45-degree offset, the **RAOS** allows shooters to quickly transition between a magnified optic to iron sights for close range shooting without breaking your cheek weld or repositioning your hands!

MYCRISISGEAR.COM/RAOS

CONTENT



02

What Everyone Needs to Survive a Harsh Winter:

With a predicted harsh winter this year, it's more important than ever to properly plan and prepare. NSRA has your back starting with the basics including how to stay warm in a power outage, snow shoveling tips, and how to recognize the signs of hypothermia plus what you can do about them. You'll want to be sure to remember the handy C.O.L.D. acronym we share with you to use this winter and beyond.



07

Which Ammo to Buy? A Guide to Defensive Rounds with Stopping Power:

If you've got gift cards burning a hole in your pocket, NSRA has you covered with a robust list of defensive rounds to stop someone dead in their tracks. A brief walk through history here is sure to get you up to speed on modern rounds including those most preferred by military and law enforcement. Everyone tends to have a favorite, and we aim to help you find yours if you haven't already.



11

Short Barreled Shotguns: The Laws, Home Defense, and "Not" Shotguns:

First we'll unpack some Federal classifications and definitions of firearms types before touching on states and their respective interpretations. Then we'll share how the gun manufacturers got creative and what this means for you. Lastly, we'll be sure to share a couple of our favorite "not shotguns" along with why we love them.



16

How to Buy Real Estate for Your Self-Reliance Fortress:

Enjoy these top tips for finding and buying your dream bug out property. We'll explore the importance of size, location, water, weather, heat, accessibility, privacy, and power. Then we'll break down hunting, sanitation, livestock, blending in, and making your own food. Last but certainly not least, we'll share some ways to find hidden gems and save money in the process.



What Everyone Needs to Survive a Harsh Winter

Winter officially kicked off on December 21st, and with it comes the possibility of harsh weather. Even if the weather itself isn't harsh, this winter promises to be demanding due to global supply chain issues. However, *The Old Farmer's Almanac* has dubbed the 2021-2022 winter the 'Season of Shivers,' so be prepared for a cold, harsh winter, during which you won't be able to buy all the normal things.

"The coming winter could well be one of the longest and coldest that we've seen in years," says Janice Stillman, editor of *The Old Farmer's Almanac*. Considering that the Almanac has been right 80 percent of the time, you should move forward as if this winter will have below-average temperatures.

How do you prepare for this when so many items are out of stock or are taking longer than usual to reach customers? For instance, buying a stove in Michigan had a five-month backlog as of September, and things are only going to get worse.

What would you do if your family really, really needed a generator and everywhere was sold out? This could become a reality, so it's time to start scouring your favorite internet sites for a used generator before they're all gone.

The Basics – What You Need for a Harsh Winter

2 Before we look any further into our current situation, let's take a look at what you'll need to

survive a harsh winter. And with the polar vortex on its way back, you're going to need it!

Dress Warmly

Layering will be the name of the game. Put on as many layers as possible if you're going to be outside for more than a couple of minutes. Be sure to wear a non-permeable outside layer, as this will help you with the wind.

Wear a Hat

A hat is essential, considering that you lose about 30 percent of your body heat via your head. Covering your ears is an absolute must, and it's even better if you can cover your nose, too.

Keep Your Extremities Protected

Your feet and hands will have the highest risk of frostbite. Therefore, choose mittens rather than gloves and wear at least two pairs of socks.

Stay Hydrated

This might seem counterintuitive, but you need to drink a lot of water while you're layered up. This will give your body the best chance of thriving while it's using most of your energy to remain warm. Without frequent replenishment of water, your body won't be able to perform at its best.

Wear a Pair of Properly Fitted Boots

Did you know that if your boots are too tight, they could make the problem even worse by cutting off or limiting the circulation to your toes and feet?

Avoid this problem by making sure you have a pair of boots that are the proper fit.

Change Out of Wet Clothing ASAP

If your clothing gets wet, it'll become even harder to stay warm. Be sure your outer layer provides some protection from rain and snow. If you get wet anyway, change your clothing as soon as possible.

What About Frostbite and Hypothermia?



Getting frostbite and/or hypothermia is a serious medical condition. If not treated immediately, either of these conditions can lead to permanent issues.

Frostbite is nasty, and usually starts with “tingling or stinging sensations. The face, fingers, and toes are the first body parts to be affected. Then muscles and other tissues can become numb,” according to Dr. John Marshall.

Additionally, frostbite can cause:

- Redness in skin
- Pain in skin
- Discolored skin
- Numb skin

Hypothermia is another serious issue that can cause:

- Shivering
- Confusion
- Drowsiness
- Slurred speech

If you notice any signs of frostbite and/or hypothermia, you should seek medical assistance immediately. You should also cover any areas of your body that have been exposed to the cold.

Let's say you're far away from help, possibly in the mountains or deep in the woods. If help won't arrive for at least two hours, drink warm, non-alcoholic beverages. You can also use warm water to re-warm the area. Just make sure you stay away from excessively hot or boiling hot water.

Who is Especially Prone to Frostbite or Hypothermia?

Anyone can suffer from frostbite and/or hypothermia, so these conditions need to be taken very seriously. There are some people who are especially prone to these issues, however, including:

- The elderly
- People with heart disease
- People with circulatory problems
- People with diabetes
- People who drink caffeine
- People who drink alcohol
- People who use drugs that inhibit the body's ability to protect itself

If you're on this list, you'll need to be extra careful once it gets cold outside. And if we have a polar vortex, you're one of the people who really shouldn't go outside at all. If you must, though, be sure to keep it to five minutes or less.

How Long Can People Stay Outside?

There's no simple answer to this. We do know, though, that those who are susceptible to the cold need to limit their time in it to around five minutes.

The following list also helps determine how long a person can remain outside in the cold:

- Wind speed
- How well a person is dressed
- Is their skin moist or wet?

If shoveling snow is in your plans, be sure to wear three layers of clothing. The first will drain sweat or moisture, the second will insulate you, and the third outer layer is to block as much of the cold as possible.



Follow the C.O.L.D. Acronym

You can make it easier to remember what to do if you follow the acronym C.O.L.D., which stands for:

- Cover Up
- Overexertion
- Layers
- Dry

Let's take a closer look at what each letter represents.

C – Cover up means wearing protective covering with a hat.

O – Avoid overexerting yourself. Sweating a lot will make you lose heat more quickly.

L – Dress in three layers. Loose-fitting, lightweight clothing made of silk, wool, or polypropylene are better for you than wearing cotton.

D – Staying dry is imperative, especially your feet and hands. If you get wet, change as soon as possible.

Staying Warm During a Power Outage

A generator is a great way to remain warm and happy when your neighborhood experiences a power outage. But if you don't get one in time or if you can't afford one, there are other options. For example:

- Wear layers
- Stay in a confined space
- Use blankets
- Use battery-operated space heaters
- Avoid exposing your home to any cold air

There are also a few methods that many experts don't believe work, or work well-enough, for you to try them indoors. These include:

- DIY terracotta pot heaters
- Car engines
- Camp stoves
- Gas stove/oven

Now, we're going to take a closer look at what you should do – and shouldn't do – if your power goes out in the dead of winter.

DO: Retain Body Heat through Conservation

Your own body could be the best source of heat in your home. Therefore, it's important to avoid heat loss by using blankets, extra layers, hats, gloves, etc. You may also want to get in your bed, which you can also cover with emergency blankets, sleeping bags, etc.

Remember that too many clothes can cause the opposite problem. Dressing in layers will allow you to determine when to take a layer off versus when to put it on.

DON'T: Keep Ovens or Gas Stoves Running

Using a gas stove to keep yourself warm is a very bad idea. They can release carbon monoxide into the air, which could hurt or even kill you.

DO: Create a Small Space

Making adjustments to your home can help your efforts at staying warm. The smaller the space is, the warmer it will remain, especially if you put a towel under the door, block windows and exterior doors with a long towel or sheet, etc. Consider putting a tent up in the middle of the room and staying inside it.

DON'T: Burn Charcoal or Run Your Car Inside

Charcoal grills, barbecue pits, camp stoves, etc. produce deadly carbon monoxide, as do cars. Your best bet is to leave these items off and outside. If you have to use one of them, though, be sure you have a battery-operated carbon monoxide detector. As soon as it goes off, turn off your car, grill, etc.

Signs of carbon monoxide poisoning include:

- Dizziness
- Headache
- Confusion
- Weakness

DO: Use Candles

A flashlight will always be the better choice, but you can light candles to see by. Never leave a candle unattended, though, and don't rely on it to provide heat.

DON'T: Put Off Getting Necessary Help

The reality is that your home may not be the safest place to stay. Therefore, reach out to the Red Cross or a local community organization to determine if there's a warming center near you. Alternatively, you may want to look for a local hotel that has power. If nothing else, some hotels with power will allow you to warm up in their lobby for free.

DO: Light the Fireplace

Lighting a fireplace is one of the best ways to remain warm and to get some light. Therefore, whether you have a wood-burning fireplace or a gas-powered one, be sure to get it going immediately. Keep an eye on the immediate area to ensure the fireplace won't start a fire outside the designated area.

DON'T: Forget About Your Pets

No matter what room you're staying in, be sure your pets join you. Also, it's best to put them underneath blankets so they'll retain as much heat as possible.

You can also do some exercise in a five-minute burst to warm yourself up. You may be able to get your pet to do something similar with some

encouragement. As long as you can use your stove, you could also create a hot water bottle or a hot bag of beans. Use this to help keep yourself and your pets warm.



Did You Get Some Notice? Do These Things Immediately

The good news is that you received some notice of a power outage. The bad news is that your local power company can't handle the surge in usage. If you live in Texas, this will definitely ring some bells.

Before you do anything else, make sure you fill up your bathtub with water and test your generator. That way, you can flush your toilet whenever needed and you'll know whether you can rely on your generator.

What About This Winter Specifically?

The 2021-2022 winter season has a lot of things that could go wrong. From food shortages, to increasing prices, to an almost certain shortage of generators, this could be a really rough winter, indeed. This means you'll need to make extra plans for how to survive.

First, you'll want to beef up your food supplies right now. The longer you wait, the more expensive everything is going to be.

Fortunately, most of you are survivalists, and this means you probably already have some food stored up. On the bad side, though, this means you're going to consume some of the food you should have put aside for another type of emergency. At least you'll have some food that won't break the bank, though.

If you don't already have a generator, you should definitely try to get one. Don't be surprised if this

becomes impossible, at least for a new one. Even if you have to order a generator that won't be in stock until spring, at least you'll have one for the 2022-2023 winter season.

When Will These Issues Subside?



Unfortunately, there is no end in sight for some of these shortages. In fact, it's entirely possible we'll still be dealing with them next winter. As long as the prices keep going up, you're also going to be hit with sticker shock.

Therefore, we recommend buying anything you're going to need far, far in advance. This will help you stay ahead of others and give you the best odds of having your needs fulfilled. If there's something you need for spring, for instance, go ahead and order it now.

Remember: Don't berate store employees if they can't get something in for you. The global supply chain issues are not their fault, and if they say they can't get something, then they simply can't get it. Again, being patient is your best course of action.

Shoveling Snow: Tips That Could Save Your Life (and Back!)

Finally, let's take a look at one of the biggest inconveniences associated with winter. When a big winter storm comes your way and leaves you shoveling snow, it can be a big pain in the back. Following these tips, however, can leave you with a shoveled driveway and a non-sore back.

- Warm Up – Do some light movements in the house before you go outside.
- Choose Your Shovel Wisely – You're going to want an ergonomically designed shovel to reduce how often you bend down.
- Push Rather Than Lift – Pushing the snow is a much better way to move it. When you must lift, bend your knees and use your legs.
- Take Frequent Breaks – Take a break every 20 minutes or so, especially if the snow is wet.
- Lighten Your Load – Use a plastic shovel instead of a metal one.
- Go Outside Frequently – Instead of shoveling everything all at once, consider making frequent trips outside.
- Keep Up with the Snowfall – When snow first falls, it's lighter and fluffier. The longer you wait, the wetter it becomes. And wetter snow is heavier snow.
- Wear Layers – Once again, layers are your key to success.
- Remain Hydrated – As previously mentioned, drinking lots of water will help ensure that your body has the energy it needs to stay warm.

Final Thoughts

If winter is as harsh as The Old Farmer's Almanac suggests, we could all be in for a very tough season. Stock up on essentials whenever possible and put aside your expectations for how quickly items should reach you. Also, don't forget about the tips listed above for surviving outside during the polar vortex, along with surviving inside if your power goes out.

As long as you take our tips seriously and put them into action, when necessary, you'll be able to get to spring 2022.



Which Ammo to Buy? A Guide to Defensive Rounds with Stopping Power

By Eric Austgen

Every once in a great while I inadvertently get suckered into the ageless debate of .45 ACP versus 9mm. That's usually when my eyes glaze over and I tap into the ancient male art of selective hearing, hoping and praying I make it through. This usually gets me out of arguments of holy war proportions. So because of these differences of opinions, we are going to have a look at some of the most popular defensive rounds to carry when you absolutely, positively need to dispatch your immediate threat effectively and permanently.

FIRST THINGS FIRST

I would like to begin, however, with a short safety reminder. Make sure to always follow the recommended safety guidelines of the manufacturers of your firearm and/or ammunition.

Do not ever modify your firearm or ammo unless you are a knowledgeable gunsmith or reloader. Never handle a firearm or ammunition while impaired or under the influence. Sobriety is key to safe handling of guns and ammo. Ego should never be present when safety is concerned and a good way to stave off complacency is to review the rules of gun safety every time you handle your weapon(s). This is in no way an accusation of deficiency on the part of any gun owner's knowledge of safety procedures, but should be looked to as a constant guide and reminder of the enormity and responsibility one has when carrying a deadly weapon. Now that we have that out of the way, let's get this "in no particular" order party started.

AND THE FIRST ROUND ON OUR LIST IS...

The first round on our list is the 9mm Luger. This cartridge was born at the same time as the weapon it has been famously associated with. George Luger invented both the round and the gun in 1902. After completion of both, Luger submitted them to the British Army for their proving tests. The Springfield Armory took possession of three Lugers in 1903 for testing and in the ensuing years before the U.S. adoption of the 1911 as the standard sidearm, there was an order for Lugers in the less powerful 7.65mm caliber or .30 Luger. Which is odd considering George Luger specifically invented the 9mm to replace the 7.65mm. The 9mm was designed to increase penetrating power in a bullet so that it could go through whatever uniform or clothing an enemy combatant was wearing. Another purpose was to make sure that the bullet would effectively incapacitate the enemy either through death or wounding. It was primarily a pistol cartridge and then graduated to machine pistols when Germany began testing sub machine guns in the waning days of World War One. It continued in this role during World War Two with the ERMA produced MP-38 and MP-40 and also the Luger replacement, the Walther P-38. The 9mm has consistently been a favored round for militaries and police forces throughout the world. It is also one of the most popular rounds for civilian shooters as well and it is because of this that many countries ban civilian ownership of weapons chambered in this caliber. I think we all know why, don't we?

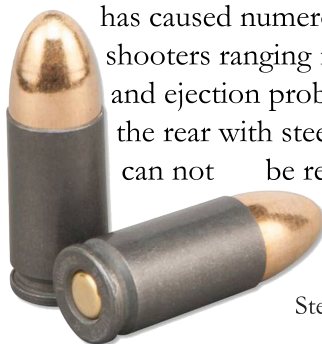


9mm Luger

One of the reasons law enforcement agencies like to use the 9mm is the bit more oomph it has over a .38 Special round. Also the elimination of speed loaders and introduction of flat, easily storable magazines with a larger capacity made reloading a quicker option especially when being shot at. The ballistics is also an attractive lure for the continued use of this ammo. The technological advancements in the firearms field has given us a more powerful 9mm round than what was available at the time of its inception. Of course with all ammunition, one needs to consider manufacturer, bullet weight in grains, and the powder charge conducive with your shooting needs. Bullet weights run between 115 and 147 grains and have a wide variety of powder charges depending on what purpose the ammo will be used for. The load should not be so great as to risk having a bullet go straight through the bad guy and into an innocent. For self defense, 115 to 124 grain cartridges are effective and are loaded so that the bullet will lose it's velocity and stay put once it penetrates, to reduce the chance for an exit wound.

EVERYONE HAS THEIR FAVORITES

I can not specifically endorse any ammo manufacturer because everyone has their favorites, and I don't have one favorite over another. I would advise you to avoid the steel cased ammo that is imported from Eastern Europe, as it is dirty and has caused numerous headaches for many shooters ranging from misfires to cycling and ejection problems. Another pain in the rear with steel is that once fired, it can not be reloaded. However, with yet another papercut inflicted to the 2A you



Steel Cased 9mm Ammo

won't even need to worry about that ammo on the shelves anymore.

AND NEXT UP ON OUR LIST IS...

The next contender on the list was actually derived from the perceived ineffectiveness of the 9mm round. Now before all of my die hard 9mm defenders risk apoplexy over this fact, I should probably explain the events that surrounded the need for a new caliber. The .40 Smith and Wesson came about due to the infamous "Miami Shootout" between eight FBI agents and two bank robbers. Two agents were killed and five were wounded leaving the alphabet agency to wonder why their seemingly superior firepower had been behind the eight ball this time around. The bank robbers each took 6 and 12 rounds respectively before being permanently put down. The forensic evidence showed that neither of them were hopped up on anything that would have made them able to take the pain and keep fighting. It was found that poor marksmanship and quality of ammunition was one of the primary factors at fault. Needless to say, after the Miami debacle the feds looked for a more effective round and tested the 10mm round for a suitable replacement. It was accepted and put into service but was pulled due to



FBI Inspired .40 S&W

complaints about the recoil. Yes, you read that correctly. I don't think my eyes could roll any further back into my head after knowing that. Sonny Crockett never had a problem wielding one every week! But I kid.

THE SEARCH CONTINUED

Since some couldn't handle their weapon effectively due to the 10mm recoil, the search went on for a sweet spot cartridge. It was discovered when the firearms training unit special agent in charge introduced his own handloaded ammo for use in testing. The test revealed that a 180 grain jacketed hollow point bullet propelled at 1000 ft per second produced the terminal results they were looking for. It also eliminated that scary recoil which precipitated the tests in the first place. So the feds kicked it over to Smith and Wesson to figure out and they produced the .40 S&W round complete with matching handgun. Unfortunately for Smith and

Wesson, Glock beat them to the market with their model 22 and 23. As for its effectiveness in regards to stopping power, it doesn't do too bad. Early gelatin ideal terminal ballistics tests produced a very favorable outcome for the .40 S&W and it took its place amongst other top rated ammunition known to be recommended cartridges for self defense and law enforcement.

NEW ROUND FOR A MODERN ARMY

The .45 ACP also came about due to a new weapons design. As with the .40, the .45 ACP was invented for more stopping power, in this case a viable replacement for the .38 Long Colt round, which had been accepted as standard handgun ammunition for the U.S. Army at the close of the 19th century. John Browning was the genius behind the cartridge and the handgun that would become the Colt M1911. It would be after an almost seven year period of time devoted to continuous testing and design tweaking, that the accepted .45 cartridge and final version of the 1911 would be joined in wedded bliss and available for combat duty. At first the combination was a success, but as with most things in life, it had some kinks that needed to be worked out. This resulted in a .45 ACP ball cartridge with a 230 grain bullet that would be the standard sidearm ammo of the U.S. military until its replacement by the 9mm round and Beretta in the mid- eighties.



Jacketed Hollow Point .45ACP Rounds

Accuracy, human predator stopping power, low muzzle flash, and hearty manageable recoil are what makes this an effective round for combat and self defense carry. The .45 ACP is available with expanding and non-expanding full metal jacket (FMJ) bullets. Expanding rounds will either mushroom or break apart (if it is a frangible or hollow point type) upon penetration, whereas non-expanding rounds will deliver a very nasty death

due to the heavy mass, deep tissue penetration capability, and central nervous system destroying bullet. If you wanted to deliver a real shock to the system, then the non-expanding round is your best bet short of electricity. Don't count the expanding rounds out though, as they like to leave a large nasty wound cavity that would tax the skills of even the most experienced trauma surgeon. This will result in greater blood loss and will also guarantee the kinetic energy will disburse upon impact of the round so that it will not punch all the way through your assailant.

FIRST OF THE MODERN PISTOL CARTRIDGES

The next cartridge in line is the round that was replaced by the army in favor of it's puny cousin the .38 Long Colt. Yes, it is the iconic .45 Long Colt, the ammo most often associated with everything old west. The .45 cartridge showed up in 1872 as one of the first metallic rounds made for the Richards-Mason conversion pistols. The handguns being converted at that time were primarily Colt 1860 Army in .44 caliber and 1851 Navy models in .36. The .44 actually fired a true .45 caliber ball and the .36 was comparable to the .38 caliber round. The solution to the conversion was to rework the cylinder in order to hold metallic cartridge ammo and function with the existing hammer. This was accomplished by creating a two piece cylinder with the main part holding the cartridges and a separate plate that went over the top of the seated cartridges with individual firing pins built into it. Minor gunsmithing would be needed to ensure proper cylinder fit and cycling. The conversions would soon be obsolete by the next year when Col. Colt's Patent Fire-Arms Manufacturing Company introduced the single action army along with the reliable .45 Colt round. The application of "long" to the description of the cartridge can be traced to when the army was using it. At the time, they were using both .45 Colt and .45 S&W Schofield but the rounds were not completely interchangeable between weapons. Sure, the Schofield round would work fine in both revolvers, since it was a short round, but the slightly longer Colt round wouldn't function in the Schofield. To remedy this, the army dumped the longer Colt cartridge and used the Smith and Wesson round exclusively, although the .45 Colt still

found its way into a few trooper's saddlebags.

After almost 150 years in existence, the .45 Colt is still being used as a hunting round for use with deer and black bear, proving the effectiveness for self defense employment as well. Look for cartridges



.45 Long Colt
Cowboy Cartridges

loaded for self defense since many .45 Colt rounds are marketed for cowboy action shooting and will contain a powder charge that throws your lead at a limited velocity of 850 feet per second. That's still enough to pack a pretty big punch especially when in a close quarters situation. The

cowboy loads are also safe to put through modern black powder pistol conversion cylinders, anything loaded higher than that will most likely cause you to have a catastrophic firearm failure. Usually the .410 shotgun shell is mentioned in the same breath as the .45 Colt due to the compatibility of both in some revolvers, but since we are discussing rounds designed to kill and not to piss someone off, we will leave it for a discussion on shotgun ammunition.

A COP'S BEST FRIEND

Our next contestant on "Which Ammo to Buy?", was the stalwart of many law enforcement agencies from the twenties through the nineties. That round is the .38 Special. The .357 Magnum will also be examined as .38 cartridges can be fired in a .357 handgun and the two rounds are almost always discussed together. The .38 Special replaced the dismal .38 Long Colt around 1898. By the thirties, Smith and Wesson produced a large frame 5 inch barrel revolver intended for police use with a .38/44 cartridge. Colt also came out with their own model and offered three cartridges with different bullet weights. The .38 Special was used by military and police until their eventual phasing out. The .38 Special +P ammunition was developed with a 158 grain soft lead semi-wadcutter hollow-point bullet designed to expand upon impact and penetration. .38 Special +P+ is another round that can be used, but these guys are a beefy bunch and only .357 Magnum or specifically marked revolvers should be used to fire this ammunition. The buzz surrounding the .38/44 cartridge encouraged Smith and Wesson to design a new round with a longer casing.



The .38
Special

Elmer Keith, Phillip Sharpe, and Doug Wesson are credited with inventing and developing the .357 Magnum round. It has all the same characteristics of the .38 with the exception of the lengthened case to accommodate more powder. Bullet weights and loads will vary depending on what size .357 handgun you carry.

If you are like me, then you enjoy variety and its being the spice of life. That's why I'm rather partial to the .38 special / .357 Magnum combination. Having had an exposure to firearms of all kinds for a great many years, one would think I could contain my excitement and astonishment towards this perfect union of lethal choice. I can't and probably won't anytime soon. As much as I like putting lead down-range with my .45 Colt Cowboy model, I prefer these rounds as my go to for daily carry. The reason is simple. You have 3 choices of cartridges to use.. .38 special for when you want to make sure the round stays in your target, .38 Special +P runs a bit hotter but is a good mid -range round to use when you want a bit of power behind the bullet without thorough penetration, and of course the .357 Magnum. It may have a smaller diameter but the higher velocity will allow for greater penetration.



Colt King Cobra
.357 Magnum

While this certainly has not been an exhaustive study on each round, it has at least given you a starting point from which to branch out and do more research as to what round will be right for you. It would be tons of fun if we could spend more time dissecting and analyzing all the various calibers and their ballistics, but, I suspect, some of us have lives, responsibilities, jobs, and other things that demand our attention. So I will say for now, dear reader, stay safe and let's be careful out there.

Short Barreled Shotguns: The Laws, Home Defense, and “Not” Shotguns

By Eric Austgen

In 1986 the cult movie world welcomed a new member to its ever- swelling ranks with a truly underrated gem known as “Jake Speed”. Wayne Crawford stars as the titular hero playing it as a tongue in cheek nod to the nice guy one-man army types found in the pulp novels, with characters referring to “Remo Williams”, “Mack Bolan”, and “Doc Savage” as if they actually existed. The whole movie is an absolute delight and has a little something for everyone; but nothing delights more in it than Jake’s favorite sidekick, “The Kid”. “The Kid” is a modified short-barreled Remington Model 1100 Magnum shotgun with a pistol grip which enables Jake to “unleash the lead spitting hell from the most powerful automatic weapon in the world” upon all evil doers. I wanted one when I first saw it and I still want one, however due to some restrictive laws on the books, namely the NFA on down to locally enacted 2A infringements, there may be some complications to fulfilling this dream. I may not be able to have “The Kid” but there are a couple of reasonable alternatives out there that will make violent offenders think twice. We’ll have a look at these laws as it pertains to short-barreled shotguns. We’ll also review Remington and Mossberg’s short barreled entries in the field of home defense.



Jake Speed and “The Kid”

First Steps Toward Tyranny

For those of you who are unfamiliar with it, the National Firearms Act or NFA, is a piece of legislation enacted in 1934 at the beginning of Roosevelt's presidency. The genesis of this particular papercut had its roots in a failed assassination attempt on President-elect Roosevelt and the violence that was secondary to the federal imposition of the Volstead Act, a half-baked attempt to collectively throw all of America on the wagon. Thankfully that "noble experiment" died a hard death, however the government continued to press on with frightening speed. Soon after the repeal of Prohibition, Congress decided that those nasty scary guns used in gang violence should never fall into civilian hands; most notably the Thompson Sub-Machine Gun and Browning Automatic Rifle, weapons that could be freely purchased in any hardware or gun store across the fruited plain without so much as an eyebrow raise from the clerk, would now be owned only by persons whom the government deemed worthy, through the excise tax on the manufacture and transfer of certain firearms and mandating registration for those specifically identified weapons. The feds most likely saw how effective said weapons were during the gangland wars that they knew they wouldn't have a prayer against a well-organized and fully auto-equipped populace.



590 Shockwave with polymer furniture

The definition of firearms within the act is as follows: "The term 'firearm' means a shotgun or rifle having a barrel of less than eighteen inches in length, or any other weapon, except a pistol or revolver, from which a shot is discharged by an explosive if such weapon is capable of being concealed on the person, or a machine gun, and includes a muffler or silencer for any firearm whether or not such firearm is included within the foregoing definition." (Section 1(a), Public Law No. 474, Ch. 757, 48 Stat. 1236, June 26, 1934). The firearms that fell under this act include: machine guns, short-barreled rifles, short-barreled shotguns, any other weapons (AOW), and silencers for NFA and non NFA firearms. The AOW inclusion is for

concealable deadly weapons not classified as a pistol or revolver. Examples of these type of weapons include: zip guns, pen guns, umbrella guns, cane guns, and other items that could feasibly disguise a firearm as a completely harmless everyday use product or illegally modified firearms, such as pistols or revolvers with a smoothbore barrel designed or redesigned to fire a fixed shotgun shell and firearms possessing both a rifled and smoothbore barrel more than twelve inches but less than 18 inches in length capable of firing a single round from each barrel without manual reloading, including weapons that may be readily restored to fire.



Remington 870 Tac-14 polymer furniture

Federal Classifications and Definitions of Firearms Types

Per the NFA, a machine gun is classified as any firearm that can fire repeatedly, without reloading, by a single function of the trigger. Fully auto and burst fire is considered to be a machine gun function and thereby makes the receiver a regulated firearm. Receivers having the ability to be converted to fire more than one round at a time are considered to be readily convertible and treated as a machine gun. Short-barreled rifles are defined as any firearm with a buttstock and either a rifled barrel with less than 16" or overall length (OAL) of less than 26". Rifles OAL with folding buttstocks are measured with the stock fully extended to determine legality. They even lump in firearms that came from the factory fully furnished with a stock that was removed later by a third party. Short-barreled shotguns fall into generally the same criteria as the SBR's. The only difference is that a smoothbore barrel is substituted for the rifled and the barrel length must not be less than 18". The OAL for both remains the same and that includes the folding stock nonsense. Suppressors fall under the definition of any portable device that can be used to muffle or disguise the report of any firearm. Non-portable suppressors such as sound traps used at the gunsmith or the range to safely clear your weapon, are not included in this definition. I should also point out that because the government

loves their legalese that “silencer” is the legal term for “suppressor”. A category known as destructive devices was added to the NFA by the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968. This added two classes of destructive weapons to be controlled. Grenades, bombs, explosive missiles, and poison gas weapons are amongst the first class of weapons to be “feds only” and any firearm with a bore over a half inch. Now, shotguns and shells have been exempted from the latter regulation on destructive devices due to their being recognized for use in legitimate sporting activities. Beyond these definitions as to what is and what isn’t a regulated firearm, the Act identifies gun parts, the hurdles needed to go through in order to register, buy, and transfer, excise taxes, and penalties for not following the money and rights grab.



590 Shockwave “Nightstick”

Continued 2A Infringement

A mere four years later, in 1938, Congress passed the Federal Firearms Act. Yet another attempt to put money into the national coffers from the very people suffering from, at that point, the abysmal depths of the Great Depression. This act was nothing more than an excise tax on firearms manufacturers, importers, and dealers. This is where the FFL bureaucratic red tape nightmare originated. In addition, FFL holders must maintain customer records and are prohibited from transferring firearms to certain classes of people, such as convicted felons and those adjudged mentally incompetent. Thirty years on and the FFA had been determined to not be tough enough on its individual ownership restriction of the 2A. The Gun Control Act of 1968 was primarily spurred on at Lyndon Johnson’s urging after the assassination of President Kennedy. It languished for a few years, as most things in D.C. do, until the assassinations of both Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy. Not to mention the riots at the Democratic National convention that year in Chicago and also the escalation of Vietnam after the violation of the Tet cease fire, an event that led “America’s Anchor” Walter Cronkite to lay down the template

unwinnable. With fears of more assassinations and nation-wide violence, Congress hot footed it back to their “hallowed” chambers and passed this repugnant bill that was heavily influenced by Nazi gun laws and, indeed, some passages of the bill are out right plagiarism from the source material. The definition of firearms under this Act is any weapon (including a starter gun) which is designed to or may be readily converted to expel a projectile by the act of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, any firearm muffler or silencer, or any destructive device. This term does not apply to antique firearms manufactured before 1898. 18 U.S.C. 921(a)(3): DEFINITIONS (FIREARM). Because of the unconstitutionality of many provisions within it, the bill is mostly recognized as regulating the interstate commerce of firearms allowing only manufacturers, importers, and dealers to do so with the proper government papers. It not only reinforced the non- sale to felons, drug users, and the mentally incompetent, but also robbed future generations of young Americans from knowing the joy of saving up their allowance and buying their favorite war surplus firearm off the back of a magazine.



Remington 870 Tac-14 with wood furniture

States and Their Respective Interpretations

So now that leaves us with what the states have to say about NFA firearms, as for county and municipality regulations I would strongly urge you to investigate more into them just so you can CYA. It might surprise you to know that there are more states in this country that are friendly towards the specific definitions laid out in the NFA, than there are hostile attitudes towards private firearms ownership. Forty-one states allow short -barreled shotguns and have adopted the language of the NFA, however some states have modified this statute to include comments on firearms modified from a rifle and those alterations conforming to OAL standards and shotguns with a second barrel. Missouri requires measurement of the barrel from the face of the bolt or standing breech, whereas most states are not that specific. My home state of

Colorado adheres to the exact wording of the NFA regarding short-barreled shotguns, although SBS's are referred to as "short shotguns". This definition is found in the Colorado Revised Statutes Title 18 Article 12 Part 101 subsection (i) under the heading Peace Officer affirmative defense- definitions and is updated as of July 1, 2021. Within the past five years, Michigan has relaxed its prohibition of SBS's, although the law stipulates that any firearm less than twenty-six inches must be registered as a pistol. Of course, on the flip side, we have outright totalitarian governance concerning firearms. California and Minnesota allow for ownership of SBS's if it is classed as a curio and relic. Illinois, D.C. Hawaii, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Washington, and the home state of Joe Biden, Delaware, have all banned short-barreled shotguns. As recently as July of 2021, legislation was introduced to remove SBS's from the NFA to scrap the two-hundred-dollar tax and registration theft scheme required to own them. A quick check over at Congress.gov shows that H.R.4312 - NFA SBS Act hasn't budged an inch since its introduction and hand-off to the Ways and Means Committee, all on the same day.



590 Shockwave .410 bore 18.5" barrel

Gun Manufacturers Getting Creative

Despite what the lame stream media, lunatic fringe groups, and card carrying communists would have most of the population believe, America has been and always will be the one place in the world where you can be repeatedly knocked on your rear-end and get up and try it again. The same pioneer spirit and resilience that built this great country and all the sovereign states within, burns brightly in our domestic firearms manufacturers. The grit and determination to overcome obstacles and find a workable solution is on full display with Mossberg Arms 590 Shockwave and Remington's 870 Tac-14. They were able to skirt the NFA definition of "firearms" as it pertains to SBS's and, therefore, both of these firearms have been classified as "non" shotguns by the ATF and are subject to the GCA of 1968 definition of "firearm" and not the definition put forth by the NFA, thus avoiding the

were never designed to be fired from the shoulder, only in pistol configuration, thereby negating the shotgun definition and the pesky restrictions on third party modifications. However, if either of these firearms or ones manufactured to the same dimensions are concealed on your person in any way, then you might be riding back into NFA territory. Mossberg's 590 comes in your choice of 12, 20, and .410- gauge, cylinder choke barrels in lengths of either 14.37" or 18.5", and a weight that hovers around 5.25 in most models. They got sneaky with the OAL on these guys and measure 26.37" with the 14.37" barrel and 30.75" with the 18.5". Shell capacity is 5+1 with most models, the exceptions being the 590s (4+1,5+1,6+1,8+1, and 9+1) 7-shot, and 590M (10+1) mag fed pump action models. There are two choices of furniture available for the Shockwave, wood and polymer. The Remington's 870 Tac-14 is not too different in terms of construction, weight, measurement, and furniture choices. The lack of variety in finishes and models, including a .410 model, but also the 4+1 mag capacity, is kind of a bummer, but should not necessarily be a deal breaker when considering one of these weapons for home defense.



590 Shockwave 7-shot 12 Gauge 18.5" barrel

At Home on the Range

When these two "not" shotguns hit the market, I could hardly contain my excitement. The more I read about them, especially Mossberg and Remington's brilliance in getting around the NFA, the more I needed to take 'em for a test drive. I let a few months lie after their respective releases so that the local range would have one for rental. Well I lucked out the day I popped in, because they had both models, in 12 gauge, there and ready to throw lead. The weight is very light for both and balanced well due to the shift from a full butt stock to pistol grip. Because of the use of a pistol grip, a generous amount of recoil will be felt, even if you're built like a brick outhouse. Fortunately, the Raptor head grip on both helps to ease the shock of recoil and equally distribute the energy produced by it. For a little added comfort and recoil disbursement, Pachmayr manufactures an excellent grip pad designed to fit over this style of

grip. Remington makes a managed recoil shotshell for all over comfort and ease of use, as well. Cycling rounds were made effortless by the smooth pump action, sliding back and forth as if the fore grip were rolling on ball bearings. As for performance, recoil notwithstanding, these babies were all I ever thought they were and could be. When used in the application of home defense or in a close quarter situation, a 2 3/4-inch long 00 buck shell will deliver its full message, center mass, into your threat with little worry of stray buck. Keep in mind that this is within a one to five-foot distance and your chances of hitting innocent bystanders will go up exponentially the further you are from uninvited guests. This can be attributed to the fixed cylinder choke in the barrel and can be frustrating, but for the weapon's intended purpose, it's better than not having one at all.



590M Shockwave

While I acknowledge that we only scratched the surface of the federal and state laws concerning short-barreled shotguns, there are more nefarious things going on behind the scenes under the guise of your government protecting you. Some of the things I read in the federal laws are enough to make your blood boil and realize that our rights are being turned into privileges doled out by a government. As I believe in being fully informed on every major decision that affects my life, please take some time to have a look at these laws and how they affect your life. Only a well-educated citizenry can defeat the lies and begin to fight back against them and their authors. As for the Shockwave and Tac-14, check these “not “shotguns out, you will be glad you did and might find that it will become your next favorite firearm. So, until next, dear reader, stay safe and let's be careful out there.



HOW TO BUY REAL ESTATE FOR YOUR SELF-RELIANCE FORTRESS

What exactly is a self-reliance fortress? First off, it's in a remote location. Secondly, it's located within a half-tank drive of your home. There should be clean water nearby, and you should also be able to see people who are coming and going from your property. It needs to be far off the beaten path. Additionally, there should be a place for a garden.

So, how do you find this idyllic piece of land? Let's find out!

FINDING YOUR BUG OUT LOCATION

The first thing you need to do is determine your overall location. Sit down at a computer and bring up a map. Define your parameter (remember: within a half-tank drive), and then see what's left. Pull up Google Earth and look for areas that seem ideal. Even if you find a spot that's not for sale, it'll give you a good idea of what else to look for.

Now that you've got a good idea of where to start, visit a real estate site. Rural land will usually be cheaper, so that's a bonus! Sometimes, you'll find the perfect spot. There will already be a cabin there, and your ingress and egress will be easy to spot. You'll

also have room for a garden (or, even better, one will already exist). If you don't find this, though, don't despair. Instead, start looking for empty lots that offer these options. You can always build a home there, and it's better to get everything you need.

You can also use the internet without relying on real estate sites. Everything from a small, personal website to Craigslist will have real estate for sale. Another option is to look for an internet-based brokerage company. The advantage here is that you may be able to purchase some land with little to no money down.

Now that you have a basic idea of what you'll want to look for, let's dig a bit deeper.

TOP TIPS FOR BUYING A BUG OUT PROPERTY

Pay close attention to the guidelines below. It's especially important not to exceed your means.

HOW MUCH ACREAGE SHOULD YOU BUY?

This is a tricky one because people always seem to

want more acreage than they can afford. A good rule of thumb is to ensure you pick up at least five acres. Of course, 10 to 20 acres would be much more ideal, and 50 acres would be fantastic. Purchase only what you can afford to pay for, though. Therefore, if that means five acres, make the most of the space you have available to you.

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Unless you're purchasing 100 acres or more, it's critical to ensure that you're at least one hour from the closest big city. You'll also want to make sure that no high-traffic roads border your location. The perfect location will have a country dirt road nearby, but you won't be able to see your second home from it.

WATER IS KING

You've probably heard the saying 'content is king.' Well, in this particular situation, water is the most important thing to locate. You're going to want to be able to convert any well pumps to manual energy. Even better, keep an eye out for a spring or pond. If one doesn't exist, it may be a good idea to build one.



DEFENSIBLE FORTRESS

What good will your bug out location be if it's not easily defensible? First, look for property on a hill. Added bonuses include rugged terrain, outcrops, rock formations, ravines, and steep cliffs. All of these things will help you defend your property, if necessary.

One extra thing that turns a property into the perfect location is if you could cause a creek to become flooded. After all, if someone has to cross the creek to get to you, flooding it will be a major deterrent.

POWER IS IMPORTANT

We all know that preppers kind of want to take on a SHTF situation, especially one with no power. However, the reality is that you'll need the power to remain on as much as possible. If there's enough water nearby for hydropower, you'll be in a great position. You'll also want to place the house where it gets southern exposure. This makes it much easier to convert the home to solar power.

HEAT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE

If you're in the upper half of the United States, you will absolutely need a heating source. Stock up on as much diesel and/or gas as you can. It's also a wise idea to learn how to make biodiesel fuel. As long as you can convert your generator to run on it, biodiesel fuel can power your home for an extremely long time.

HUNTING IS VITAL



Do you want to know why we suggested buying 10 to 50 acres? Because half of the land needs to be left forested. That way, you'll have a natural hunting ground for food.

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR SANITATION NEEDS?

The property you purchase must make it easy to set up a waste disposal system. Investing in a gravity-fed system will be best. But whatever you do, make certain your waste (and the waste of your livestock) won't be able to contaminate your fresh water source.

MAKE YOUR OWN FOOD

Having a root cellar will make it much easier to safely store your own food. Crops can be grown on your property, and it's a good idea to do so. However, you'll also want to plant medicinal herbs, crops, and plants near home. Whether you grow them vertically in barrels or simply put them in a pot, the important thing is to provide yourself with two different sources of food. That way, if your garden is pillaged, you'll still have some food left.

WHAT ABOUT LIVESTOCK?

Everyone would like to have some livestock. After all, they create another source of food. As long as your property has room for them – and as long as you can afford to feed them – getting some livestock will be a great choice. Try not to have them graze in a field that's visible to others, though. This could turn into an advertisement of where others should go when times get tough – something you definitely want to avoid.

ANOTHER PLACE TO LOOK FOR PROPERTIES

We mentioned earlier that searching the internet is the right way to begin looking. What we didn't bring up was a website called Survival Realty. This site provides an online marketplace for all property and land that's rural. If it's remote and off-the-grid, you'll find it on Survival Realty!

Of course, there's one problem with this: due to the name of the site, some of the properties might be a bit expensive. The good news is that this site has existed since 2007, so the realtors involved should know exactly what they're talking about.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Don't buy property in a flood zone.
- Pay close attention to whether the area is prone to hurricanes, tornadoes, etc.
- Steer clear of properties that are in frequent mudslide, avalanche, and rockslide areas.

OTHER IMPORTANT TIPS



CHOOSE A PROPERTY YOU'LL ENJOY

No one wants to survive when the SHTF only to hate where they live. Therefore, pay close attention to what type of outdoor activities you and your family love. For example, if you're dedicated kayakers, you'll want to find a property that has a big body of water nearby. On the other hand, if you enjoy dirt biking, you'll want to have an area where you can build (or where there already exists) some trails.

KEEP YOUR EXPENSES LOW

How do you keep your expenses low when the entire country has been on a buying tear? One way is to explore rental possibilities. Yes, this means signing up for Airbnb or VRBO and allowing vacationers access to your property. If you're not living there yet, why not let others enjoy it until the SHTF? Not only will it keep the property up, but it's also a fantastic resource to help you pay for your bug out location.

Alternatively, you could share the property with another family you trust. This would allow you to cut the price in half!

AVOID POPULAR LOCATIONS

There are two primary reasons to steer clear of popular locations. First, there's the fact that if it's popular, there will be lots of people around. That's not exactly ideal for a bug out location. Second, areas that have gained a reputation for being a prepper paradise are increasing their prices. That means that you should probably not be looking in Idaho, Montana, or Wyoming, if you can help it.

PRIVACY

One thing we haven't talked about yet is the need for privacy. Yes, we've said to try to make sure your bug out location isn't visible from the road. However, we're going to take things much further. The main reason to look for privacy is to help secure your belongings. After all, if someone can't see your property, they're not likely to end up at your doorstep.

Another reason privacy is so nice is that most Americans are quite simply tired of living so closely together. To ensure your private location will remain private, be sure to purchase a lot of land.

CAN YOU GET THERE, NO MATTER WHAT?

This one will require a lot of thought and pre-planning. Check out the route from your current home to your bug out location. What are the obstacles that could prevent you from driving to it? Can you walk to it in three days or less, if that's what has to happen? Looking for a piece of land that has no thoroughfares, mountains, or major waterways to cross will definitely make things much easier.

CONSIDER THE THREAT RISK

You've found the perfect location. But before you place a bid on it, be sure to carefully look around the surrounding area. Is it near a major city? Is there a nuclear power plant close by? What about a military base or a prison? Some of these things are purposefully built in smaller areas. If there's one near your chosen home, you just might want to keep looking.

WHAT ABOUT THE WEATHER?

This one is a biggie. If the second home you're planning to purchase is in an area that gets extreme snow, you may want to think again. It's all well and good when you're not actually living there but think about how difficult it could be if you do need to bug out. Also, consider how difficult it would make things for any livestock.

BLEND IN

There are many homes that will make you lose your breath just from looking at them. When it comes to bugging out, though, this is not what you're looking for. Instead, you'll want your property to blend in with any others in the nearby area. This will make it less prone to being hit by thieves.

SAVE MONEY

Did you know that you can save yourself at least 6 percent if you find an existing homeowner and talk them into selling? This may not seem like much, but if the house costs \$200,000, you'll save \$12,000!

DOES IT MAKE SENSE TO LIVE THERE?

This is the most important question, and it's one that only you can answer. What makes sense for one family won't make sense at all for another, so be sure to carefully vet the property. Does it have room for your favorite activities? Is the soil good for planting crops? These and more are the questions you must be able to answer before you move forward.

FINAL THOUGHTS

Everyone has their own list of wants and needs for their home, and this is no different when looking at a bug out location. Be sure to consult with your family to find out what their needs are, too. Once you've narrowed your list down to things that the property must have, you'll be ready to start looking.

Don't rush when looking at properties. Although it is possible for the S to HTF at any moment, the odds are good you'll have enough time to truly look into each place that interests you. By doing this, you'll have the best odds of buying the perfect place for you.



**CHECKOUT OUR NEW STORE ONLINE
FOR ALL OF YOUR TACTICAL NEEDS**

MYCRISISGEAR.COM





 **INSRA**
Liberty. Independence. Patriotism.