October 19, 2026

7.5% FAILED TO CHARGE THE PATROL RIFLE® WHILE UNDER MINIMAL STRESS DURING TRAINING

At the 2026 National Patrol Rifle® Championships

This is the third year that we have tracked this data. It appears that a pattern has emerged as this year's results support both 2024's rate of 5.5% and 2025's rate of 6.2%, suggesting that these results are not an anomaly.

We believe it's compelling evidence that failing to properly charge the patrol rifle is a real problem in the law enforcement profession. The evidence is that the problem manifests in the **calmness and safety of the training environment.** For example, at the NPRC the shooters receive a program containing each course of fire (COF) explaining that they will need to set the rifle up in the car carry condition and then charge it when appropriate. The shooters then receive a power point presentation on each COF explaining the need to properly charge the rifle. Finally, they receive a second briefing (reminder) from staff when they get to each COF, and yet, these results continue to happen. It begs to ask the question of how high does that number spike when **real stress and fear** occur on the street? At the NPRC, we believe that number is likely north of 20%.

These numbers (2024, 2025, & 2026) are far from scientific data, but it's still worth sharing for your consideration. In 2026, we had 83 shooters competing this year. Four of the five COFs started with the patrol rifle in the industry standard, "car carry condition" (rifle on safe, bolt closed on a cold chamber, with a loaded magazine inserted).

That's 332 repetitions from the competitors (83 shooters x 4 COFs = 332) where they simply needed to charge the rifle. Three of these COF's had physical stressors that included either short runs, lunges or jumping jacks, and compressed time frames. The fourth COF, Sherminator's Revenge, had no physical stress whatsoever.

Our staff were able to document **twenty-five (25)** occurrences where shooters either forgot to charge the rifle or short stroked it while in this safe training environment where there is no fear of serious bodily injury or death. That's roughly **7.5%** of the time. Our staff reported that the actual number is likely much higher as they were only able to count it if they were looking directly at a particular shooter when it happened. This does not include the times shooters forgot to move the selector from "safe" to "fire." In addition, staff believe many shooters were prompted to charge their rifle simply by seeing / hearing other shooters on their left & right doing so, or the number who would have otherwise forgotten to do so, would likely be even higher.

NPRC NATIONAL PATROL RIFLE® CONFERENCE & CHAMPIONSHIPS

NOTE: There were 18 citizen shooters at the event. We did not delineate between cop and citizen for this study. For what it's worth, in one particular COF (Not In My Town) the citizens outperformed the cops, which suggests that the citizen shooters may not be the problem in the data you see in this study...

To view the 2026 NPRC & NPRC OPEN event program and COFs click here.

QUESTION: Do you send your officers on the street mandating their pistols to be carried on an empty chamber? Ask yourself why our profession doesn't do that, but does for the patrol rifle...

To view an article on adopting a "hot & on safe" car carry condition, click this link.

Respectfully,

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