

5.5% FAILED TO CHARGE THE PATROL RIFLE® WHILE UNDER MINIMAL STRESS

At the 2024 National Patrol Rifle® Championships

So, if its 5.5% in the safe training environment, how high might it really be when your officers are faced with life and death stress on the street?

That's just one of the stats we captured at this year's National Patrol Rifle® Championships. Although this number is far from scientific data, its still worth sharing for your consideration. We had 73 shooters competing this year. Five of the six courses of fire (COFs) started with the patrol rifle in the widely accepted industry standard, the "car carry condition" (rifle on safe, bolt closed on a cold chamber, with a loaded magazine inserted).

That's 365 repetitions from the competitors (73 shooters x 5 COFs = 365) where they simply needed to charge the rifle. They were not only briefed and knew that they had to charge the rifle just the same as they must do on the street, but we even warned them that we commonly see shooters while under stress either forget to charge the rifle or short stroke it. The stressors in this case were either 10 pushups or air squats, scoring rings and compressed time frames.

Our staff were able to document twenty (20) occurrences where the shooters dropped the hammer on an empty chamber. That's roughly 5.5% of the time.

Our staff reported that the actual number is much higher as they were only able to count it if they were looking directly at a particular shooter when it happened.

Furthermore, two of our range masters reported that they felt that if many of the shooters on their ranges had not been prompted by seeing / hearing other shooters on their left & right charging their rifles, the number would likely have been drastically higher.

[To view the COFs, click this link.](#)

[To view my article on adopting a "hot & on safe" car carry condition, click this link.](#)

Please consider changing your car carry condition as you will never be able to fix this known and recurring problem with 100% certainty through training alone. The answer is to simplify the equation by running a hot rifle on the street, just as you run a hot pistol day in, and day out. Only then will you be able to increase the odds of officer and citizen survivability from an organizational perspective.

Thank you,

Ofc. Jeff Felts (ret.)
NPRC Chairmen
President, Center Mass, Inc.