

SAFETY NOTICE



DECEMBER 2023

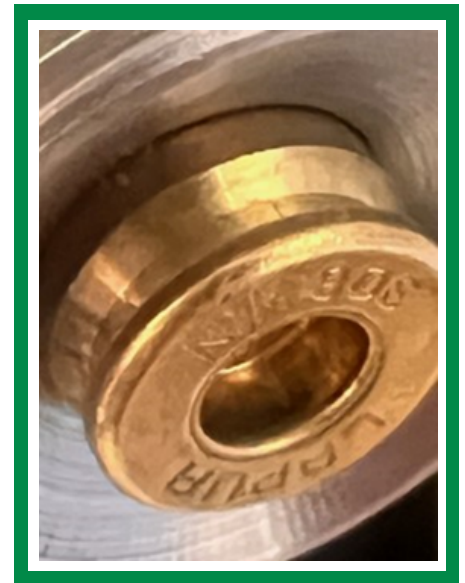
INCIDENT INVOLVING CASE HEAD SEPARATION

A recent incident occurred where a case head separated on firing, causing a brass fragment to travel back along a raceway in the action. This resulted in a laceration above the right eye of the shooter. Fortunately, the shooter was wearing glasses and following medical checks, the shooter later returned to the range without any residual issues.

The incident was investigated by the range officer, club captain and qualified club armourer. This was a barrel purchased several years ago but only recently installed into the action. The rifle fired several rounds with full length resized Lapua Large Rifle primer brass and a variety of projectiles, without incident, but with occasional heavy bolt lift.

The club armourer reported:

- There appears to be no damage to the barrel and action.
- On close inspection of the chambering of the barrel, an increased angle of the rebate was observed, and this had the effect of leaving some 4mm of the cartridge case web being unsupported. (See photo).
- The barrel can be remedied by adjusting the chamber and re-contouring the rear of the barrel.



The root cause of the incident appears to have been due to a fault in the initial barrel chambering. The rifle owner is in discussion with the supplier of the barrel regarding a remedy.

NRAA response to prevent a similar occurrence:

1. Barrels should be chambered and fitted by qualified armourers.
2. Hand loaded ammunition should only be produced in accordance with up to date load data published by a reputable source. Equipment including presses, measuring tools etc. should only be used in accordance with the manufacturers operating instructions.
3. Range Officers are to stop a shooter from continuing where they are observed to be having difficulty in chambering rounds or extracting cases. The fired cases should be checked for excess pressure signs. The shooter must retire from the mound and seek qualified armourer advice on preparing revised loads and/or inspecting their firearm before firing that rifle again. All shooters are recommended to wear eye protection.
- 4.

All individual members are reminded that a key element of the NRAA Standard Shooting Rules is your responsibility to ensure that you have safe equipment and hand loading procedures. This is covered in Chapter 1. [SSRs-Current.pdf \(nraa.com.au\)](#).

As part of good governance, all incidents are to be reported to the NRAA within 48 hours on the Standard Incident Form [[Incident Form](#)].