

FOCUS ON SAFETY

By Anthony Mitchell

Shooting with Reloads

Ammunition is an essential part of shooting. Some shooters use factory ammunition, with the main concerns being that it is economically priced and goes bang at the appropriate time. Many of us shoot with reloads. The reasons may be greater accuracy, availability of factory ammo or simple economics. Whatever the reason, reloading is part and parcel of shooting for many of us.

Pistol powders are fast burning, and care must be taken when adding the powder charge to the case. Reloading tables list minimum and maximum charge weights for each type of powder, and these must be adhered to. Problems can be encountered if the charge is too small (undercharge) or too large (overcharge).

An ***overcharge*** could result in damage to the gun or possible injury to the shooter. (The bang will definitely be louder than normal)

An ***undercharge*** could result in the bullet lodging in the barrel or chamber. Firing a cartridge in a gun with a blocked barrel could also result in damage to the gun or possible injury to shooter. (The bang will be softer than normal)

Prevention

Prior to seating the bullet, visually check all cases to ensure that the powder charges are the same.

Check charge weights regularly

Avoid distractions when reloading.

At the Range

If you have any concerns, notify the Range Officer immediately. Remember, any of us can call a cease fire any time.

Until next time, have a happy and safe shoot!