

Firearm Malfunctions

A **firearm malfunction** is the failure of a **firearm** to operate correctly not related to user error.

- I. **Cartridge Malfunction**- a malfunction directly related to the cartridge or round of ammunition
 - a. Dud (also called a misfire or failure to fire) occurs when the trigger is pulled but the round does not discharge. Failure of the primer or the powder in the cartridge.
 - b. Squib load (also called underpowered, incomplete discharge, squib fire) occurs when a bullet is fired from its case with insufficient velocity to leave the barrel. Can lead to a *catastrophic failure* in which a second round is fired while a bullet is stuck in the barrel.
 - c. Hang fire (also called delayed fire or delayed discharge) Occurs when there is a delay between a firing pin strike and the ignition of the primer. This can lead to a dangerous *out of battery* discharge.
 - d. Case head separation- Occurs when the walls of the cartridge stretch to the point of rupture. This can occur with fatigued brass or improper head spacing of the round.

- II. **Mechanical malfunctions**- A malfunction related to the firearm
 - a. Failure to feed (FTF) Occurs when a firearm fails to feed the next round into the firing chamber. Condition occurs from improper spring tension, magazine failures or a dirty firearm.
 - b. Slamfire -An unintended discharge of a cartridge in the barrel occurring when the bolt slams forward.
 - c. Failure to extract- A failure to extract occurs when the casing of the just-fired round is not successfully extracted from the chamber.
 - d. Failure to eject - Occurs when the casing of the just-fired round is extracted from the chamber, but is not ejected from the firearm, causing the next round to fail to feed, or the slide/bolt to fail to return to battery.
 1. Stovepipe (also called smokestack) a failure to eject in which the round is caught in the bolt with the end of the cartridge sticking out.
 - e. Double feed (Type 3 Malfunction) Occurs when two rounds are picked up from the magazine and both are moved to be fed into the chamber at the same time.