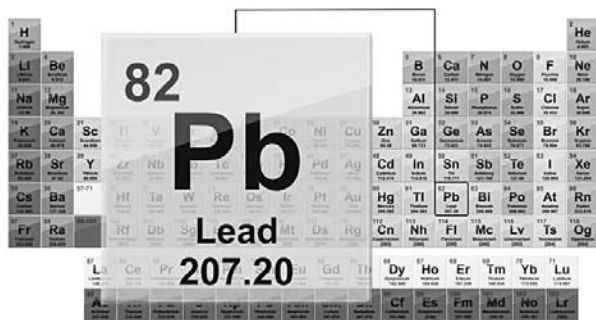




Dominic Visione's Both Barrels From the Hip

Keeping the Lead Out

by Dominic "Nick" Visione

As winter's winds and temperatures take their hold in the Midwest, most Cowboy shooters' minds turn to one thing (ok, maybe more than one thing).

Reloading.

Not that you can't feed cowboy guns with commercially produced loads, it's just that that will get crazy expensive really quickly. Since many shooters have rifles and pistols of the same caliber, reloading can become very cost effective. Perhaps you are a husband/wife shooting team (as we are), or part of a team with multiple shooters in the family. Then reloading makes even more financial sense.

It's a lot to ask to have someone go out and buy a press for rifle/pistol, another one for shotgun, plus all the components at one time. We think one of the best ways for a new shooter to get into reloading is to have a fellow shooter years of experience to act as a mentor. Even a not so good mentor beats the best YouTube video.

The dangers of lead poisoning

Aside from the obvious reloading dangers a more insidious one lurks for all shooters - including those who don't reload: Lead.

Now before you accuse me of being some kind of closet tree-hugger, hear me out. I never, ever gave a thought to lead exposure. I mean, it's not like I swallow a slug (projectile or insect, either one) with lunch.

But after reading a post on the Single Action Shooting Society (SASS) Wire (sassnet.com), my curiosity was aroused. Especially since several others, shooting and reloading as I was, had high blood lead levels. I felt okay and had no symptoms of lead poisoning. Not only that, but the wife and I shoot the poly-coated lead bullets. So handling bullets to reload cartridges, or reloading guns at a match meant no lead exposure, right?

Wrong. While the coated bullets were not exposing me to lead, another unavoidable component was doing the dirty work: the primers.

Now some of you may be thinking this is a good argument not to reload and shoot factory ammo so you are not handling components like bullets and fired primers.

Wrong again. The priming compound, lead azide initially and more recently lead styphnate, that ignites the powder in the case contains compounds sensitive to shock (like firing pin strikes). Interestingly, the earliest primer compounds contained mercury, later switched to lead-based primers to help remediate "health hazards."

When the firing pin strikes the primer, causing it to detonate, particles of these compounds become airborne. This almost guarantees the hand or hands holding the weapon will be exposed. And as an added bonus, on indoor ranges with poor air circulation, you may breath them too.

Before you show up at the range with a HazMat suit, relax. From the many articles and studies I read, the worst of the lead issues come from eating or drinking with lead residue on hands and fingers.

How many of us on the range have eaten a snack? Yep. Guilty as charged. While running for a sink between stages might be ideal, a simpler solution involves carrying a small pack of baby wipes.

If you really want to get fancy, there are wipes made specifically to remove residue from metals. Just wipe down your hands before eating. Wiping the area around your mouth and nose won't hurt either.

After the range, you come home with a bag full of fired cases. Cases that have, you guessed it, lead all over them. Good time to slip on a pair of surgical gloves before you handle this brass. If you tumble your cases with dry media, do it outside or in a well ventilated area. Sadly, I did not do this for years, and I inhaled plenty of dust as I dumped the dry media to get my brass. I probably had a sandwich in my other hand, too. I was an idiot.

If you wet tumble, be careful dumping out the dirty water. Once more, disposable rubber gloves provide a cheap barrier. Consider wearing them for any case prep or cleaning. Personally, I feel that the wet tumbling will remove more lead residue than dry tumbling. The cost of gloves and wipes is nothing compared to having health issues.

And there are lead free primers available. Some question their reliability, but I have no firsthand knowledge. They do cost more, however.

The vast majority of Cowboy matches are shot outdoors. But indoors or out, we need to be aware of some of the little known risks that can sneak up on us. Wash your hands after shooting, along with your face if facilities allow it.

If you have blood analyzed as part of your medical check-ups, ask for a lead screen. I got a puzzled look and was asked why I thought I needed one. I explained that I was a competitive shooter and reloaded my own ammo and was curious. Most health care professionals appreciate a patient having a pro-active approach to their well-being, so don't be afraid to ask.



ISP aggressively confiscating guns for expired, revoked FOIDs

By John Krupa III

One of the many jobs I have become involved with over the years is working as an expert consultant and expert witness on firearm industry related cases, private gun owner cases and use of deadly force cases.

Working as an expert in this field, I've noticed an uptick in FOID card related cases as I just picked up my fourth FOID card case this year, including three for people that let their FOID cards expire!

The ISP is not playing around when your FOID card expires, especially after the Aurora, IL shooting incident in February 2019. The ISP continues to send out revocation letters immediately, ordering firearm owners to surrender their FOID card to their local LE agency within the prescribed 48 hours. They also ask these former FOID holders to produce a disposition of currently owned firearms.

Failure to comply can result in criminal charges and / or a search warrant being executed by your local LE agency or the ISP to confiscate any firearms they discover are still in your possession.

If you let your FOID card expire or you lose your FOID card due to criminal charges, your firearm ownership rights will be revoked by the ISP until you get your FOID card reinstated. During this time, you basically have (3) options to legally dispose of your firearms within 48 hours of notification;

- 1 – Surrender all firearms to your local LE agency.
- 2 – Transfer your firearms to another person that has a valid FOID card, which requires compliance with the 72 hour waiting period.
- 3 – Transfer your firearms to a federally licensed firearms dealer.

In all (4) of the cases I'm currently working on, I was able to help each client get their firearms transferred to a local FFL dealer prior to the 48-hour compliance time expiring.

Subsequent to the Aurora, IL. shooting incident, the ISP immediately implemented a new Firearm Disposition Record system, requiring local LE agencies to document and report to the ISP what firearms are owned by the person that had their FOID card rights revoked as well as the disposition of each firearm.

Local LE agencies are required to complete and submit the new ISP Firearm Disposition Record form with the surrendered FOID card.

Situations like this can be avoided by following these simple rules;

- * Pay attention to the expiration date of your FOID card. You are eligible to apply for your FOID card renewal 90 days prior to expiration.
- * Apply early and verify on the ISP website that your renewal application is actually pending review.
- * Should your FOID card become expired, suspended or revoked, I strongly recommend transferring your firearm collection to an FFL dealer as soon as you are notified by the ISP.

The conflicting rules here state that the ISP is requiring you to comply with reporting the disposition of the firearms you own to your local LE agency within 48 hours of notification, yet the FOID law requires you to wait 72 hours before you can deliver those firearms via person-to-person transfer!

By using an FFL dealer to secure your collection, there is no waiting period to transfer your firearms to the FFL and you can coordinate transfers from your FFL dealer to other people that have a valid FOID card.

Remember – the burden of proof is on you to demonstrate to an LEO; documentation of legal transfer and compliance with the 72 hour waiting period. Failure to comply will most likely result in criminal charges.

Ignorance of not knowing the FOID law is NOT a valid legal defense. Know the law and have a good attorney on-call that knows how to handle situations like this.

I hope this information was helpful as we as gun owners have all learned something from these cases. Stay safe.

About the author John is a police officer with over 28 years of experience in law enforcement. He has worked dozens of criminal and civil cases as an expert consultant and expert witness and holds the rating of distinguished weapons expert with the Dept. of Homeland Security. He is a certified Master Firearms Instructor (ILETSB) and Certified Firearms Specialist with the IFSA.

Illinois keeps a firearms registry... whether you realize it or not

How does the Illinois State Police know what firearms I own?

by John Krupa

"If my FOID card does become expired, suspended or revoked, how does the ISP determine what firearms I own when a firearm disposition investigation begins?"

Should you become the subject of an expired, suspended or revoked FOID card... you basically have 48 hours to surrender your Firearms Owners ID (FOID) card and report disposition of your firearms to the local law enforcement (LE) agency from the time you are served with the revocation letter from the Illinois State Police (ISP).

Keep in mind that the ISP provides a copy of your FOID revocation letter to your local LE agency and tasks that agency with recovering your FOID card and verifying firearm disposition compliance.

If you do not surrender your FOID card or declare disposition of your firearms within 48 hours, the FOID law authorizes law enforcement agencies to contact you directly for compliance.

I've been involved with various cases where LE contact (after the 48 hour compliance time has elapsed) was done by letter, phone call, knocking on the door and even search warrants, all of which are authorized by the FOID act law.

When an LE agency initiates an investigation regarding your revoked FOID card, the first thing they do is contact the ISP to obtain a copy of your Firearm Transfer Inquiry Program (FTIP) history to start the BATFE records request process to determine how many firearms have actually been transferred to you.

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Request for ATF Form 4473

Special Note: Include any and all 4473s (whether transaction took place or not) if they are requested below. If any forms are not provided, please explain. Thank you.

PURCHASER: [REDACTED] DOB: [REDACTED] FOID: [REDACTED]

FTIP INQUIRY DATE / APPROVAL NUMBER

01/12/93	09/25/93	03/24/94	11/02/95	04/23/97
A12	A25	A42	A7	A9
06/16/99	08/25/00	06/09/01	07/25/02	01/13/03
A3	A5	A6	A8	A9
02/01/03	09/03/03	11/03/03	11/11/03	01/20/04
A9	A9	A9	A9	A9
03/25/04	04/08/04	06/04/04	10/29/04	08/26/05
A10	A10	A12	A18	A31
02/05/06	08/01/06			
A35	A4			

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM and COPIES OF REQUESTED ATF FORM 4473(s) IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE. IF A FAX MACHINE IS AVAILABLE, PLEASE FAX TO 312 835-6000. IF YOU HAVE A FAX MACHINE THAT CAN BE USED FOR FUTURE REQUESTS FROM THIS OFFICE, PLEASE PROVIDE A NUMBER. THANK YOU.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT CHICAGO V (INTEL) AT 312 [REDACTED]

Date of Request: [REDACTED]

Every time you transfer a firearm through a licensed firearms dealer in Illinois, that dealer completes a background check on you via the Illinois State Police – Firearm Transfer Inquiry Program (FTIP). Each FTIP transaction generates a transaction number that is archived under your FOID card history and is a permanent record that is archived with the ISP.

The investigating law enforcement agency then contacts the BATFE and requests copies of each 4473 form assigned to each FTIP transaction number archived under your FOID history as part of their investigation.

The BATFE then identifies and contacts the licensed FFL dealers involved in each of these transactions and requests copies of the 4473 forms you completed, which are then turned over to the investigating LE agency.

This records request process typically takes 24 – 72 hours.

Once the LE agency has copies of your 4473 forms, they then know which firearms were transferred to you and they can then contact you and order you (under the current FOID law) to produce the disposition on the firearms you still own and which firearms you have transferred out of your name.

The FOID law specifically requires you to show proof of disposition for all transfers of firearms you no longer own by keeping a record of such transactions for a period of 10 years.

I have attached a sample copy of what a BATFE FTIP records request looks like from an expired FOID case I worked on a few years back. Sensitive information has been redacted.

In this case, the firearm owner's FOID card expired and the investigating LE agency initiated a firearm disposition inquiry at the owner's home that resulted in the confiscation of (22) of his legally owned firearms!

The subject of this case eventually renewed his FOID card but it took us about 2 years

of fighting to get all of his firearms back from the agency that confiscated them.

As you can see in the sample form I've attached, this person's FOID card history spanned over a (3) card history. The investigating LE agency obtained the 4473 forms to all of the FTIP transaction numbers listed and when they knocked on his door, systematically asked for disposition of each firearm by make, model, caliber and serial number!

I'm sure this had to be a very stressful and terrifying experience, especially when he did not know that his FOID card was expired!

This can happen to any one of us here in Illinois, so please keep an eye on your FOID card and ICCL expiration and read the FOID act so you have a working knowledge of what this law entails! Stay safe. – Krup

About the author John is a police officer with over 28 years of experience in law enforcement. He has worked dozens of criminal and civil cases as an expert consultant and expert witness and holds the rating of distinguished weapons expert with the Dept. of Homeland Security. He is a certified Master Firearms Instructor (ILETSB) and Certified Firearms Specialist with the IFSA. John is also a nationally recognized firearms training expert and has presented as a guest instructor at training conferences across the country with ASLET, IALEFI and ILEETA. He can be reached directly at – jkrupa@teamspartan.com



Steps to take should someone in your household lose their FOID card

(GSL) - Regrettably, the Illinois State Police seem to be treating those with expired FOID cards at least as aggressively as those with revoked FOID cards when it comes to confiscating firearms from those homes. Perhaps because those with expired FOID cards are a much lower threat to law enforcement?

Regardless, if someone in your household has their FOID card expire (or is revoked for any reason), any remaining persons with valid FOID cards should take immediate action.

Specifically, all firearms should be secured so that the now-former FOID

holder cannot access them. If police show up to "secure" the firearms belonging to someone with an expired FOID card, they can (and have) grabbed up all firearms in the home that are accessible to the "expired" FOID-holder.

So buy a gun safe and secure all of the firearms inside that safe and make sure the "expired" FOID-holder has no access to the key or combination to the safe.

Alternatively, you can transfer the firearms to another person. It could consist of a formal transfer of ownership (which would require a three-day wait) or

a short-term loan. For now at least, loaning someone a firearm does not require a waiting period, nor does it require gaining an approval from the ISP's Person-to-Person Firearms Transfer FOID inquiry webpage.

Yes, the ISP or other law enforcement agencies may come with a list of guns purchased by a certain FOID holder. However, for purchases older than ten years and one day, they can demand until the cows come home, but Illinois law does not require record-keeping for firearms transferred more than ten years before.

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