



Guidance to Clubs and Range Operators

Suicide Awareness Training for Range Staff and Emergency Response for Ranges

The NRA and NSRA were contacted earlier this year by the Dorset Coroner after the inquest into a suicide on a rifle range in 2019.

The inquest heard the range was contacted by an individual who asked to arrange a tour of the site with a view to arranging a day out for his work colleagues. When he visited later that day, he requested availability of a "shooting experience" and was told there was availability on the 25 metre range for one hour of shooting, supervised by a qualified range officer. The individual agreed, underwent a safety briefing and then proceeded to the range together with one other participant and the range officer. It was towards the end of the hour of shooting when, without warning, the individual turned the rifle on himself.

Suicide on shooting ranges in the United Kingdom is very rare, but the impact on families, friends and range staff can be catastrophic regardless of the rarity of the event.

The Dorset Coroner asked the NRA and NSRA to consider whether range staff should undergo training in identifying signs of abnormal behaviour on the part of anyone wishing to take part in a shooting experience, to ensure that person is in the appropriate frame of mind to shoot

The NRA and NSRA recommend clubs and range operators:-

(1) arrange training of staff employed in the delivery of shooting experiences to assist staff to identify signs of abnormal behaviour in people who wish to take part.

NRA and NSRA staff have found the NHS e-learning module <https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/suicide-prevention/> very helpful (click the "view" button at the bottom of the page).

(2) review their emergency procedures in response to an act of self-harm or a threat of self-harm, including how to raise alarm, contact numbers, signage, directing emergency vehicles and personnel to the incident, first aid training etc.