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The Oregon WS program experienced a malfunction in one of their AWC Thundertrap Suppressors. It was properly threaded onto a .22 Magnum caliber rifle when it exploded. **No injuries occurred during this incident.** According to the report, the employee, Assistant District supervisor Brian Thomas, had fired the rifle three times immediately prior to the incident. About 4 seconds following the fourth shot, the suppressor exploded. The suppressor has been sent to AWC to determine the cause.



I had an experience several years ago with this type of suppressor but with a much less drastic ending. After firing a .17 Cal. rifle, the rifle/suppressor hissed for about 4 seconds before finishing with a mild "whump." The rifle and suppressor had been cleaned about a week prior to this incident but had not been fired since the cleaning. It was believed that some cleaning solution remained, which caught on fire.

At this point, it is impossible to determine if this is what happened in Oregon but with a much more dramatic outcome, but I mention it as something to be watching and for you to discuss with your employees. Seeing the type of construction of this device, it appears very possible that cleaning fluids could become trapped within the baffles, igniting when the firearm is fired. Until we receive the official cause of this particular incident, you may want to consider cleaning protocols for suppressors with nonflammable materials (e.g., warm soapy water). Assistant State Director Kevin Christensen is the primary contact person in Oregon regarding this incident as he has been working directly with AWC.

Please pass this alert to your employees that might be using suppressors.