

## **Civilian ownership of stun guns warrants fewer safety measures than firearm use, according to the president of StunGun.com**

(BOSTON, Mass. – June 23, 2005 – StunGun.com) Concern over civilians' access to stun guns has prompted lawmakers in at least one state to require the kind of background checks long the domain of firearm sales. A Boston, Mass.–based personal security expert agrees with commonsense safety measures but also encourages legislators to differentiate between stuns and bullets.

“Lawmakers’ constituents learn from the news about the worst examples of stun gun misuse,” said Robert Siciliano, president of StunGun.com. “Even though these infractions, mostly law enforcement’s, are exceptions to the rule, people get scared and then overreact to the thought of civilians also having access to stun guns.” An expert in personal security and identity theft, Siciliano is author of "The Safety Minute: 01."

On June 4, the *Chicago Tribune* reported on a new law in Illinois that requires any civilian stun gun buyer to undergo background checks and wait 24 hours before obtaining the newly purchased weapon. Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich signed the law before the media and, according to the article, “claimed victory” over the National Rifle Association by closing a loophole that had been allowing people to avoid the hassles of background checks when buying weapons at private gun shows.

“While a background check for a stun gun purchase is reasonable,” Siciliano said, “the slope is a slippery one for Illinois, and I encourage the state’s governor and legislators not to place inordinate restrictions on civilian stun gun use. These are useful weapons, after all, for self defense.”

“Politicians must refrain from grandstanding,” Siciliano added. “Stun guns are not firearms, and it is dishonest politics to conflate these two very different kinds of weapon types to pander for votes and support.”

In his columns, Jim Kouri, CPP, vice president of the National Association of Chiefs of Police, has drawn on Siciliano's expertise regarding law enforcement's use of stun guns. Siciliano has been on radio programs this year to discuss the safety of stun guns.

“The fuss over stun gun safety, I suspect, is partially a byproduct of all the media attention on Taser,” Siciliano added.

This year has beset Arizona-based Taser International, the world’s largest stun gun manufacturer, with unfavorable publicity related to a rollercoaster stock ride and questions about proprietary research into the safety of stun guns.

The *Charlotte Business Journal* has quoted Siciliano on developments in the stun gun industry. *The New York Post* has covered StunGun.com in its business pages.

“It’s important to remember that stun guns have been available to civilians for a long time,” Siciliano said. “I’ve trained people on how to use them. This is a useful weapon for self defense, and people who demonize it are misguided.”

###

Certified as an instructor of safety and security by dozens of state governing boards, Siciliano teaches people how to avoid and escape assaults. Numerous industry associations have certified his programs to provide their members with security training. In addition to CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, and CNBC, he has been featured on "ABC News with Sam Donaldson," "The Montel Williams Show," "Maury Povich," "Sally Jesse Raphael," "The Howard Stern Show," and other programs.

Siciliano can be reached at 1-800 STUNGUN (788-6486). The URL [www.stungun.com](http://www.stungun.com) leads to his Web site. His blog is located at [www.1800stungun.blogspot.com](http://www.1800stungun.blogspot.com).

Siciliano's contact information follows:

Robert L. Siciliano, President  
Personal Security Expert  
phone: 1(800) STUNGUN (788-6486)  
fax: (877) 2-FAX-NOW (232-9669)  
[Robert@StunGun.com](mailto:Robert@StunGun.com)

The media are encouraged to get in touch with Siciliano directly. They may also contact:

Brent W. Skinner, President  
STETrevisions  
cell: (617) 875-4859  
fax: (866) 663-6557  
[BrentSkinner@STETrevisions.com](mailto:BrentSkinner@STETrevisions.com)