

Grenades...

MILKING IS DEADLY

DURING A LIVE-FIRE TRAINING EXERCISE, A SOLDIER WAS KILLED BECAUSE HE "MILKED" AN M67 FRAGMENTATION GRENADE.

THE GRENADE EXPLODED BEFORE HE THREW IT, KILLING HIM AND WOUNDING THREE OTHER SOLDIERS.



What is milking a grenade? Milking is the unintentional loosening of your grip on the grenade safety lever before you throw the grenade. Milking lets the striker hit the primer, which initiates the fuze delay element without the thrower being aware the fuse is burning. Disaster follows.

To avoid milking, remember that releasing the safety lever even slightly can make the grenade live. Any time you remove the safety pin you must hold the safety lever tightly against the grenade until you throw the grenade. And don't remove the safety pin until you have to.

1. When safety pin is withdrawn, the safety lever is free to release from the grenade body

2. When safety lever is released, striker rotates on axis to strike primer

3. When primer is struck, flash of heat ignites delay element

4. Delay element burns down to the detonator or igniter

5. Detonator or igniter sets off burster or main charge (filler)

