



What happens if you fire a gun with someone's finger stuck in the barrel? Well, it doesn't do the gun much good and you sure don't want it to be your finger!

'Course fingers are a bit too small to plug the gun tube on an M1-series tank. But lots of other things can. If anything's plugging the gun tube when it's fired, the tube could bulge or even blow up!

That's why you should always be careful during operations. It only takes a few seconds for a scoop of sand or dirt to plug the gun tube, so follow these precautions:

- Always use the muzzle cap when the main gun isn't being used.
- When necessary—like during emplacement—keep the main gun elevated to keep it from hitting the ground.
- If you have any doubts at all, check the gun tube for obstructions before firing.

If you find an obstruction, clean the gun tube. The procedures start on Page 3-250 of TM 9-2350-264-10-2 (Mar 03 w/Ch 6, Jun 09) and WP 0514 of TM 9-2350-388-10-3 (Feb 09).