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Orion man, startled by cat, shoots self

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An Orion Township man accidentally shot himself in the finger Sunday when he went after a burglar, but was scared by his cat.

"It just goes to show you, if you're going to own a gun and use it for home self-defense, you'd better know how to use it," Major Bob Smith of the Oakland County Sheriff's Office said today.

"It's like buying a car and not having a clue how to drive it."

The 21-year-old man was home alone on Ridgeview Circle early Sunday when he heard a noise in the basement, according to the Sheriff's Office. He grabbed a .22 caliber handgun and headed to the basement.

However, he accidentally fired the gun when his cat jumped out and startled him, hitting himself in the index finger.

There was no burglar.

Investigators, called when the man went to Crittendon Hospital for treatment, recovered the gun at the scene.
