

Gun Safety
Concealed Carry & Self-Defense
Home Resource
Guide



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Preface

This document is designed to provide basic knowledge of Handgun Safety, Concealed Carrying of a firearm and Self-Defense. It has been prepared as a, “Study-At-Home” resource for those who want to become a responsible handgun owner. The information will exceed that which is taught in most basic gun safety classes and is ideal for a time-to-time review to refresh one’s general knowledge. The Text is presented in 5-sections: Gun Safety, Concealed Carry, Self-Defense, a Glossary of Terms and a Multiple-Choice Exam with answers. There is also a Christian perspective that deals with gun control and the emotional/spiritual considerations in using deadly force. The collection of data came from many different public sources including Business Websites, Internet Articles, Law Enforcement Statistical Data and other reliable State Criminal Justice Reports.

Introduction

Gun safety begins with an inspection of your home. Do all your windows lock? Do you have a “Dead Bolt” on your front door? Do you have a “Belly Button” or a wooden jam to keep your sliding glass doors from being opened easily? Do you have an alarm system? Securing your home will keep your family safe and your guns from easily being stolen.

The next consideration in basic gun safety is to know all about your weapon; how it works, how to load and unload, how to disassemble and reassemble, how to clean, how to clear malfunctions, how to store safely.

Finally, gun safety is all about keeping the weapons out of the reach of small children and teens that have not been educated in gun safety.

Why Carry Or Keep A Firearm

Excluding the obvious reason to own firearms, which is hunting, why does the average non-hunter want a weapon of such deadly force? I lived without owning a gun for more than 70-years. It never occurred to me to have one until 2016 when all the terrorism came close to my city and when my neighborhood quickly deteriorated into a haven for drugs and undesirables. I never read the statistics about home invasions. Now I check every so often to see what crimes have been committed within a mile of my home. You may be

surprised to know that in America, 4 homes are invaded every minute, or about once every 15 seconds. Also, statistics show that if you live in the United States, you have about a 1 in 1000 chance of being robbed throughout a given year.

Burglars can get into your home one of two ways. One is by entering through an unlocked door or window. In fact, over 30% of criminals don't have to do anything special to break into a home; they just waltz right in unrestricted, or hop through a window.

On the other hand, the other 60% of burglars use force to get into a home, by either breaking a window, or jimmying a weak knob lock.

Your front door is the way in which 33% of burglars gain access to your home. This means, of course, that your front door is likely to be the main target of any kind of forced entry. As such, having a hollow front door is like an invitation to some burglars to kick the door down and barge right in.

Another interesting statistic is that 25% of burglars will attempt to disarm any kind of wiring they think is attached to your phone, or a home security system of some kind. If a burglar was to do something like this, we're talking about a pre-meditated act that puts you and your family at risk.

Once a burglar has robbed a home, they now know its weak points and can do so again at any time. Don't be one of those people who go through the ordeal of being robbed, only to be robbed yet again because they didn't change anything about the security level of their home.

If a robber has even attempted to break in and failed, your home's overall level of security should at least be analyzed in order to prevent future break-ins.

A recent Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report tells us that in 28% of all burglaries, someone was home.

In addition, another upsetting statistic shows that 7% of people who were in the house at the time of the burglary had some form of violent crime committed upon them. Considering there are around 2-million break-ins on average each year, 140,000 families are forced to face some sort of violent action. **(Statistics provided by "Your Home Security Watch")**

Getting back to why buy a gun, I did so for personal defense. Some of my friends buy guns as a hobby to collect them. The bad guys don't buy guns. They steal them. It's my feeling that we should not buy a gun unless we are willing to be responsible in every way. See Page 30 for a list of what it means to be a responsible gun owner.

Gun Control

Is The Key To Shooting Accuracy

Gun Safety

In this section, we will discuss the various aspects of Gun Safety. We will look at the following topics:

- 1. *4-Basic Laws of Gun Safety***
- 2. *Top 10-Safety Tips***
- 3. *Florida Gun Laws & Restrictions***
- 4. *Self-Defense Laws***
- 5. *Double & Single Action Guns***
- 6. *Clearing A Jam or Malfunction***
- 7. *Categories of Malfunctions***
- 8. *Reasons Why Firearms Fail To Feed***
- 9. *Left Handed Shooting***
- 10. *Eight Ways Not To Grip A Pistol***
- 11. *Proper Shooting Grip***
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- 21. *Some Myths About Revolvers***
- 22. *Handgun Myths***
- 23. *The Well-Armed Woman***
- 24. *Muscle Memory & Handgun Accuracy***
- 25. *A Commonsense Approach To Responsible Gun Ownership***
- 26. *On-going Training***
- 27. *Children And Guns***
- 28. *Shopping List of Necessary Accessories***
- 29. *Bullet Ricochets***

Gun Safety, Operation & Storage

Excerpts From Smith & Wesson Website

- Safe gun handling is YOUR personal responsibility at all times. Firearms are dangerous and can cause serious injury and death if they are misused or used inappropriately. Safety must be the prime consideration of anyone who owns or handles firearms.
- You are responsible for the firearm at all times. In owning a firearm, you must undertake full-time responsibility for your firearm's safety and security. You must protect yourself and all others against injury or death from misuse of the firearm.
- Safe storage is your responsibility. In particular, you must secure firearms safely from children and unauthorized users. A lock has been provided for your use with this firearm. A lock is not a substitute for safe and secure storage as defined in the Safe Storage and Transportation section of this manual.
- Accidents are the result of violating the rules of safe gun handling and common sense.
- BEFORE HANDLING ANY FIREARM, UNDERSTAND ITS OPERATION. Not all firearms are the same. Familiarize yourself with the mechanical features of any firearm you intend to use.

Discharging firearms in poorly ventilated areas, cleaning firearms, or handling ammunition may result in exposure to lead and other substances known to cause birth defects, reproductive harm, and other serious physical injury. Review the warnings and labels for all ammunition and cleaning products carefully. Have adequate ventilation at all times. Wash hands thoroughly after exposure. Never cross obstacles such as fences or streams with a loaded firearm.

***Failing To Plan
Is Actually Planning
To Fail***

Concealed Nation's

4 Gun Safety Laws

The 1st Law:

The Gun Is Always Loaded.

Imagine you're at the range and a buddy of yours has a new gun that he just picked up. He asks if you want to shoot it and you say, "Well, obviously!" Even if he shows you that the gun is clear and sets it down, the first thing you should always do when you pick it up is to safety-check it. This also applies to setting it down again. Whenever the gun is out of your control, even if you set it on a table for 30 seconds, you ALWAYS want to safety-check it when you pick it up. There is no exception to this rule.

The 2nd Law:

Never Point The Gun At Something You Are Not Prepared To Destroy.

If you've done your safety-check and are absolutely sure that your gun is unloaded, that does not give you the go-ahead to be careless with it. Remembering the first rule, The Gun Is ALWAYS Loaded, you should never point it toward anything that you are not prepared to destroy.

The 3rd Law:

Always Be Sure Of Your Target And What Is Behind It.

Bullets can go through – and beyond your intended target. Knowing what's behind your target is an essential step to safety and responsibility.

The 4th Law:

Keep Your Finger Off The Trigger Until Your Sights Are On The Target.

This 4th rule, arguably the most important one, should be practiced 100% of the time (as with all of these rules). Notice we didn't say 'accidental discharge', because there is no such thing. It's negligent, period.

Every single time that you pick up a firearm, you should be practicing keeping your finger off the trigger. With this mindset, it will become second nature.

National Shooting Sports Foundation (N.S.S.F.)

Top Ten Safety Tips

- Always keep the firearm's muzzle pointed in a safe direction. A "safe direction" means that the gun is pointed so that even if an accidental discharge occurred, it would not result in injury.
- Always keep your finger off the trigger until you actually intend to shoot. When handling a gun, rest your finger outside the trigger guard or along the side of the gun. Don't touch the trigger until you are actually ready to fire.
- Firearms should be unloaded when not actually in use. Whenever you pick up a gun, such as when removing it from or returning it to storage, remember to point it in a safe direction and make *sure* it is unloaded.
- Be sure you know how your firearm operates: read the manual on your firearm, know how to safely open and close the action of the firearm and know how to safely remove any ammunition from the firearm and its magazine.
- Store your firearms in a locked cabinet, safe, gun vault or storage case when not in use, ensuring they are in a location inaccessible by children and cannot be handled by anyone without your permission.
- Store your ammunition in a locked location separate from firearms.
- Use a gun locking device that renders the firearm inoperable when not in use. A gun lock should be used as an additional safety precaution and not as a substitute for secure storage.
- Make sure young people in your home are aware of and understand the safety guidelines concerning firearms. Have them sign the Project ChildSafe Pledge for young people—a reminder that if they find an unattended firearm in their home or a neighbor's to not touch it, and tell an adult.
- Always unload, clean and place your firearms in their secure storage location immediately after returning from a hunting trip or a day at the range.
- Educate everyone in your family about firearms safety. Visit the Project ChildSafe website for safety information and to find out where to get a free firearm safety kit in your area.

**“God Grants Liberty Only To Those Who Love It,
And Are Always Ready To Guard And Defend It.”**

- Daniel Webster -

Florida Gun Laws

Reporting Theft Or Loss of Firearms.

Each licensee shall report the theft or loss of a firearm from the licensee's inventory (including any firearm which has been transferred from the licensee's inventory to a personal collection and held as a personal firearm for at least 1 year), or from the collection of a licensed collector, within 48 hours after the theft or loss is discovered. Licensees shall report thefts or losses by telephoning **1-888-930-9275** (nationwide toll free number) and by preparing ATF Form 3310.11, Federal Firearms Licensee Theft/Loss Report, in accordance with the instructions on the form

Self-Defense Laws

Florida has both the Castle Doctrine and S.Y.G. (Stand Your Ground) laws. There is no duty to retreat when attacked in any place you have a legal right to be, and you may use deadly force in self-defense if you reasonably believe it is imminently necessary to prevent death or S.B.I., (Serious Bodily Injury), or to stop the unlawful & forcible entry into your dwelling, residence, or occupied motor vehicle.

The Castle Doctrine And "Stand Your Ground"

A Brief Summary

"Castle Doctrine" refers to the generally accepted common-law principle that one is not required to retreat when in one's own dwelling. Eliminating the requirement to retreat *outside* the home (i.e. in public) is generally referred to as a "Stand Your Ground" law. As of October 1, 2005, Florida became a "No Duty to Retreat" (i.e. Stand Your Ground) state. Florida Castle Doctrine law establishes that law-abiding residents and visitors may legally presume the threat of bodily harm or death from anyone who breaks into a residence or occupied vehicle and may use defensive force, including deadly force, against the intruder. With the passage of Florida's Stand Your Ground law, this principle now also applies in any other place where a person "has a right to be." Essentially, that person has "no duty to retreat" if attacked and may "meet force with force, including deadly force if he or she reasonably believes it is necessary to do so to prevent death or great bodily harm to himself or herself or another or to prevent the commission of a "forcible felony". Note that all of the generally accepted common-law principles of self-defense must still be followed.

***The Best Self-Defense Tactic Is To
Avoid Conflict & Stay Out of Harm's Way***

Current Regulations And Restrictions

There are very few restrictions on long rifles in the state of Florida. All liberties exist the same as handguns. There is no duty to inform, nor concealed carry license or magazine capacity restrictions or assault weapon law, or owner weapon license required or state license to purchase.

Long rifles, as with handguns are restricted somewhat in that you cannot openly carry them. State preemption laws apply. There is no concealed carry license available for long rifles, only handguns.

Handguns have no magazine capacity restrictions, no duty to inform law enforcement, no peaceable journey laws, no NFA weapons restrictions, no state license requirements or other firearm restrictions. A 3-day waiting period still applies before delivery to the buyer unless the buyer has a valid concealed carry license. Background checks are required on all gun buyers.

Burden of Proof (Victim Immunity)

Florida Senate Bill (SB-128) is before the Florida Senate. If passed, it will set right the burden of proof in criminal or civil cases. In 2008 it was changed from the state having to prove guilt to the victim having to prove innocence by some judges and state attorneys. The bill has passed two committees and should be presented on the floor this spring. There is another bill in the house (HB-245) that has to go through two committees and the full floor before it can be offered to the governor for signature into law. If these bills pass, the victim will be presumed innocent and the state has to prove otherwise. Also, the victim will be immune from legal action by the assailant and/or their relatives. This applies to deadly force cases too.

As of 2/9/2017, you were held accountable for every bullet that is fired from your gun. You were also considered guilty of using deadly force with a firearm. You would have to present a defense before a judge or jury to prove you were justified in your actions. This is why it is so important to remember the 4-basic laws of gun safety. The one most important is to "Always be sure of your target and what's behind it". Shooting out of fear when there is no direct aggression against you could be viewed as irresponsible and even criminal by the courts. The idea of being innocent until proven guilty, which is a constitutional right, has been nullified. *Update: Friday, June 9th, 2017... Governor Rick Scott SIGNED INTO LAW these two critically important self-defense bills. SB-128 Burden of Proof by Sen. Rob Bradley and Rep. Bobby Payne restores the presumption of innocence in self-defense cases by putting the burden of proof BACK ON THE STATE where it belongs. SB-128 took effect IMMEDIATELY.*

Double & Single Action Guns

Single action and double action guns refer mostly to revolvers. A single action is where you have to pull the hammer back to cock and or de-cock the weapon. You cannot pull the trigger unless the hammer is cocked. A double action revolver refers to a gun that, when you pull the trigger it both cocks or pulls the hammer and fires the weapon in one continuous action.

Clearing A Jam or Malfunction

Malfunctions (also, erroneously, known as "jams") are a way of life in semi-automatic handguns. Though most modern guns are relatively reliable, it is always a good idea to be prepared, because malfunctions seem to happen at the most inopportune times.

Most of the time, however, well-maintained quality equipment will prevent the need for performing any kind of malfunction clearance. *All* guns have stoppages at one time or another, but you can drastically cut down on their frequency by sticking to the following guidelines: (Excerpts from Lucky Gunner)

1. Keep your guns lubricated. Even if you don't clean very often, lubricate your pistol regularly.
2. Replace magazines periodically, especially if they are loaded and unloaded frequently.
3. Use quality self-defense ammo that's been adequately function tested in your individual carry gun.
4. Read your owner's manual for your pistol and replace wear parts at recommended intervals.
5. Avoid relying on budget-quality guns for self-defense. Get the ones that are highly recommended.

Primary Categories of Malfunctions

Primary categories of Malfunctions include Failure to Fire, Failure to Feed (FTF), Failure to extract, and Failure to eject a cartridge. Some other concerns are failure to fully cycle after firing and failure of a handgun to lock back when empty. Here are some definitions and my ideas, but accept that I am NOT a gunsmith. Failure To Fire (Misfire).... This occurs when the trigger is pressed, the sear releases the hammer, the firing pin hits the cartridge, but it does not fire. There is an indentation on the round's primer or rim, but there is no bang.

The Misfire occurs because either the round was a dud or there was a hang fire. It may be due to a faulty primer or the handgun's firing pin, etc. The primer or gunpowder in the cartridge malfunctions and does not work causing the handgun to not discharge. The primer is a metal cup and a chemical priming compound is inside the cup. The idea is that the firing pin impacts the chemical compound causing the chemical to ignite. A "Dud"....cartridge does not fire at all and the problem is usually the ammo. Excessive carbon buildup on the firing pin may be the cause, because the full forward travel of the firing pin is restricted. Recognize that a defective or worn firing pin can give the same results. If the ammo shows a shallow indentation or no mark on the primer, it might be a firing pin malfunction.

"Hang Fire"...A cartridge that shows a normal indentation on the primer and did not fire usually indicates faulty ammunition. A "Hang Fire" occurs when you press the trigger and it takes several seconds for the round to fire. It does fire, but there is a delay between the time the firing pin hits the bullet's primer and when the round goes off. The primer goes off, but the main propellant in the cartridge doesn't burn right away and it burns slowly until it builds

up enough pressure to push the bullet out of the crimp of the cartridge and out of the barrel. This may take a few seconds to accomplish

It is **VERY IMPORTANT** to keep the gun pointed in a safe direction for at least 30 seconds to see if the Hang Fire round goes off. Also, **KEEP YOUR FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER**, never turn the handgun in any unsafe direction, and ALWAYS keep it pointed down range.

CAUTION: DANGER

If you hear an almost inaudible “Pop” or soft “Poof” sound (rather than a loud bang) and/or feel or observe reduced or no recoil during firing, immediately cease-fire. This “Pop” and/or reduced recoil could be the result of a round being fired without enough force to send the bullet projectile out of the barrel’s muzzle, so the bullet gets stuck inside the barrel. Don’t assume it is a misfire, hang fire, or failure to feed.

STOP. “Squib Load” There may or may not be smoke coming out of the ejection port. It is called a “Squib Load.” These usually occur in reloaded ammo, but can happen with factory ammo also. If the shooter does not notice the Squib and fires another round with the barrel blocked, there is a very high probability that the barrel could become bulged and the firearm ruined, let alone explode and lead to major injury or death to the shooter and bystanders.

BE CAREFUL! I strongly suggest that you do NOT apply immediate action yourself. Remove the magazine, unload, lock the slide to the rear, and place the safety switch on. **Very carefully** visually (do NOT look down the muzzle end of the barrel) inspect the bore to ensure a projectile is not lodged in the barrel. If a projectile is lodged in the barrel, do NOT try to remove it. Take the handgun to a gunsmith or armorer that has the appropriate tools and experience to safely fix it without damaging the gun. Buy quality cartridges.

Stovepipe Jams

This is a type of jam when the cartridge from a fired round does not eject completely and your weapon loads another round causing the gun to jam. The thing to do is to release the magazine to prevent any further loading. Then, with the magazine clear of the gun, begin to rack the weapon until the empty cartridge and loaded round is clear. Then inspect the ejection port to be sure there are no remaining rounds in the chamber. Then reinsert the loaded magazine, rack and you are back “In Battery” or ready to fire.

***Skill Is A By-Product
of Continual Practice***

There Are Several Causes Why A Firearm Could Fail To Feed A Cartridge

A FTF is when a cartridge does not load into the chamber. The handgun fails to feed a cartridge into the firing chamber for some reason. Usually the ammo or magazine is the culprit, but it could be more serious. In a semi-automatic pistol this means that the cartridge is not properly transferred from the magazine to the chamber and the slide remains partially open. (Maybe only by 1/8 of an inch.) When this happens, the weapon is said to be **“Out of Battery”**. It will not function mechanically because there is Failure to Go Into Battery. This may result in the guide rod of the spring assembly sticking noticeably out of the front of the gun. There may be a jammed round on the feed ramp or an over-sized cartridge. Sometimes this may be fixed by just a hard hit with the heel of your support hand to the rear of the slide.

Be Careful! A FTF round is usually associated with a magazine problem, e.g. the magazine spring needs cleaning or possibly it's a bad follower. It is also possible the magazine was not inserted properly in the magazine well. A very small amount of lubrication on the feed lips of the magazine may work for this. After checking to see if your magazines are in good working order, your next step would be to switch ammo. Recognize that some guns are finicky.

“Dirt” ... Accumulation of dirt, grime, lead, or grease in the chamber can cause the cartridge not to sit properly inside the firing chamber.

“Damaged magazine or spring” ... If the magazine has dents, bulges or damaged feed lips, they may cause the cartridge to be misaligned as it is being fed into the chamber. A weak or broke magazine spring may also cause FTF (Failure To Fire).

“Improperly loaded magazine” The magazine could be in good condition, but it may not be pushed all the way into the firearm, which may cause the cartridges to not enter the chamber correctly.

“Damaged cartridge” ... Sometimes the cartridge may have dents or bulges in it or be defective which could cause a FTF, (Failure To Feed), as the slide action may not pick it up correctly, or it may not fit into the chamber tightly because of dents or bulges, etc. The bullet may be forced back into the cartridge case, which could result in a stubbed round, or separated cartridge with parts left in the chamber.

“Riding The Slide”....: This is when the shooter holds the slide and helps it move forward and impedes its speed. Many do not recognize they are doing this. When this happens, the slide may not have enough momentum to properly seat the cartridge in the chamber. The shooter must pull the slide back as far as it will go rearward and then **LET IT GO QUICKLY** so the recoil spring can do the job of loading the next cartridge. This is controllable by the shooter.

Left Handed Shooting

Youtube is a great resource for learning. Range Time With Cory And Erika is a detailed overview for lefthanders. Here's a link to learn all about it. (Also, Google Left Handed Training For Pistol Shooters)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=B10pBp45x

8 Ways Not To Grip A Pistol

Jeffrey Denning of www.Guns.com

I've seen some pretty messed up grips in my day. From movie stars to bone heads, to good people who are just naïve or inexperienced, I feel like when it comes to gripping a handgun, I've also become a reluctant expert in what not to do.

(These Are Things You Should Not Do)

1. A Bad Grip Will Negatively Affect Accuracy.
2. Holding The Gun Too Low
3. Wrapping The Strong Hand Around The Support Hand For A Two-Handed Grip.
4. Strong hand over support hand pistol grip.
5. Interweaving Fingers Between Strong And Support Hand
6. Pointing The Index Finger On The Support Hand
7. Crossing The Support Hand Thumb Behind The Slide of A Pistol.
8. Support Hand Index Finger In Front of The Trigger Guard

***Safety warning:** Jeffrey Denning is a long time professional in the art of self-defense and any training methods or information he describes in his articles are intended to be put into practice only by serious shooters with proper training. .*

Proper Shooting Grip

Info taken from web articles by Eric Hung of Pew Pew Tactical.

Don't do the teacup grip! You're going to start seeing it in a lot of movies and start groaning after you learn how to properly grip a handgun. Here are some overall tips on gripping a gun.

1. **Use a strong grip!** You want to be able to control the recoil of the gun and having a strong grip also reduces the movement of the non-trigger fingers.
2. **Use your non-dominant hand** ...to cover as much grip as possible.
3. **Keep your hands below the slide** ...to avoid injury when ejecting cartilages.

Having a crushing grip on the gun reduces the movement of your non-trigger-fingers, which is a good thing. And how you hold the gun also has a huge effect on your accuracy. You want the web of your dominant hand between your trigger finger and thumb to be as high as possible on the grip to contain the recoil of the slide moving back and forth.

And because there's this piece of metal moving back and forth, you want your forearm in line with the gun to absorb more recoil.

You should fill the empty space left open on the side of the pistol completely up with the other hand so you maximize grip. I like to double-check by making sure there's a 45-degree angle between my left hand and the handgun slide.

Thumb placement of your dominant hand is personal preference. You'll see both up in the air or pointed towards the target. Experiment to see what you like or just go with what feels more natural. The non-dominant thumb will run along the frame.

For more on grip, especially with handguns, check out [How to Shoot a Pistol More Accurately](#)

Sight Picture

You've probably heard it before...focus on the front sight! Well it really does help and in the beginning I was squinting hard with just one eye open and trying to focus on the target. I've found it immensely helpful to keep both eyes open. It will be very difficult at first depending on how long you've been shooting with one eye open. But once you master it, it makes everything so much faster with less eye fatigue and you'll get more situational awareness.

Discovering Your Dominant Eye...Form a triangle with both hands. Look through the hole at a distant object as though it were a target. Bring the triangle close up and look again closing one eye at a time. The dominant eye is the one that best keeps the target in view.

Firearm Insurance

There is always a risk that something might happen to your firearm. The NRA has custom insurance that protects you from theft, damage, fire, floods and any other type of loss. You can contact them at: NRAIns@locktonaffinity.com or by visiting their website at www.nra.org or you can call them at 877-672-3006 Option #3. The **United States Concealed Carry Association**, U.S.C.C.A. also offers insurance. Both organizations cover firearm theft as well as liability for litigation against the use of deadly force.

Note: Check with your homeowner's Insurance carrier. You should have "Personal Liability" coverage as part of your policy that covers you anywhere we go, in or out of your home. All you need is a criminal defense lawyer should you face a use of deadly force charge.

Pistol Shooting Tips

1. Consider your pistol as always loaded, even if it is not. This practice will eliminate any chance of a negligent discharge.
2. Never draw your pistol unless you are going to use it. Showing it off to others is not a prudent course of action.
3. Always analyze the area around your target to be sure you are not endangering someone else.
4. Never aim your weapon at something that you are not willing to destroy.
5. Never put your finger on the trigger unless you are ready to shoot. That means having your target in sight and ready to fire.
6. Always use two hands to grip your pistol. One handed shooting usually causes a lack of control, unless you are very experienced.
7. Always keep your hands below the slide. This will prevent injury from a slide striking your hand and causing injury when it ejects a cartridge.
8. Study to find the right firing stance. There are several ways to stand. Most trainers use the "Face the target" approach. It gives them more peripheral viewing.
9. Use both eyes when sighting the target. Your dominant eye will take over but you will have more viewing area to your advantage, especially if your target moves.
10. Sight the target using your front sight. The target might be a bit blurry but your front sight will keep your aim and cause more accuracy.
11. Do not dip your head when trying to set your sight alignment. Instead, bring your weapon up to you while you are sighting.
12. Extend your arms and lock them in place but stay erect in your original stance. Leaning towards the target causes a drop in sight alignment and could result in flinching as you shoot.

Proper Range Attire

Whether shooting at an indoor or outdoor range, proper dress should be a consideration. Shooters are always faced with empty cartridges ejecting from their pistol. It is not unusual for them to bounce off a partition or you. They cannot really hurt you if they hit you but they are often hot and can burn you if they hit your open skin. Women should not wear open toe shoes, skirts or low cut blouses. A hat is a good thing to protect your head. Jeans, tennis shoes and high top long sleeved blouses are suggested.

Target Selection & Firing Distances

Selecting a target can be confusing. If you are going to an indoor range, be sure to call ahead and see if you can bring your own or have to buy theirs. Also, be sure to ask what size (s) they use. Some indoor ranges insist on a certain size.

The type of target is important. You can usually select from many different images from monsters to bad guys to silhouettes to bulls eye circles and more. Beginners should not use the hardest image. Start simple and grow into more complex.

If you are using an outside range you can use any size target and can even make your own. Cardboard is a great surface to draw on or to tape various images. You will need to make a frame for your target and bring it with you to the outdoor range. Most armed conflict happens within 10 feet from your position. That means when you set up your target, 3-5 yards would be about right. However, you can practice at any distance but beginning at the most confrontational distance helps you to drill down into “Muscle Memory” so you are ready in case of a home invasion or armed conflict.

Firing Rang Etiquette Do's & Don'ts While Training

Don'ts

- Don't bring a loaded gun into a firing range.
- Don't ever show up at a firing range intoxicated or under the influence.
- Don't load your gun anywhere but the firing bay.
- Don't place your finger on the trigger until you are ready to shoot.
- Don't shoot anything but the paper target.
- Don't physically hand off your gun to another person in the firing area. Lay it down; slide lock back and barrel pointing down range. Then yield the space to the other person.
- Don't leave the space full of empty casings when departing. Clean up your area.
- Don't ignore the commands of the range officer.

Do's

- Do use manufacture recommended ammo.
- Do use safety glasses and earplugs or muffs to protect yourself.
- Do read your owner's manual to be sure you know all the ins and outs of your weapon.
- Do immediately stop shooting when a “ceasefire” is called.
- Do always bring your unloaded weapon to the range in a case.
- Do seek the help of the range office if you have questions or difficulty of any kind.
- Do always assume your gun is loaded and handle it with care.
- Do clean your weapon after every use.

Firearm Cleaning

Before cleaning a handgun, it's important to spend some quality time reviewing the owner's manual. If a manual did not arrive with your pistol, order one or review it online. Handguns almost always require some level of disassembly for cleaning. Be sure to

understand the layout of your pistol and the tools and procedures for disassembly, reassembly and the points on the pistol where lubricant will need to be applied. This will help you to avoid damaging the gun, launching springs across the room or leaving key parts of the gun unlubricated. (Gunsandammo.com)

Most gun shops and sporting goods stores sell full firearm cleaning kits for most every caliber of firearm. Your essential firearm cleaning kit should have the following tools:

1. A light-bending bar (for illuminating the inside of the gun barrel)
2. A barrel rod
3. Barrel rod accessories (to which bore brushes and cleaning pads can be affixed)
4. Bore brushes appropriate to the caliber of your firearm
5. Lint-free cleaning pads (available at most gun stores)
6. A silicone-impregnated cloth (for final polish and cleaning)
7. Nitro solvent (for cleaning)
8. Gun oil (for lubrication and prevention of rust)
9. Extra solvent and gun oil (just in case)
10. A brass wire brush (for cleaning all over the gun, minus the bore)
11. A clean "polishing" cloth.
12. A clean (and ready-to-get-dirty) cloth for removing solvent

Do NOT bring ammunition, food, drink or tobacco to the area where you clean your guns! You are going to be working with materials that, if handled carelessly, can cause irrevocable harm to you and others.

Ammunition should not be present for obvious reasons. The most obvious reason is that you're going to be *cleaning* your gun, not *firing* it. The not-so-obvious reason is that the solvents can negatively affect the function of your ammunition and possibly damage your firearm beyond repair.

Two Basic Shooting Stances

There are multiple factors involved in shooting a handgun—grip, aiming, breath control, hold control, trigger control and follow through—as well as keeping both feet firmly on the ground. A good shooting stance provides a strong, stable platform, which is crucial for accuracy. There is no best stance, only the best stance for a particular situation. (NRA-American Rifleman 2011) Here are the two most popular.

Isosceles Stance... The isosceles stance gets its name from the arms and chest making an isosceles triangle. Kudos if you remember from geometry that isosceles means two sides are the same. Shooter faces the target squarely; feet are shoulder-width (or slightly wider) apart with toes pointed at the target. Arms are fully extended with the gun in the middle of the chest. There's a slight lean forward and some bending of the knees.

Pros of Isosceles Stance...Easier and more natural stance since you are merely “pointing” at the target. Body acts like a turret for easy movement to side targets. This stance is very popular in shooting competitions for easy transitions to different targets. Doesn’t really matter what eye dominance you are. If wearing body armor, you are getting more protection since you are square to the target.

Weaver Stance... Developed in the 1950’s by LA County Sheriff Jack Weaver and since popularized by Jeff Cooper and his firearms school, Gunsite. The shooter is more at an angle to the target and the arms are bent.

Non-dominant leg is forward of the dominant leg with a slight forward lean (“nose over toes”). Toes are pointed forward and the firing-side arm is extended while the supporting arm is bent. The shooter employs a “push-pull” grip by pushing with the firing arm and pulling back with the supporting arm.

Pros of Weaver Stance... to target (“blading Smaller profile” your body”), Better recoil management with the push-pull method. More stable since the feet are now staggered. Natural stance if you need to balance yourself.

Rim Fire & Center Fire Pistols

There are two basic types of firing to a pistol. One is “**Rim Fire**” which means that the primer is available within the entire circumference of the rear of the cartridge. This means that the firing pin can strike anywhere in the rear of the cartridge and the gun will fire.

“**Center Fire**” refers to a cartridge where the primer is only available in the very center of the rear of the cartridge. Thus, the firing pin has to strike just the center of the cartridge for the gun to fire.

Most semi-automatic pistols are center fire weapons. The 22-caliber pistol is a rim fire because it is a smaller size with a slower rate velocity projectile.

The Revolver A Very Good Choice

The revolver has many good advantages. As you consider buying a gun, you should consider the revolver along with the pistol. Here are a few good points about the revolver:

1. The revolver is **Battle Tested**. Most every law enforcement group in the country has used it at one time in history or another.
2. The revolver has always been **Reliable**. You can always depend on it discharging every time. You rarely have problems with misfires or Jams. They do happen

but not too often.

3. Revolvers **Hold Their Value**. Some revolvers that cost \$300 to \$700 back in the 70s sell now for more than \$2000.
4. The revolver's concealability cannot be matched. They come in various sizes and many are small but yet pack a powerful punch.
5. The revolver has no magazine which puts no limitations on the length of the handle.

Some Myths About Revolvers

Excerpts from Jon Hodoway's 2/16 article published on GunsAmerican News & Reviews

Myth #1 Revolvers Don't Jam

This has to be the most pervasive of all revolver myths. There's some truth to it, in that many revolvers are very reliable. But you're kidding yourself if you accept this as gospel truth. Wheel-guns suffer from the same issue all guns have. I have broken them down into five categories.

Ammunition—There are people who believe revolvers will shoot any-old ammo. Not true. High primers can jam the cylinder rotation. Unburned powder, leaving powder flakes in the barrel and cylinder, gets under the extractor star and keeps it from retracting. On some super lightweight guns that shoot super-hot loads, the recoil can cause an unfired rounds to un-crimp, which allows the bullets to move forward. This impedes the cylinder from rotating.

Maintenance—Yes you do have to maintain your revolver. The cylinder window in the frame must be clean. Next the underside of the extractor (star) and the recess must be clean. All of the screws must be tight. I once did a reload at an ICORE match and the cylinder and yoke on my S&W 625 went skidding across the range. Lack of maintenance really falls into the next category.

User error—In addition to a lack of maintenance, user caused malfunctions often break down into basic trigger discipline. You can ride the trigger and prevent it from resetting, or short stroke it. But you can also stall a revolver by allowing a round under the ejector star during sloppy or hasty loading.

Mechanical issues—Revolvers are powered by the user instead of the ammunition's energy (like on an automatic). But the energy of the rounds fired still takes a toll on the gun. While automatics move with the forces of redirected energy, a revolver just has to take the beating. The key operated lockouts on Smith & Wesson revolvers (normally operated by a key that I always promptly loose) can be engaged by a hot load. I have

been told that some Colt revolvers may break firing pins. While these issues are incredibly rare, they can happen.

Damage—Revolvers are prone to damage. Drop your revolver on the cylinder on a concrete sidewalk and see if it still works with a bent ejector rod. Lob it in the dirt or mud and see if the cylinder will turn. Slam the cylinder open and closed, Hollywood style, and see what it does to the timing. While these are easily preventable, they will stop a revolver.

While the moving parts on a revolver are few, they can be abused by reckless use and/or excessive recoil. Abuse to the crane will eventually stop a revolver. And you have to keep things clean. Tolerances on most revolvers are generous, but not limitless.

The dangerous than they second batch of myths are far more dangerous, in that they imply revolvers are less really are.

Myth #2

Six Is Enough

If You Know How To Shoot

Excerpts from Chris Baker's Article on the lucky Gunner Website

Like most of these myths, this one has a kernel of truth to it. Almost everyone in the shooting world agrees that shot placement is a key aspect of self-defense. This myth takes that to an extreme, declaring that shot placement is *all* that is needed. It's a sentiment that's expressed in different forms, but I'm talking about any variation of the idea that if one is a competent and accurate shooter, five or six rounds should be more than enough to end *any* violent attack.

Reality...Maybe you're familiar with the famous example of Lance Thomas, a watchmaker in California who survived four shootouts in his shop between 1989 and 1991. In the second of these fights, Lance was attacked by three armed men. They started the fight by shooting Lance four times with a .25 ACP pistol. Lance returned fire with a Ruger Security-Six .357 magnum. He hit the first suspect with five out of six shots, dropping him. But the other two guys stuck around and kept shooting. Lance emptied *two more revolvers* before the fight was over, with a second suspect dead and the third retreating outside to a waiting getaway car.

In total, Lance connected with 11 of the 17 shots he fired in that fight. By most gunfight standards, that could be considered phenomenal accuracy. And yet, if he only had those first six shots, he would likely not have survived the encounter. Accuracy is often the deciding factor in these incidents, but it's not out of the realm of possibility that more than a handful of rounds will be necessary *in addition* to accurate shooting.

Myth #3- Use A Bigger Bullet And You Won't Need That Many of Them

“It’ll only take one shot if you use magnum ammo”. Or a 45. Or 44. Fill in the blank with the caliber of your choice. Knowing that bad guys have an annoying habit of stubbornly shrugging off bullets from time to time, some people are convinced that the solution is not more bullets, but bigger ones.

We’ll set aside for a moment the fact that magnum loads and big bore calibers are more difficult to shoot quickly and accurately under stress. Let’s once again assume for the sake of argument that the hypothetical armed citizen always hits his intended target in a timely manner. Surely a handful of slugs from the mighty [insert your favorite caliber] will stop any miscreant, no matter how determined. Right?

Reality...In a shootout with an armed bank robber, Sergeant Timothy Gramins fired 33 rounds of .45 ACP over the course of 56 seconds. Even with no drugs or alcohol in his system, the suspect was able to keep firing at the officer after sustaining six hits to vital organs in addition to 8 non-vital hits. It wasn’t until Gramins fired a series of shots that struck the suspect’s head that he was taken out of the fight.

This type of situation is not typical of armed encounters involving private citizens, but for our purposes the moral of the story isn’t about the tactics used or overall number of shots fired, but the amount of damage the suspect was able to absorb. Half a dozen rounds from what is normally considered a “big caliber” hit some pretty important stuff inside this bad guy, but he was able to keep throwing bullets back at the cop.

If you read about enough shootings, you’ll run across numerous odd examples of people taking rounds to the chest and face from all kinds of big bore handguns (as well as rifles, buckshot, and shotgun slugs) that don’t result in immediate incapacitation. It’s not that caliber is inconsequential, but bullets do weird and unpredictable things. And handgun bullets in particular can’t be counted on to do what you want them to do the first time, regardless of what number is etched on the headstamp.

The Devil Is Not In The Details

Knowledge, Truth, Wisdom & Strength
All Dwell In The Details of Life

Myth #4

You Can Always Just Reload

Just carry a speed loader or speed strip, and if things really go South and the wheel gun goes “click” instead of “bang”, load up another six.

That’s easier said than done. A few weeks ago, I covered some techniques for reloading a revolver. All of the different reloading methods have multiple potential failure points. Reloading a revolver requires a great deal of manual dexterity and well maintained equipment. Even then, the most skilled of revolver shooters will spend around 2.5 seconds getting an empty revolver back into action. That’s a long time when bullets are flying your way.

Reality...It may not be impossible to reload a revolver during a gunfight, but you’ll have a tough time finding any examples of it happening in the real world. Tom Givens, one of the most experienced and respected firearms instructors in the country, has been quoted as saying, “In 40 years I’ve been doing this, I have never found a case where someone successfully reloaded a revolver in a close range gunfight.” Since 90-95% of armed civilian gun fights happen inside the “close range” of 7 yards, I’d say your chances of pulling off that revolver reload are slim to none.

On the other hand, we have plenty of examples of botched revolver reload attempts under fire. To be fair, most of them occurred during police-involved shootings from the last century like the Newhall Massacre and the 1986 FBI Miami Shootout where the officers were not equipped with speed loaders. With good technique and modern loading devices, performing the revolver reload under stress today seems more feasible than fumbling with a handful of loose cartridges from a dump pouch. But the fact remains that it’s a relatively slow process that’s easy to screw up.

Whether you have a revolver or a pistol all the basic rules of gun ownership apply. The best way to select a gun is to go to a range that rents handguns and sample the top three that you feel might be good for you. Then select the one that best suits your self defense needs.

Alcohol, Drugs & Guns
They Do Not Mix
So Don’t Mix Them

Handgun Myths

What Some Folks Think

Myth #1

Any Hit On The Body Is Better Than No Hit At All

By John Johnson, Advanced Handgun Instructor, writer, and host of Ballistic Radio.

There's a whole host of classes, blogs, and training schools that teach what is commonly referred to as "combat effective hits" — "combat accuracy" for short. It's the idea that any hit with a handgun bullet, despite location on the body, is considered adequate for stopping an attacker in combat conditions.

Johnston doesn't agree. "There's a two-prong problem," Johnston says. "One of them being that people don't understand terminal ballistics or what bullets do to people. Number two, they don't understand anatomy and physiology at all... They confuse psychological stops with physical stops, which are two very separate things."

The human body is surprisingly resilient and when a violent attacker absorbs gunfire, they only stop attacking under very specific circumstances. Either they have suffered a hit to the central nervous system (CNS), lost enough blood from wounds to major blood vessels to lose consciousness, or the individual *chooses* to stop. Only two of those methods are physical, and the target areas on the body that produce those involuntary physical stops are small— roughly covering a 4"x6" vertical rectangle high on the chest over the heart and major blood vessels, and a 3"x5" horizontal rectangle over the eye and nose which sits in front of the brain and the seat of the CNS. Shots outside of those zones (and even some shots *inside* of those zones) cannot be counted on to stop a determined attacker.

There is a belief that it isn't possible to achieve that kind of accuracy under stress, but Johnston disagrees with this, too. "Hold people to a high accuracy standard and don't expect anything less than that, and that's what they'll do." If the target areas needed for a physical stop aren't exposed, Johnston also believes people need to have the accuracy skills to put rounds on whatever is available, be it a foot or arm.

"If we are involved in a shooting, we are in control of very few things about that incident," he explains. "If we have to go to the gun, we've made several mistakes or been blindsided... If your plan is to hope to get lucky and someone decides to stop what they're doing when you point a gun at them or when you put a round into their pinky finger, that doesn't seem like such a bright idea when you're already having the unluckiest day of your life so far."

Myth #2

Don't draw Your Firearm Until You Need To Shoot

By Massad Ayoob, Author of several books and countless articles on self-defense and the legal aspects of deadly force. Lead instructor for the Massad Ayoob Group.

“Everybody knows there’s such a thing as justifiable homicide and nobody ever hears the phrase ‘justifiable gunpoint.’”

It doesn’t matter where you go on the internet, or even in some classes — when it comes to discussions about when it’s time to draw your firearm in self-defense, a common quip is, “Never pull your firearm unless you intend to shoot.” Massad Ayoob believes that may be too late in select circumstances.

“History has shown the overwhelming majority of (defensive gun uses) end as soon as the good guy or gal points the gun at the bad guy or gal,” says Ayoob. “If we go on the assumption that we can never take them at gunpoint, you have to wait until you are justified in shooting them, that great saving grace of deterrence gets completely lost.”

You can’t pull your gun without being sure you’re more than likely in danger of death or great bodily harm, but Ayoob believes it’s better to take them at gunpoint than wait for the moment your life might actually be in jeopardy. He’s careful to point out, however, that justifiably pulling a weapon on someone might not mean you are justified in shooting them. “Do not shoot them,” explains Ayoob, “until you are certain, beyond a reasonable doubt, that there is no other way to stop their escalation.”

Ayoob believes the hesitation over preemptively drawing a firearm on someone comes from a misunderstanding of how the justice system works. “Everybody knows there’s such a thing as justifiable homicide,” he says, “and nobody ever hears the phrase ‘justifiable gunpoint.’” The standard Ayoob uses is that one should draw their firearm when they believe that another individual more than likely poses a deadly threat. “What we’re trying to do,” says Ayoob, “is preempt the violent act itself.”

However, Ayoob reminds us that drawing a firearm without justification will likely lead to being charged with felony aggravated assault with severe prison times. Even if you’re successful in deterring the escalation of violence with the presence of a firearm, Ayoob recommends immediately calling law enforcement and establishing yourself as the victim. Criminals often don’t appreciate the role reversal and want to paint themselves as the victims.

“Whoever makes the report,” says Ayoob, “becomes the victim complainant, and whoever does not make the report first becomes the suspect.”

Myth # 3

Skill Is More Important Than Critical Thinking

By Claude Werner Research analyst, former Chief Instructor
for Rogers Shooting School and author of The Tactical Professor.

When asked which practice he would like to see eradicated from the self-defense community, Werner spoke of instruction focused on producing skilled shooters rather than thoughtful shooters. As an example, teaching pistol manipulation above the fundamental level without introducing decision-making and context into the process. Striving to develop automaticity, or “muscle memory,” without considering the gravity of the Shoot/Don’t Shoot decision is a mistake, in his opinion.

When people buy a gun, or any other type of weapon, Werner explains, they are often thinking about the tool itself, something they can hold in their hand. “It’s easy to become focused on that because it’s a tangible,” he says. But the software – the knowledge and skills that enable safe, effective, and legal use of the tangible tool – is a lot harder to sell because they’re intangible.

“Self-defense is as much of an intellectual process as it is a physical process” according to Werner. Just as we provide weapons to people as tools, we also need to provide intellectual tools for their appropriate usage. “Having our training processes driven by the now discredited ‘Hick’s Law’ does a disservice to our students,” he says. Challenging students both philosophically in the classroom and in the Shoot/Don’t Shoot decision on the range should be incorporated in the training process early on. By asking students to think about what they are willing and able to do in a defensive situation gives them a better chance at arriving at the right decision for their circumstance.

Myth #4

High Levels of Performance Are Not Possible Under Stress

By John Hearne, Law Enforcement Officer with a Master’s degree in Criminal Justice–Research Methods, and developer of the DVC target system.

It’s no secret to anyone that high levels of firearms performance are obtainable. Even outside of the likes of Bob Vogel and Jerry Miculek, we often don’t have to go far to find someone we consider to be impressively skilled with a handgun.

Some, however, believe that such performance standards are impossible under the conditions of a life-threatening self-defense encounter. It’s commonly thought that the addition of life-threatening stress decreases the eyes’ ability to see handgun sights, eliminates fine motor skills that allow people to operate many of the controls on their

firearm, and makes it impossible for people to perform at a high skill level. This leads to the assumption that when placed under the stress of a violent attack, humans all revert to gross motor skills and erratic, panicked, unsighted fire.

According to John Hearne, that's not necessarily true. He's spent a good portion of the last few years researching performance under stress and points out that not only is it possible to maintain shooting skills under high-pressure scenarios, many people have already done it. "Once we can point to examples where that is possible, then we can bring it into the realm of achievable," Hearne says. He rattles off a list of names like Lance Thomas, Jim Cirillo, and agencies like the metro division of the LAPD, who's officers have a high hit rate per shooting incident and report using their sights.

"For the novice who looks to authority figures to derive their view of the world, once an expert tells them, 'Well, that isn't possible,' then they believe they don't have to hold themselves to a high standard," he says. "But believing performance under stress is possible carries with it the nasty four-letter word of 'work.' If you do the work, you can deliver the results."

That work, according to Hearne, starts with a baseline level of skill that demands accurate hits within a 4x6 rectangle on high- center chest of a target within seven yards and then melds speed with that accuracy. "You can't separate speed from accuracy," says Hearne, while stressing that the ability to deliver that skill under stress is far more important than the skill alone.

"You can have someone who's a barely acceptable shot but if they can deliver 100% of their performance under stress, that's a scary person." There are other examples on the Lucky Gunner website.

The Well-Armed Woman

Top 10 Guns In 2015 Women Are Buying

From The Well-Armed Woman Website

What guns are women buying? Well, we know that each woman can only know which is the right one for her, but here are the top 10 choices women are making when purchasing a handgun which can help to narrow the field of options for you. Remember, what is right for one woman may not be right for another, so when making your choice it is important to consider all of the variables that may be unique to you such as, hand size, recoil sensitivity, location and reach of the controls and their ease of operation. Get to a gun store and get your hands on numerous models and if possible, rent or try these models on the range. Trust me, you will know the right one when you find it.

I find a number of things very interesting in this list. One, women are primarily buying semi-automatic handguns with a slight majority of them choosing a 9mm. The other fascinating thing is that 3 of the top 10 guns women are choosing are Glocks, which historically has not been known as a woman's favorite brand. These clear preferences

help put to rest such myths as; a woman *needs* a smaller caliber, she *should* have a revolver or she should have... *fill in the blank*. You can see by the variety below, that there is NO ONE RIGHT GUN for a woman or any one feature that makes a gun a "woman's gun". Now, I am not nixing revolvers, as both number eleven and twelve came in as revolvers. Many women prefer them and they are the better choice if one's primary mode of carry is in a concealed carry purse. But clearly, women are breaking some of the stereotypes usually placed on them.

This list was compiled from data collected from The Well Armed Woman holster sales for 2015.

- a. Smith & Wesson Shield 9mm
- b. Sig Sauer P238 - .380
- c. Glock 43 - 9mm
- d. Glock 42 - .380
- e. Springfield XDs - 9mm
- f. Ruger LCP - .380
- g. Ruger LC9s - 9mm
- h. Smith & Wesson Bodyguard .380
- i. Glock 26 - 9mm
- j. Sig Sauer P938 - 9mm



***The #1 gun sales for 2016 to women was the
Smith & Wesson MP 9 Shield.***

Muscle Memory And Hand Gun Accuracy

Most instructors will tell us that our handgun accuracy is a direct result of what is in our "Muscle Memory." Knowing what to do and how to do it is not enough. We must have it so ingrained in us that *we do it without thinking*. This is what muscle memory is all about.

If we have to think first, we will hesitate and that hesitation becomes a liability that could cause us to choke in a live combat situation with a home invader.

Good Handgun shooting accuracy is dependant on you knowing that the stress of a home invasion or other situation that involves combat is very different that the stress of

target shooting at a range. We can think at the range. However, there is no time for thinking in a real live situation. We can only act.

Practice does not make perfect unless it seats form, stance and technique into your muscle memory. This requires repetition until you can do it all without thinking about it. I see this as riding a bike. When you 1st learn, you are thinking a lot but once you get it down, you do it automatically and never think about what you are doing. It's the same with shooting a handgun.

I read an article a while back about a study of the NYPD and their shooting accuracy in live situations. 77% missed their target from 2-7 yards away. The cause was because their target shooting was great but their muscle memory skills were not. ***It must be second nature to you*** or it will not work to your advantage. Improving your accuracy can be done through ***live firing***. Never dry fire your weapon. It is not good for the gun and does not help your accuracy.

Our form and technique in shooting must be correct. We need to learn it and then put it into our muscle memory so it is an automatic response in a crisis situation. ***Remember, muscle memory is developed by repetition***, doing it the correct way, over and over again until you can do it without thinking.

Most gun owners fail in those critical moments of self-defense because they do not have ***the right mindset***. Educating yourself is the key to a proper mindset. This requires asking yourself the hard questions and working through them until you formulate answers that you can live with.

Here are a few hard questions that develop a proper mindset to carry a weapon for self-defense.

1. Will you actually shoot another person, a person that may or may not have a weapon? Self-defense could result in taking another's life to save yours.
2. Are you ready to carry a concealed weapon on your person...to the grocery store, to church, to the bowling ally, to the movies, on a date night out or to dinner at a restaurant? Everywhere the law allows you?
3. Are you ready to eat and breath self defense so you can get it in your muscle memory? That will take Practice! Practice! And More Practice!
4. Are you prepared to be on the lookout for a terrorist everywhere you go? With all the random shootings in so many different places, it is vital to become and stay aware of your surroundings. It could save your life and your family.
5. Are you willing to study and learn the lingo, the tactics and the techniques associated with self-defense? You will have to put in lots of hours to develop a perspective.

Self-defense in today's world is a violent encounter with another human being that is bent on taking your stuff. These folks do not care about you. They steal for money to buy drugs or just for the fun of it. They survive at your expense. Some carry guns and some do not. You are allowed by law to use deadly force if necessary to defend yourself and your home.

This home resource guide is meant to help you along the way and keep you focused on what is really important, your life. By the grace of God, we live and move and have our being. It's worth all the effort.


Bullet Ricochets

It is important to know how a bullet ricochets off the road or pavement. You would think that it bounces after striking the pavement but it doesn't. It rather straight-lines along the pavement. This is helpful to know if you are ever in a situation where you have to hide behind a vehicle to avoid being shot. The best place is behind the back wheel. If you are exposed, say in the middle of the vehicle on the driver's side, you are open to being hit with ricochet fire from an assailant.

Shopping List of Necessary Accessories

Buying and carrying a gun is an expensive sport. There are a lot of needed accessories. Here's a list of some items you will need:

- Safety Glasses
- Ear Plugs And/Or Ear Muffs
- Ammunition
- First Aid Kit
- Extra Magazines
- Targets
- Pistol Cleaning Kit
- Universal Magazine Loader
- Range Hat To Protect From Flying Cartridges
- Range Bag To Carry Everything



**Knowledge
Is The
Foundation of
Gun Safety**

Don't forget to take your weapon.

Children & Guns

All firearms should be kept out of the reach of small children. It is best to put them away in a locked safe or other secure place. Older children should be taught the rules of basic gun safety and required to know them by heart. They must respect the use of firearms and follow safety instructions.

Ongoing Training

There are lots of folks that take gun safety classes so they can buy a gun but few ever go any further. They become gun owners with minimum knowledge and less practical experience. These folks can end up as a liability to themselves as well as others around them. How do I know?, because I was one of them. However, I decided that I was going to be a responsible gun owner. I began to search out qualified trainers to show me the ins and outs of gun safety, self-defense and concealment. I went to the NRA for help. I joined their group, making it my group and began my journey towards being skilled, knowledgeable and safe. You should do the same if you haven't already. Their website is www.nra.org. On-going training is essential. The more you know the safer you are.



A Common Sense Approach To Responsible Gun Ownership

Most gun owners are responsible citizens. They know their 2nd Amendment right to bear arms and exercise this privilege regularly. However, many are not fully knowledgeable of their real responsibility. Thus, I offer this common sense approach for your consideration.

1. Responsibility begins with keeping an exact record, (make and model as well as serial numbers), of your firearms in case of theft. It will help the police in their attempts to recover your stolen property.
2. A responsible gun owner knows that responsibility demands basic education and starts with taking courses that teach the fundamentals of gun safety.
3. A responsible gun owner that is considering carrying a gun concealed will learn all they can about it first through course study and even Internet searches. They realize that they will need to know a lot more than the 4 basic rules of gun safety.
4. A responsible gun owner knows all about the operation of their firearm; how to disassemble, clean and reassemble; how to clear a jam; what to do if you have a misfire; what type of ammo to use and how to load and unload their weapon.
5. A responsible gun owner knows how to handle their weapon; how to grip it, proper shooting stance, sighting the target, range etiquette etc. If you don't, you'll probably make the same foolish mistakes over and over again.
6. A responsible gun owner knows that he or she is not a vigilante or citizen cop. They bear arms to defend themselves and protect their families, not to enforce the law.

7. Responsible gun owners practice shooting their weapon on a regular basis to be sure they stay familiar with its operation. They also want to develop skill in its use.
8. A responsible gun owner has worked through all the ethical and emotional aspects of actually using a gun in a critical situation. They have grappled with the idea of deadly force that could take another human being's life in defense of their own. They also have considered the fact that they will have to live with it the rest of their lives.
9. Being a responsible gun owner means investing in a safe or other secure container where weapons can be kept and protected against theft or small children. It's better to be SAFE than Sorry.
10. A responsible gun owner realizes that they are on a life-long adventure that involves the entire family. Children need to know why. Gun owners need to know how. All family members need to know everything there is to know. *Knowledge is the foundation of safety.*
11. A responsible gun owner that carries a concealed weapon has worked through many tactical situations that might occur and has a plan for each. He or she has dealt with the, "***What if***" scenarios to be sure wise and legally correct decisions are made.
12. A responsible gun owner knows the laws governing firearms in his or her state. They are keenly aware of where they can or cannot carry a concealed weapon and how to act if stopped by law enforcement official.
13. A responsible gun owner knows everything they need to know about the legalities of carrying a weapon and the consequences of using that weapon.
14. The responsible gun owner realizes the need for on-going training beyond the basics and plans ahead to be sure he or she is fully equipped.
15. A responsible gun owner is concerned about gun legislation in his or her state and supports only those that protect 2nd amendment rights.
16. A responsible gun owner seeks out like-minded folks through membership organizations like the NRA to stay involved and benefit from group activities.
17. A responsible gun owner avoids potentially dangerous situations while carrying his or her weapon...such as getting involved in someone else's dispute when it isn't absolutely necessary.
18. A responsible gun owner treats his or her gun as, "Always Loaded" to prevent a negligent discharge.
19. A responsible gun owner never uses alcoholic beverages or other drugs while carrying or shooting his or her gun.

20. A responsible gun owner is a law-abiding citizen and never uses a weapon of any kind as a means of revenge or as a tool to settle an argument.
21. A responsible gun owner never aims at a target he or she is not willing to destroy. To them, it is a serious matter and not to be taken lightly.
22. A responsible gun owner never hands a weapon over to another person without first checking to be sure the magazine is out of the gun and the breach is clear.
23. A responsible gun owner always checks to be sure the target and surrounding area is free from any persons or animals before shooting.
24. A responsible gun owner always obeys range rules and the commands of the range officer.
25. A responsible gun owner never puts his or her finger on the trigger until he or she is ready to fire the weapon.
26. A responsible gun owner never leaves his or her weapon unattended whether at the range or anywhere else.
27. A responsible gun owner never relies solely on the gun safety to prevent an unexpected discharge. They rather check everything to be sure the gun cannot fire until they are ready to pull the trigger.
28. A responsible gun owner never points his or her gun at an object that they do not want to destroy.
29. A responsible gun owner always keeps his or her firearm unloaded when not in use.
30. A responsible gun owner always stores a weapon in a different location than its ammunition to prevent childish folly. Both should be in a locked container, just to be sure.



Responsibility

1. The state or fact of having a duty to deal with something or of having control over someone.
2. The state or fact of being accountable or to blame for something.
3. The opportunity or ability to act independently and make decisions without authorization.

Inside The Concealed Carry World

*In this section, we will discuss
The following topics*

- 1. Definition of a, “Concealed
Weapon”*
- 2. 14 Basic Questions & Answers*
- 3. Where it’s Legal & Not Legal
To Carry Concealed*
- 4. Burden of Proof In The Use
of Deadly Force*
- 5. Mistakes & Blunders in
Carrying Concealed*
- 6. Three Common Mistakes*
- 7. Reciprocity Privileges*
- 8. When To Use and Not Use
Your Firearm*
- 9. Carrying At Work & In
Your Car or Truck*
- 10. The Use of Deadly Force*

Concealed Weapons

"Concealed weapon" means any dirk, metallic knuckles, slungshot, billie, tear gas gun, chemical weapon or device, or other deadly weapon carried on or about a person in such a manner as to conceal the weapon from the ordinary sight of another person. This includes your revolver or pistol.

Some Basic Q & A

1. Where can I carry a concealed weapon?

You can carry a concealed weapon almost anywhere. Here are places you cannot carry a concealed firearm in Florida:

- Government buildings (post office, schools, courtrooms, etc)
- Bars (or establishments that sell mostly alcohol)

You are allowed to carry in most other places – even banks! The following is a list of places where you are restricted from carrying a weapon or firearm even if you have a license. Please note that this is a simplified list. See Section 790.06 (12), Florida Statutes for a complete listing.

- Any place of nuisance as defined in s. 823.05
- Any police, sheriff, or highway patrol station
- Any detention facility, prison, or jail; any courthouse
- Any courtroom
- Any polling place
- Any meeting of the governing body of a county, public school district, municipality, or special district
- Any meeting of the Legislature or a committee thereof
- Any school, college, or professional athletic event not related to firearms
- Any school administration building
- Any portion of an establishment licensed to dispense alcoholic beverages for consumption
- Any elementary or secondary school facility
- Any area technical center
- Any college or university facility
- Inside the passenger terminal and sterile area of any airport
- Any place where the carrying of firearms is prohibited by federal law

2. If a business has a sign on the door that prohibits firearms in their building, is it a crime for me to enter while I'm carrying concealed?

No, It is not a crime to enter the building.

A business cannot remove your right to the second amendment with a sign on their door, however, if someone notices your firearm and asks you to leave, you must leave the building immediately without being rude or causing a scene. If you fail to leave the building, you will be charged with trespassing – and if you trespass with a firearm, you could be in serious trouble.

In every movie theater in Citrus County, there is a sign outside the door that states firearms and other concealed weapons are not allowed. Some folks actively choose to ignore that sign – because they'd rather be able to defend their family and themselves than to be dead. They say, "What happened in Colorado will not happen to me!"

3. Do I Need a Concealed Carry License to Have a Gun in My Vehicle?

No!Here in Florida, if you are lawfully allowed to own a handgun, you may have a concealed gun in your glove box or center console at any time. It can be loaded and there is no requirement to have your gun in a holster.

Ans. person has no duty to retreat in his lawfully occupied vehicle against a person who was in the process of unlawfully and forcefully entering or had unlawfully and forcefully entered an occupied vehicle or had unlawfully and forcefully removed or was attempting to remove another against that person's will from the occupied vehicle.

4. What kinds of weapons are included in the concealed weapons law?

Ans. The Jack Hagler Self-defense Act defines concealed weapons or firearms as follows: handguns, electronic weapons or devices, tear gas guns, knives and billies. The information provided emphasizes handguns, because they are one of the most commonly used weapons for self-defense.

5. When is a Handgun "Concealed?"

Ans. The Florida Legislature defines a concealed firearm as any firearm "carried on or about a person in such a manner as to conceal it from the ordinary sight of another

person.” A person carrying a concealed firearm without a license is guilty of a felony of the third degree. The penalty for this offense is a prison term of up to five years.

6. Are there special laws that apply to the use of Handguns?

Ans. Yes, special laws apply anytime anyone uses deadly force, whether or not the weapon is concealed. Florida law defines deadly force as force that is likely to cause death or serious bodily harm. When you carry a handgun, you possess a weapon of deadly force. The law considers even an unloaded gun to be a deadly weapon when it is pointed at someone.

7. When can I use my handgun to protect myself?

Ans. Florida law justifies use of deadly force when you are:

- Trying to protect yourself or another person from death or serious bodily harm.
- Trying to prevent a forcible felony, such as rape, robbery, burglary or kidnapping.

Using or displaying a handgun in any other circumstances could result in your conviction for crimes such as improper exhibition of a firearm, manslaughter, or worse.

Example of the kind of attack that will not justify defending yourself with deadly force: Two neighbors got into a fight, and one of them tried to hit the other by swinging a garden hose. The neighbor who was being attacked with the hose shot the other in the chest. The court upheld his conviction for aggravated battery with a firearm, because an attack with a garden hose is not the kind of violent assault that justifies responding with deadly force.

8. What if someone uses threatening language to me so that I am afraid for my life or safety?

Ans. Verbal threats are not enough to justify the use of deadly force. There must be an overt act by the person that indicates that he immediately intends to carry out the threat. The person threatened must reasonably believe that he will be killed or suffer serious bodily harm if he does not immediately take the life of his adversary.

9. What if someone is attacking me in my own home?

Ans. The courts have created an exception to the duty to retreat called the “castle doctrine.” Under the castle doctrine, you need not retreat from your own home to avoid using deadly force against an assailant. **The castle doctrine** applies if an intruder attacks you in your own home.

10. What if I am in my place of business and someone comes in to rob me? Do I have to retreat before using deadly force?

Ans. The castle doctrine also applies when you are in your place of business. If you are in danger of death or great bodily harm or you are trying to prevent a forcible felony, you do not have to retreat before using deadly force in self-defense.

11. What if I point my handgun at someone but don't use it?

Ans. Never display a handgun to gain "leverage" in an argument. Threatening someone verbally while possessing a handgun, even licensed, will land you in jail for three years. Even if the gun is broken or you don't have bullets, you will receive the mandatory three-year sentence if convicted. The law does not allow any possibility of getting out of jail early.

12. When can I use deadly force in the defense of another person?

Ans. If you see someone who is being attacked, you can use deadly force to defend him/her if the circumstances would justify that person's use of deadly force in his/her own defense. In other words, you "stand in the shoes" of the person being attacked.

A person is **justified** in using or threatening to **use deadly force** if he or she reasonably believes that using or threatening to **use** such **force** is necessary to prevent imminent death or great bodily harm to himself or herself or another or to prevent the imminent commission of a forcible felony.

"Forcible Felony" means treason; murder; **manslaughter**; sexual battery; carjacking; home-invasion **robbery**; **burglary**; **arson**; **kidnapping**; aggravated assault; aggravated battery; aggravated stalking; aircraft piracy; unlawful throwing, placing, or discharging of a destructive device or bomb.

13. What if I see a crime being committed?

Ans. A license to carry a concealed weapon does not make you a free-lance policeman. But, as stated earlier, deadly force is justified if you are trying to prevent the imminent commission of a forcible felony. The use of deadly force must be absolutely necessary to prevent the crime. Also, if the criminal runs away, you cannot use deadly force to stop him, because you would no longer be "preventing" a crime. If use of deadly force is not necessary, or you use deadly force after the crime has stopped, you could be convicted of manslaughter.

Keep Out !!!
Of other folks problems unless they
are about to be seriously injured.

14. If I get a license to carry a concealed weapon, can I carry it anywhere?

Ans. No.... To get a license, you must sign an oath that you have read and understand the Jack Hagler Self-defense Act (Section 790.06, Florida Statutes). That statute lists several places where you may not carry a concealed weapon. You should read subsection 12 for a complete list, but some examples are football, baseball, and basketball games (college or professional) and bars. A cool head and even temper can keep handgun carriers out of trouble. You should never carry a gun into a situation where you might get angry.

15. What Does Florida Consider A Loaded Firearm?

Ans. Florida law does not define Loaded. Their firearm laws use Loaded or Unloaded but do not give a definition. **Note:** With no definition on what the state considers a loaded firearm, it is safe to assume that loaded or unloaded applies equally.

Concealed Carry Blunders & Mistakes

Here are a few common concealed carry mistakes. Try to avoid them.

1. Leaving your CCW permit or card at home while carrying concealed.
2. Consuming alcohol while carrying or shooting a concealed weapon.
3. Not backing down from a potential fight when it is possible.
4. Not practicing target shooting at a range to become more accurate.
5. Failure to keep your hands visible during a traffic stop.
6. Not knowing the places you cannot carry a concealed weapon.
7. Using ammo that is not recommended by the gun manufacture.
8. Not using your safety when holstering or storing your weapon.
9. Not paying attention to your surroundings to avoid conflict when possible.
10. Not knowing how to field strip, clean and reassemble your weapon.
11. Not carrying your weapon concealed on a regular basis.
12. Getting involved in someone else's conflict that you should have avoided.

**Responsibility
Is A Gift From God**

Three Common Mistakes Concealed Carriers Make

Published in Off The Grid News

Many concealed carriers, due to lack of experience carrying or even because of just plain carelessness, broadcast the fact that they are carrying a weapon, which ultimately results in more law enforcement contact and even attention from criminals – the wrong kind of attention. Here are some of the most common problems:

1. SLOPPY CARRY...Failing to dress appropriately for the carry is the number one way that concealed carriers lose the “concealed” part. Don’t be the guy in line at Starbucks with the butt of your pistol poking out underneath your shirt. To avoid sloppy concealed carry, consider these suggestions:

- Select garments that properly cover the weapon in a range of positions. Videotape yourself to make sure – try sitting, standing and even kneeling to see if the weapon is still covered and concealed.
- Make sure the weapon remains concealed when entering or exiting a vehicle. Seatbelts, armrests and other potential snag points can unknowingly expose your weapon. Check it before you go further!
- Ensure your method of carry (inside the waistband, outside the waistband) matches your clothing. Remember, the less clothing you have on, the closer the gun is going to need to be to your body.

Keep Your Handgun Locked and Loaded, Ready For Instant Use – Without Fear Of An Accident!

2. PRINTING...Ok, now your clothing properly covers the gun, yet its outline can clearly be seen to even the most casual, untrained observer. It’s like sticking a banana in a manila envelope! Printing is the classic gun bulge, and will be totally obvious to anyone in the know about firearms. Usually, printing happens because of the following conditions:

- **Carrying too large of a handgun for the user’s body type.** You can’t always carry a full-sized automatic with an extended magazine, and you need to come to grips with the fact that you may need to invest in a compact framed concealable handgun. Even for a large adult male, some pistols are just too big to be concealed properly on the person, which causes printing.
- **Carrying the gun in an improper holster for concealed carry.** An outside-the-waistband holster with a simple t-shirt over top will usually print, regardless of how small the handgun is. The lighter the covering garment, the more the weapon needs to be inside the waistband.
- **Carrying the gun in the wrong spot on your body.** First and foremost, understand that there is no wrong spot to carry concealed – *there is only the*

wrong spot for you. People have successfully carried concealed weapons on all areas around their waist, under either arm with a shoulder holster, and on both ankles with ankle holsters to name but a few; still you need to carry to suit your body type. Everyone is built differently and thus will be able to carry weapons in different positions.

3. DRAWING ATTENTION TO THE CARRY...The way you move, adjust yourself, walk, sit or even stand can inadvertently draw attention to the fact you are carrying. This is especially true of new concealed carriers. Here are some of the most common ways to reveal you are carrying:

- **Overt adjustment:** Amateur concealed carriers will often constantly adjust the weapon. Trust your holster system here – once the weapon is in the holster and the holster is secured on your body, leave it alone. It does not need your help to hold it there – and if it does, *you need a new holster.*
- **Checking to see if it's still there:** That light pat or brush with your elbow that you do every 30 seconds is easily noticed. Learn to discern the position of your weapon by feel of your body alone – don't pat it or brush it with your hands.
- **Favoring the gun side:** Amateurs will often take shorter strides on the side they are carrying the weapon on, and they do this subconsciously to avoid dislodging it. Another method of favoring the weapon side is to blade your body away from a threat, placing your weapon side away from the person you perceive as a threat. This is all fine and good when there actually is a threat, but if you keep blading your body every time you speak with someone it will be obvious that you are carrying.
- **Wearing clothing that's too heavy for the conditions:** If you throw on a parka, for example, you can practically conceal a rifle under it. The point is, your clothing needs to be selected for the weather, not the carry. You will absolutely stand out if you are wearing garments too heavy for the weather conditions.

So why the big deal on keeping the weapon concealed? After all, you are doing it legally, and in most states, with a permit. The answer is simple – even with a permit, you will face extra scrutiny with a concealed weapon on your person should you be discovered. Why even bother with the trouble? Just *conceal* the weapon properly in the first place.

Florida Allows Concealed Carry In: State Parks: **YES**, State & National Forests: **YES** State Wildlife Management Areas: **YES**, Road Side Rest Areas: **YES**

Open Carry...Not In Florida As Yet

Concealed Carry Permit Reciprocity Maps



States That Honor The Florida CCW Permit

Permit Honored

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming

States That Do not Honor The Florida CCW Permit

Permit Not Honored

California, Connecticut, Guam, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virgin Islands, Washington, Wisconsin, American Samoa, N. Mariana Islands

Think Safety & Be Safe

Florida Resident Permits Only:

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia and Wyoming.

Learn All You Can And Be Careful

The following states have permitless carry that allows anyone that can legally possess a firearm carry concealed: Alaska, Arizona, Kansas, Maine, Mississippi, Vermont, and West Virginia. Some restrictions may apply. Check each state for its own restrictions.

Reciprocal Carry

By statute, Florida will recognize another state's license to carry:“(1) A resident of the United States who is a nonresident of Florida may carry a concealed weapon or concealed firearm while in this state if the nonresident: (a) Is 21 years of age or older; and (b) Has in his or her immediate possession a valid license to carry a concealed weapon or concealed firearm issued to the nonresident in his or her state of residence. (2) A

nonresident is subject to the same laws and restrictions *with* respect to carrying a concealed weapon or concealed firearm as a resident of Florida who is so licensed.”

Duty to Inform Officers

Florida does not require individuals to inform a L.E.O. of a permit or license to carry but if an officer asks about a weapon, by law, an answer must be supplied.

Carrying Firearms in Vehicles

Florida allows carrying of long guns in vehicles without a permit. Handguns may only be carried without a permit if they are not readily accessible to the driver, such as being in a locked container or in the trunk. Gun owners with a CCWL can carry concealed in a vehicle on their person or other concealed but not locked area.

Preemption

Florida law prohibits localities from regulating firearms, other than with regards to zoning laws (i.e., for restricting where gun sellers may locate their businesses). The Florida Legislature has since 1987 occupied the whole field of regulation of firearms and ammunition, including the purchase, sale, transfer, taxation, manufacture, ownership, possession, and transportation. Due to a lack of penalties associated with violating the preemption statute, it was almost universally ignored by city and county authorities until, on December 7, 2010. Representative Matt Gaetz introduced a bill to the Florida Legislature adding penalties for violating the existing preemption statute. It was signed into law by Governor Rick Scott on June 2, 2011.

"Take Your Gun To Work?"

As of July 1, 2008, Florida became a "Take your gun to work" state (F.S. 790.251). This law prohibits most businesses from firing any employee with a Concealed Weapon License for keeping a legal firearm locked in his or her vehicle in the company parking lot. The purpose of the new law is to allow carry licensees to exercise their Second Amendment rights during their commutes to and from work.

Got A Concealed Weapon License?

Don't Leave Home Without It

Self-Defense

We will be discussing various “Self-Defense” Topics in the section including:

1. **Situational Awareness**
2. **Home Safety Inspections**
3. **Deterrents That Work**
4. **A Strategy Based Upon Passed Data**
5. **What To Do In A Home Invasion**
6. **Planning Your Defense**
7. **Firing Your Weapon**
8. **Actually Using Deadly Force**
9. **Thoughts of A Burglar**
10. **Fighting For Your Life**
11. **Non-Lethal Self-Defense Kit**
12. **What if You Lose Your Kit**
13. **What To Do If You’re Grabbed From Behind**
14. **Lessons From Prison Security Teams**
15. **Christianity & Deadly Force**
16. **Christians & Gun Control**
17. **Carrying A Concealed Weapon From A Christian Perspective**
18. **What If Situations & Responses**

The Self-Defense World

Owning a handgun is certainly about self-defense. Yes, you can shoot for sport. Yes, you can be a collector. But most owners buy handguns because they want to defend themselves against home invaders, attackers and others that seek bodily harm. Just because you bought a gun doesn't mean you know how to defend yourself. There are lots of good books on self-defense. Buy a few and read them. You can even study the Martial Arts and that sort of thing. It is my purpose in the section to discuss practical ways that are not too costly and can make a difference right away. We will look at Six considerations within the Self-Defense arena.

The 1st Consideration In Self-Defense Is Situational Awareness.

Situational Awareness

Carrying a concealed weapon requires a certain mindset. The folks from New York would call it, "Being Street Smart". It is the key to good self-defense. You always know what's happening around you. As you practice this perspective, you will observe the following:

1. Lots of folks are totally unaware of their surrounding. If there were a terrorist afoot or a robbery about to happen, they would not even have a clue. They are too busy talking on their cell phones or texting.
2. Some folks are aware of what's going on around them but have a, "So What" attitude. They do not look at life in terms of self-defense.
3. Other folks watch people all the time. They see the nuts and weirdoes lurking in the shadows but do not necessarily see it as a personal threat. It's just part of life.
4. The last group of folks is the situationally aware. They always see things in terms of self-defense. They are always on the lookout for danger. If they see a strange person, they avoid them. If they see a conflict of any kind, they stay out of it, if at all possible. They look for ways to escape instead of reasons to engage.

Carrying a loaded firearm is not meant to give us power. It is not suppose to give us a sense of egocentric euphoria. What it does do is provide an opportunity to protect our families and us. Carrying the weapon concealed or openly, does us no good at all unless we are thinking like the bad guy and planning ahead with counter measures that are designed to keep us safe. This takes forethought and even thinking on the fly as situations arise.

When the shooting starts, what will you do? The answer is obvious. It depends... upon the environment you are in and what is really happening. Where is the nearest escape route? How many assailants are there? Can I get to cover quickly? Have the police been called? Can I get a clear shot?

Roll playing a situation out in different scenarios is a great strategy. It will help you stay alert and provide a plan of action if it ever happens. Most concealed carriers never think about what could happen and therefore have no self-defense plan. In the time of trouble, they will not know what to do.

Remember, think like the bad guy, roll play to develop a strategy, watch everything to identify potential threats, assess the danger to be sure it's real and most of all, get out of the way when possible. Don't let your "Situational Awareness" become your biggest conceal carry blunder.

The Second Consideration In Self-Defense Is A "Home Safety Inspection."

A Home Safety Inspection

It is really important to conduct a "Home Safety Inspection." This is a checklist to be sure your home has been made as safe as possible against intruders. Here are a few things to look for: (It's just a matter of commonsense.)

8 Burglar Deterrents That Work:

1. **Visible Window & Door Locks...**Burglars get into your home via the door or window, so providing a first-line deterrent like visible (and sturdy) locks is a step toward security. Do not be frugal with your locks. Your local locksmith can recommend the strongest, best locks for your home.
2. **Lock Your Doors...**this is so, so simple but many people fail to lock their doors. Lock up every time you go out, obviously, but also keep the doors locked when you're home – and especially at night. If you like to leave screened doors and windows open on a nice day, no problem; there are good locks for sturdy screens, too. And speaking of locks, all doors should have deadbolts and patio/sliding doors need special anti-entry devices to prevent removal from their frames.
3. **Get a Home Security Check...**Your local police department likely offers an underutilized but invaluable public service: home security checks. Call your local officers in blue, and ask for them to come out. They'll walk the inside and outside of your home, and suggest areas for improvement.
4. **Install an Alarm...**A home alarm system is one of the top ways to deter burglars from targeting your home. Several different systems and extras are available, from a basic alarm siren to a fortress. Take the maximum protection you can afford. Make sure your alarm company has a fast response time, and consider whether you want the police automatically notified of an alarm event.
5. **Install Security Cameras...**The best defense is a good offense. Put burglars on the defense by recording their every move. You'll need indoor and/or outdoor security cameras with night vision and a decent hard drive to record a few days worth of video. If you can't afford the real thing, fake cameras can also work as a good

deterrent; just make sure they're quality fakes and not cheap plastic that thieves will easily identify as dummies.

6. **Motion Activated Lights**...Illuminate shadowed part of your home and access points with motion-activated floodlights. That's right, floodlights. If a light flips on, you want a wide viewing area.
7. **Strong Doors**Nearly 70% of burglars enter your home through a door. Install thick, solid wood doors that will be hard to kick in. If your doors have a window, install a secondary floor lock, so that after breaking the door window, a burglar cannot reach down to unlock your door and waltz into your home. Install hidden bracing in the doorframe.
8. **Safe & Secure**...In the event that a thief does breach your perimeter security, have your most precious valuables and weapons safely secured in a fireproof safe. Bolt the safe to the floor; otherwise a strong burglar could cart it out.

The Third Consideration In Self-Defense Is To Learn From The Mistakes of Others.
(Source: Nationwide Insurance Survey)

Plan A Strategy Based Upon Past Crime Statistics

- One-quarter of homeowners (25 percent) acknowledge leaving the front door of their home unlocked when leaving the house at least once in the past year.
- Four in 10 (41 percent) 18-34 year-old homeowners surveyed post social media photos/updates when they are on vacation.
- While the National Burglar & Fire Alarm Association estimates nearly one-third of all burglars enter through the front door, just 15 percent of homeowners in a nationwide survey correctly believe it's the most common entry point.
- 39 percent of homeowners admit leaving their doors unlocked about the same amount or more often as their parents did when they were growing up, despite a dramatic rise in thefts over the last 40 years.
- Many homeowners tend to leave ground floor (35 percent) or second story and above (34 percent) windows unlocked.
- Most home invasions occur between 10 am and 3-PM.
- 4 out of 5 burglars use social media to select targets.
- Burglars take less than 60 seconds and the 1st place they look is the Master Bedroom.

This type of date can help to prevent a situation where we may have to defend ourselves as well as planning a defense in the event that we do have to Stand Our Ground.

The 4th Consideration In Self-Defense is Muscle Memory Development.

Actions Speak Louder Than Words

You do not really learn a thing unless you can do it without thinking. Take mathematics for example. Do we think about 2×2 ? We did when we were little and learning but through concentrated memory exercises, we learned it so well that we do not have to figure. We just know it and can shout it out without thinking. So it is with self-defense. There are things we must learn and must know them so well that we can do them without thinking.

What things, you ask? Things like:

1. Loading and unloading our gun.
2. The proper grip and firing stance.
3. Multiple, "What If" scenarios and what to do.
4. Universal Safety rules.

...And lots more.

The 5th Concern In Self-Defense is Planning Your Defense.

What To Do In A Home Invasion

(Excerpts from Wiki, how to do anything)

1. **Avoid Searching For An Intruder.** We've all seen movies where the homeowner grabs a bat and sneaks through the house searching for an intruder. It's best, though, to avoid confrontation with the intruder if at all possible. An intruder can react violently, so instead of searching for the intruder, you should first try to escape or hide.
2. **Come up with a simple code word that your family will recognize in an emergency.** If you need to warn your family members about an invasion, it's a great idea to have a code worked out in advance. You can shout this simple word or phrase, such as "ESCAPE!", to put them on the alert so that they can escape or run to a safe place.
3. **Designate a safe room.** If you're not able to get out of the house, having a designated safe room (or even closet) can be a good idea. If at all possible, try to make your way to this safe room if you hear an intruder in your home.
4. **Make sure your safe room locks from the inside.** Whether your safe room is your bedroom or a separate room in the house, you want to make sure that it has a

solid door which locks from the inside and which can be quickly and easily barricaded. Consider installing a dead bolt on your bedroom door and/or the safe room for extra security.

5. **Turn out the lights and remain as silent as possible.** You don't want to alert the intruder to your presence if at all possible, so make sure that all lights in the room are turned off.
6. **Avoid calling out to the intruder.** You may be tempted to yell “We've called the police!” in order to make the intruder panic and leave as quickly as possible. This isn't a good idea, though—it will give away your hiding place. If, however, the intruder tries to break into the room where you're hiding, then it may actually be a good idea to yell “We've called police—they're on their way!”. Use the plural “we” when you call out, even if you're alone. If the intruder thinks that there are more than one of you, he may panic and leave.
7. **Call emergency services as quickly as possible.** Once you are secure, call for help immediately. Be sure to provide the dispatcher with as many details as possible. For example, “My name is Sally Smith, and I live at 123 River Road. I hear two intruders in my home. I'm hiding in the upstairs back bedroom, and I think they are still downstairs in the living room.” Try to keep the line with the dispatcher open so that they can listen in, provide you with updates on the progress of the police, and help keep you calm.
8. **Choose your position in the safe room strategically.** If the intruder tries to break into the room where you are hiding, you're going to have to be prepared. Experts recommend that you stand in a corner that is on the opposite side of the door. Have your family members stand behind you. This way, if the intruder breaks into the room, you'll be able to see them before they see you, and you can quickly assess the situation to see if you need to fight (or shoot, if you are armed with a gun).
9. **Remain in your safe room until the police arrive.** Even if you are sure that the intruder has left, it's best for you to stay put until the police arrive to secure your home. Continue to stay on the line with the emergency services dispatcher until you are told that the police have arrived **and** until the police announce themselves outside your door.
10. **Make sure your entire house is checked by the police.** Especially if the suspect isn't caught by the police, you should ask them to thoroughly check your house and property.

Safe Rooms Really Do Work

The 6th Concern In Self-Defense Is Actually Using Deadly Force.

Firing Your Handgun

Should it become necessary to shoot at an intruder, your actions will be considered by the police as using deadly force. Florida law tells us that we can “Stand Our Ground” and fight to protect what is ours. This is commonly known as, “The Castle Doctrine.” Some other states demand that you run away. However, facing an intruder should be a last resort. If there is a way of escape, you should take it. Your life is more precious than your stuff. That said, there might not be a way of escape and your only option is to use your handgun in defending yourself.

The Florida law is on your side. It says that as long as you believe that your life is in grave danger or another individual is about to inflict or even threatening serious bodily injury, you are justified in using deadly force. (That means shooting the intruder.)

Your use of deadly force should be based upon the understanding that:

1. You are in grave danger and a serious threat of violence.
2. The intruder is in your home to Steal, Kill & Destroy.
3. The intruder has a deadly weapon of some kind. (Gun, Knife, Bat etc.)
4. The intruder will use deadly force to prevent capture.
5. Drugs are most likely being used and sought after.
6. The intruder is a burglar bent of doing evil.

Basic gun safety rules still apply. Keep you finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot; be sure you have a clean shot. (No family in the way); Realize that your live is on the line. When the time is right, and you will know when that is, fire and keep firing until the threat is eliminated. An intruder can absorb several bullets and still advance towards you. **KEEP SHOOTING**. Then, when the threat is over, back away and wait for the police.

Self-defense really begins at the firing range. Over and over shooting practices at various distances will help to develop shooting accuracy. The average encounter with an intruder is 3-7 feet. Trainers teach practicing at various distances and even draw-point-fire drills at close ranges. The point is, if you wait until an intruder shows up, you will probably freeze or make all kinds of mistakes. We practice on paper people so we are ready for real burglars.

Thoughts of A Burglar

If you could listen in on the thoughts of an intruder, here’s some of what they might be thinking:

1. OK, they left this window unlatched. It’s an easy access.
2. Good, there are no dogs. I don’t want to get bit.
3. Great, the front door is not a solid door. I can kick it down easily.
4. Darn, they have an alarm. Maybe they forgot to arm it.
5. Humm, newspapers building up, must be away...good target.
6. This house has high bushes; I can hide there if I need to.
7. Hey, no blinds or curtains. I can see into this house and what’s inside.
8. I hear the T.V. I can’t break in now.
9. I wonder where the master bedroom is. That’s where the jewelry is.

10. Maybe the front door is unlocked. It was at the last place I robbed.

Knowing some of what an intruder thinks will help you devise a plan to secure your dwelling from being targeted.

Fighting For Your Life

You have a handgun and are willing to use it if necessary to defend yourself. However, what happens if you can't get to your weapon in time to use it? How will you defend yourself?

Remember, escape is the best defense. Run as fast as you can. If you are stuck and have to fight, look for everyday things that can become a weapon like ink pens, rulers, letter openers, etc. Call 911 immediately. Retreat to your safe room.

If you cannot get to your safe room, put things between you and the intruder like throwing a lamp at him or pushing a chair or table between you and the burglar. Go for the eyes, genitals and throat where you can cause the most damage. Use your elbows to inflict pain and kick and even bite if necessary. You will be in a fight for your life and that means there are no rules and no nice guys. You do whatever it takes to eliminate the threat.

Non-Lethal Self-Defense Kit

selfdefenceexposed.org

There is nothing wrong with having a non-lethal self-defense kit. Some elements can be carried concealed or all held in a, "Safe Room" for emergency use if and when it becomes Necessary to use them . Here are a few items to consider:

Pepper Spray

Pepper spray is an essential item that you should always have on hand when out and about. With the active ingredient oleoresin capsicum, pepper spray can successfully disable an attacker for 20 minutes up to an hour. It dilates the capillaries and causes an immediate inflammatory reaction in the skin and eyes and the substance is very difficult to wash off. It can cause severe pain, difficulty breathing and even temporary blindness. Most pepper sprays reach up to 10 feet so you can keep a safe distance between you and your assailant; but make sure to be aware of how far yours can reach once you buy it, as they can differ in range.

Pepper spray can be used to protect yourself from both human and animal attackers. In fact, you can find pepper spray specifically designed for dogs. However, it should be noted that you should only resort to using pepper spray on a dog if you are unable to run away or hide. Also, because dogs have much more sensitive noses and eyes than humans, dog pepper spray often has a much lower percentage of oleoresin capsicum, meaning it

may not be as effective if used on a human. For a larger animal, such as a bear, a much stronger spray is needed.

Counter Assault is one example of a reputable bear spray. Like with dogs, bear spray should be used as your last line of defense, but if necessary, spray from a minimum distance of 25 feet, with several second bursts and from side to side to create a thick cloud that the bear has to pass through. Always make sure the wind is blowing away from you, no matter who or what your attacker is. For the ultimate in portability, get a keychain spray, like **Sabre's pepper spray**. It too can be used at a range of up to 30 feet, so you don't have to get too close to use it.

Tactical Flashlight

An ultra-powerful flashlight (or several) should be in every prepper's arsenal, but a tactical flashlight is a beast of its own. The main difference between a tactical flashlight and a standard Maglite is the power and brightness. **The TL1000 by Raybeck Outdoor** (\$54.95) produces 1,000 lumens of blindingly bright light, making it a strong weapon when shined in the eyes of an assailant or animal.

The TL1000 is roughly the same size as a standard Maglite flashlight, making it easy to stow in your vehicle's glove compartment. There's a CREE XM-L U2 LED light beyond the tempered glass lens and the entire housing is designed for durability. It's even been tested to withstand falls from five feet. The TL1000 has been designed for defensive use, which is why it fits into many gun mounts and can be set on its anti-roll side or flat bottom to provide upright illumination. It also can throw a light beam up to 980 feet, making it ideal for use when camping or when you hear a suspicious noise on your property.

Stun Gun

A shock from a **heavy duty stun gun** can render an assailant defenseless long enough for you to get away. However, if you are more of a minimalist, toting around an additional item everywhere you go may not be practical. But no matter how little you like to carry with you when out and about, you're always likely to have your **iPhone** or **Android**. That's where the beauty of the Yellow Jacket smartphone stun gun case (\$189) (solely for an iPhone at present; not yet Android).

Far from your ordinary iPhone case, the **Yellow Jacket case** was designed with self defense in mind. In addition to offering sturdy protection for your phone, it offers protection for you too. The case houses a rechargeable battery to power the stun gun that can also be used to extend the battery life of your phone when you need it. The Yellow Jacket features a dual-push trigger, so you won't have to worry about accidentally activating it while it's in your pocket. The stun gun pack is also detachable for those situations when you want to protect your phone without the stun gun option, like getting through airport security.

What if You Lose Your Non-Lethal Weapons?

Anything can happen in the heat of the moment. If your attacker takes you from behind in an area where you normally feel safe (such as walking out to your car in front of your home), or (and this has happened, especially to rape and kidnap victims) grabs you from behind in the middle of a busy parking lot and pulls you into a vehicle as his accomplice drives away, statistically, in this kind of rape and kidnapping, you can end up dead and your body possibly never found. If you have learned, practiced and rehearsed a handful of effective self defense strikes, you can easily injure an attacker and get away within just the first few seconds of an attempted kidnapping. In this situation, where you've been grabbed unexpectedly, there just won't be time to get to your pepper spray, stun gun, or tactical flashlight.

What To Do If You're Grabbed From Behind

Professional grapplers have an easy move they can use when another opponent attempts a hold: You can immediately drop your weight toward the ground and rotate your torso explosively, so you are facing your attacker, simultaneously jutting your buttocks backwards. Within just a split second of time you are now in the perfect position to unload a number of palm strikes (which are easier and more natural to throw than a punch and at the same time can have greater impact with nose-crushing force).

You are also in a perfect position to throw your back leg forward for a crushing groin strike.

Finally, the trick to making these moves work for you is to practice and mentally rehearse the situations (where you're grabbed suddenly by an attacker). Even better than that ... you can practice with an actual instructor in a local martial arts studio (consider private lessons; you'll often learn quicker than taking a general class and you'll get more personal instruction with attention to detail from the instructor).

**Self-Defense Is A Strategy
That Can Be Planned In Advance
And Analyzed Until
It Is Perfected**

Security teams in many of our nation's toughest prisons use pepper spray to immediately halt any aggressive behavior from violent inmates. These security teams are prepared with their own gas masks; it may seem like an extreme step, but sometimes that gas mask can make it a lot safer to use pepper spray in your own home in the event of a home

invasion. If you're in a room, or facing a breeze, the pepper spray you just sprayed into the face of an attacker can be blown on you as well; even with less force it can still be an irritant; it can sting your eyes, your throat, etc. Whether you have a chemical protective mask for a nuclear or biological emergency or not as part of your non-lethal self defense kit for your home, remember to always be careful when using pepper spray, and to be ready to flee the room once you've sprayed it.

Read more at <http://www.secretsofsurvival.com/survival-tips/3-Non-Lethal-Self-Defense-Weapons.html#RFX1B2GwIPEugXGM.99>

“What If” Situation & Response Scenarios In Personal Self-Defense

This section is designed to help you think ahead about possible situations so you can plan a self-defense strategy. There are many variables in any situation so an absolute for success will be hard to formulate. However, knowing ahead of time what could happen and some ways to protect yourself is better than facing the threat with no thought or knowledge at all. In all cases, it is understood that you have a concealed weapons license and access to a firearm during the encounters. The use of “Deadly Force” is now under consideration.

Situation #1..... Burglary

You are returning home from an outing. It is almost dark. You pull into your driveway, only to realize that your front door has been broken and is now open. You, as usual, are carrying concealed. *What do you do?*

Strategy... Stay in your vehicle and immediately call 911. You do not know if there are burglars still in your home or if they have come and gone. You do not know how many, if any, are inside. Let the police investigate and secure the property before you enter your home. Pulling your gun and rushing into an unknown situation could cost you your life.

Variables... The invader (s) come running out of your home as you pull up. What now? Using deadly force against fleeing thieves is not a good practice because they are already outside your home running away. There is no active threat to do bodily harm to you at this point. Let them go but take notes as to clothing, race, height and weight, direction of get-a-way, etc. Remember, your well-being is worth more than your stuff.

If he or they come out shooting or are running towards you, then there is a definite threat and deadly force is justified. However, facing armed thugs with your family in the car may not be the best scenario. It's ok to flee the scene to a safer location. Back out of your driveway and leave the area until the police arrive.

Situation #2... Parking Space Dispute

You are carrying concealed as you are doing errands and encounter an agitated man who is angry at the world and wants to take it out on anyone he encounters. He approaches you cursing at you because he thinks you took his parking space. *What do you do?*

Strategy... Using deadly force to resolve an argument is not lawful. We don't shoot everyone that we disagree with. However, if the situation escalates into a threat to do bodily harm, you are justified to defend yourself with deadly force. If the man does not show a weapon, there may not be cause to use yours. Reasonable force can be applied. Sometimes, you can also just walk away from the conflict.

Your goal should be to de-escalate the situation by calming down the person who is angry. That may not be possible but an attempt is necessary before you use a weapon to resolve the matter. Your tone of voice should be calming and your speech should not be threatening in any way.

If all else fails, use the "Three Step Rule" that says take one step back as you try to resolve the situation calmly, being sure to speak loud enough to draw the attention of anyone around that could later be a witness. Repeat this step back process two more times and then stand your ground. Tell him the police are on the way and he should leave.

You have now made three attempts to calm the, "Would Be" attacker and reduce the threat. If this doesn't work, nothing will. Tell the man to keep his distance or you will use deadly force against him. You should have your gun drawn and racked by your side. If he moves into your space and has no weapon, reasonable force would apply, not deadly force. If you see a weapon as he moves into your space, the threat has reached an immediate threat to do great bodily harm... shoot him.

Variable... Some would say, "Just turn and run" but that opens up the possibility of an attack from behind where you cannot see if he has a weapon or what. Standing your ground is the safest plan of action.

Dialing 911 is recommended as soon as you encounter the man. Just tell them that an angry man is about to attack you and where you are. Let them know you have a weapon and will use it to defend yourself, if necessary. This will put you at the top of their response list.

Be sure to tell the 911 operators what you are wearing and exactly where you are in the parking lot. Keep your phone on so the police can hear your conversation with the mad man. Tell the man that you have called 911 and he should leave you alone.

Your goal in this situation is to delay any attack until the police arrive. The 3-step back strategy can help but it may all happen in a short few minutes so be ready and mentally prepared to act. It's your life that hangs in the balance.

Situation #3... Home Invasion

You are a victim of a home invasion. Two teenage boys have broken into your home by breaking down the front door and are now rushing in to steal anything they can find. It's 2:30 am and the crash of the door being broken wakes you up or your alarm goes off.

What do you do?

Strategy... Most burglaries take less than 2-3 minutes. They enter and run straight for jewelry, cash or electronics. They are in and out faster than most folks can react. You should have your guns close enough to get to in a hurry and loaded, (Armed and Ready). All family members should know exactly what to do. Set up family drills if necessary so kids remember.

Call 911 as soon as possible then retreat to a "Safe Room". Weapons are loaded &/or racked. Do not turn on lights. It will give away your location. Close the door to the "Safe Room". It most likely will be your bedroom. Find a spot that offers the best coverage and gives you the advantage. Do not call out to the intruder(s). Wait for the police and keep that line open, talking to them every step of the way.

If they are still trying to enter your safe room, keep shooting until the threat is eliminated. Be sure to inform the 911 operators of what room you are in and that you have firearms.

Should the door open, shoot immediately, even if it is through the door. Don't give the intruders an opportunity to see you. One or two shots will most likely cause them to flee.

Variables... The intruders have guns and shoot back at you. *Now what?* Be sure your location in the "Safe Room" is not in the direct line of fire from the door. Also, if you can, pull a dresser out and use it as a shield or hide behind something that will conceal your location.

If other family members cannot get to your designated "Safe Room," tell them to close the door of another room where they are and move a bed or dresser in front of the door so it is not easily accessible. Also, be sure 911 operators know about any changes to your plan. If any family member can flee to the outside and run for safety, do so as soon as possible.

Situation #4... C-Store Robbery

You stopped at a convenience store such as Race Track to get gas. A lone gunman is inside robbing the place. He runs out of the C- Store and across your line of sight. You are pumping gas and are carrying concealed. *What do you do?*

Strategy... Because the armed man is running away and to your knowledge, no individual has been harmed, let him run. Stay out of harm's way. Hide from his sight if possible so he does not see you as a threat. We are not called to be volunteer cops. We may be trained to shoot a gun but most of us know nothing about Law Enforcement. Leave it up to the Police.

You can be a great witness to the crime by gathering vital info like height, weight, distinguishing marks, type of weapon, get-a-away car & direction etc. Don't try to be a hero.

Variable... The armed gunman is running from the C-Store straight for you. You are in the wrong place and cannot avoid an encounter with the armed man. His gun is in hand and he is waving it back and forth. *Now what do you do?*

Self-Defense is the first and only priority. The armed man is not just running away from the scene of a crime but has now involved you. You don't know if he wants your vehicle to use as a get-a-way car or you as a hostage or both. You do know that the threat is real and imminent.

SHOOT HIM... before he invades your space or shoots you. It's the only way to eliminate the threat. Do not delay. It takes about one and a half seconds to run 21 feet. He who hesitates is lost. However, there is an alternative action...*run like hell*. But be aware that the armed criminal may think that you took the keys with you and might start shooting at you as you run. It's better to take cover behind the wheel of your vehicle and shoot. You have a legal right to use deadly force to defend yourself.

Situation #5... Terrorist Attack

You are at an open-air concert with hundreds of other music lovers. Several shots are fired and people start running in every direction to get away from the shooter. *What do you do?*

Strategy... Running aimlessly is not a good strategy. You do not know where the shooter is and if there is only one. One shooter could be shooting to cause people to run directly into the path of another shooter thereby causing crossfire. It's better, if possible, to seek out cover and evaluate the situation. Run to the nearest structure or place of cover.

Hide until you can see a clear path to safety. Do not draw your weapon until you are ready to use it. You might be seen as the shooter.

Variable... There is no cover nearby and you are being pushed by the crowd in a certain direction as they run. *Now what?* If this happens, run with your eyes open, looking for people falling around you from being shot. Listen for single or rapid fire to determine type of weapons being used and try to measure distance and direction. If all else fails and people are being shot around you, fall down and play dead. The shooter will most likely seek upright targets, not stationary targets that he thinks are already dead. As you lay on the ground, be as still as possible and watch for the shooter in case he comes your way. Have your gun racked and ready.

If the threat has moved on towards the running crowd, maybe there is a chance to escape in the opposite direction. Watch for possible escape routes.

Situation #6... Defense of Others

You are in a fast food restaurant when a shooter enters and begins to shoot people. *What do you do?*

Strategy... A responsible gun owner that carries concealed will always scope out the establishment upon entering. He will look for exits and never sit with his back to an entrance. When people in the restaurant are in jeopardy, you have a duty to stand against the shooter before he kills everyone. You have just become their defense. However, that does not mean you stand up and call the shooter's attention to you.

It is best to look for a location in the restaurant that gives you the shooting advantage. There may not be a shooting advantage location but then again there may be. Look for it and adjust. Then shoot the shooter and keep shooting until he is down and no longer a threat.

Variables... There is no tactical shooting advantage. You are in the open and in the line of fire. *What next?* Shoot immediately for center mass of the shooter at least three times. Then move to a different location quickly so the shooter has to adjust. Keep shooting and moving towards an exit and get out as fast as possible.

Note: Location evaluation is to know your surroundings. Are there guys with hoods, knapsacks or other possible give-a-ways as to their possible intent? Being aware is 90 % of the battle. The other 10% is muscle memory and training to know what to do if and when it happens.

Situation # 7...Road Rage

Road Rage has come to your doorstep. You are driving on the highway and inadvertently cut another driver off as you turn. That driver is furious and chases you down the road honking and screaming at you. He follows you until you stop at a light and then gets out of his car and walks towards your car. You are carrying concealed. *What do you do?*

Strategy... The best thing is to just drive away and leave him standing in the street. If that is not possible, do not stay in your car. Step out so you can see what is around you and if the angry man has a weapon or not. A weapon can be a bat, a stick, a knife, or anything that could be used to inflict serious bodily harm.

Stay calm and try to de-escalate the situation by letting him vent. You can respond by saying you are sorry for cutting him off and it was not an intentional act of aggression. This is your best defense. It allows for talk instead of action.

Do not allow him to invade your space. Keep stepping away to create a “Safe Zone” between you and him. Be sure to repeat your apology several times. It’s ok to be wrong, even if you are not. It is better to take the fault than to kill another human being. Sometimes a simple apology is enough.

Variables... The road rage man cannot be calmed. He insists on getting even by an act of violence. If and when you realize talking will not accomplish a satisfactory result, draw your weapon and be ready to use it. This decision can happen before you even begin a dialog with the angry man. Being ready is the key. Deadly force can be a choice that is later decided based upon the actions of your adversary. If you draw your weapon, do not show it. Keep it at your side or behind you until it is time.

The time to use deadly force is when the threat is imminent. There are signs like seeing that the man now has the opportunity and the ability to inflict serious bodily harm. You also honestly feel that your life is in grave danger.

Taking the 1st blow is not recommended. Remember the 3-step rule. Tell the man that you will use deadly force if he does not back off. However, be aware that you may not have enough time to say anything. You may have to shoot without any exchange of words. That depends on the actions of the other man.

Your self-defense is the priority. As long as you perceive that bodily harm is imminent and/or in the process of happening, you have the lawful right to fire your weapon. If you shoot, know that you are accountable for every bullet fired. That being said...keep firing until there is no longer a threat.

Unless you are a marksman, aim for center mass of the man’s body. Do not focus on legs or head or arms. It is harder to hit unless you are a crack shot. Your goal should be to take the man down so he cannot harm you. However, this, “Deadly Force” action should be a last resort, used only when there is no other alternative.

Situation #8... Strangers Arguing

You are walking down the street to get some fresh air. You are carrying a concealed weapon as you always do. Suddenly you see two men arguing and about to get into a fight. *What do you do?*

Strategy... Getting involved in someone else's' dispute could be bad for your health. You could end up being the target of their anger because you sought to stop their aggression towards each other.

The best action is to dial 911 and let the police handle the dispute. Then evaluate the situation to see if there are weapons being used in the fight. The only reason to get involved is to keep one from killing the other. If a firearm or knife is visible and about to be used against the other man, you can shout at them to stop and drop the weapons. Shooting the man that is armed may be the only way to save the unarmed man from being wounded or even killed.

Verifiable... Both men are armed and dangerous. *What then?* I suggest calling 911 to report the situation as you seek cover. Stay out of the fight and try to not be seen so one or both don't shoot at you.

You don't know if the two men are gang members, criminals or friends. The fact that both have guns and are about to use them on each other should tell you to keep out of sight and inform the police.

Do not participate in their gun battle. It's not you fight. However, if there is a survivor and he sees you, you may be in grave danger and then, only then, be prepared to defend yourself. Be sure to keep an open line to 911 so they know everything that you know.

Situation #9... Attempted Rape

Two men are dragging a screaming young girl into an alley where they intend on sexually assaulting her. *What do you do?*

Strategy... It is lawful to use deadly force to protect another human being from serious bodily harm. You may be the only one that can save the young girl from being raped.

Call 911 immediately. Do not rush into the alleyway. Survey the area to be sure you know how many men are involved and their location in proximity to the young girl. You don't want any surprises. You can draw your weapon and fire a warning shot yelling at the men to leave the girl alone. This may be all that is necessary to scare off the attackers. Take cover in case they have guns. In most cases, the men will run after hearing the 1st

shot fired. Let them run. Do not chase after them because you could run right into a trap. Give detailed info to the police and let them capture the men.

Variables... The men are armed and shoot back at you. *What should you do then?*

You are not a vigilante or volunteer cop. You are a responsible gun owner that is carrying a concealed firearm who just happened upon a crime being committed against a woman. Get out of the line of fire.

Stay connected to the 911 operators. Follow their instructions. Do not try to be a hero. The fact that you fired at the men, scaring them, will most likely stop the attempted rape.

You can still shoot again if necessary to keep them a bay but what you do not want is a gun battle. You will be out numbered and most likely with less ammo than they have. Stay out of sight if possible and aware at all times until the police arrive.

Situation # 10... Robbery While Shopping

You are just leaving the grocery store and walking through the parking lot to your car. As you get close to your vehicle, you see a man out of the corner of your eye, coming towards you. He is wearing a hooded sweatshirt and has his hand in his pocket as though holding a gun. You are carrying a concealed firearm. *What do you do?*

Strategy... Do not go to your car. Instead, head over towards where there are other people. Do not become isolated and alone. Go back into the store, if necessary, and call the manager to assist you in getting safely to your car. Report the suspicious men, however, realize that the man may just be a passerby and nothing more.

Variables...The suspicious man is in fact a bad guy and is looking to rob you. He has popped out of nowhere and is now 10 feet away from you as you unlock your door to load groceries. He says he has a gun and demands money. He is too close to run. *What now?*

If you can see him coming, you should have time to draw your weapon and have it racked. If he actually has caught you off guard and you have no time to react, you must assume that the man actually has a gun in his pocket, even though you cannot see it. However, he most likely, is not prepared to use it if he doesn't get his way. He is looking for a quick score, not a fight.

Do not challenge or threaten him. Instead, try to reason with him. You have a choice. Give him you money and hope he doesn't have a gun and runs away or stand your ground and fight to defend yourself.

If you decide to fight, try this...push him hard so he falls down and away from you. Pull your gun and shoot him as he scrambles to get back up. You will be reacting on the assumption that he has no gun. Let's hope you are right.

If you do not fight, the only other course of action is to give him your money and hope he doesn't shoot you. I'd rather stand my ground because most criminals are also cowards. When confronted, they run away. The choice is yours.

Situation # 11... Spouse Abuse

You and your spouse were arguing. Things get out of hand and end up in an all-out fight where your spouse attacks you with a baseball bat. After dodging the bat swings and running back and forth, you realize that your spouse's anger is way off the scale and you are in imminent serious danger. You know where the firearm is kept and can easily get to it. *What do you do?*

Strategy... Do you really want to shoot your spouse? Anger is not a good thing and has often led to serious violent behavior that is regretted later. Sometimes, the best course of action is to run. Get out of the house and run away. This will give your spouse time to calm down. Walking or running away from a fight is better than killing or being killed in an angry stupor.

Variable... Your spouse has a history of abusive behavior. *Now what?* Call 911 and get the abusive behavior on record with your local police department. Make arrangements to live elsewhere.

Demand marital counseling. Get a restraining order that will restrain your spouse from entering your location or stalking you. Get your concealed weapon license and carry a firearm for self-defense. Take self-defense courses and if things do not progress, file for a divorce.

You do not need to kill as a result of a domestic dispute. However, you do have a right to protect yourself from serious bodily harm. Using deadly force is or should always be a last resort.

Situation # 12... Run, Hide, Fight

Taken from Worldview.Strafor.com

Attack Recognition

Properly responding to danger actually begins well before the first shot is fired when people adopt a mindset that recognizes the world is a dangerous place and that they are ultimately responsible for their own safety.

Once a person understands the possibility of being targeted and decides to adopt an appropriate level of situational awareness, he or she will be mentally prepared to quickly realize that an attack is happening, something security professionals refer to as attack recognition.

The earlier a person recognizes that an attack is developing, the better chance he has to avoid it. But even once the attack has begun, a person can still keep it from being a successful one by quickly recognizing what is happening and getting away from the attack site by running or hiding — or fighting back if they cannot run or hide.

Finding The Attack Site

However, once a person has recognized that an attack is taking place, a critical step must be taken before he can decide to run, hide or fight: He must determine where the gunfire or threat is coming from. Without doing so, the victim could run blindly from a position of relative safety into danger. I certainly encourage anyone under attack to leave the attack site and run away from the danger, but one must first ascertain if he is in the attack site before taking action. Many times, the source of the threat will be evident and will not take much time to locate. But sometimes, depending on the location — whether in a building or on the street — the sounds of gunfire can echo, and it may take a few seconds to determine the direction it is coming from. In such a scenario, it is prudent to quickly take cover until the direction of the threat can be located. In some instances, there may even be more than one gunman, which can complicate escape plans.

Fortunately, most active shooters are not well trained. They tend to be poor marksmen who lack experience with their weapons. During the July 2012 shooting in Aurora, Colorado, James Holmes managed to kill only 12 people — despite achieving almost total tactical surprise in a fully packed movie theater — because of a combination of poor marksmanship and his inability to clear a jam in his rifle.

This typical lack of marksmanship implies that most people killed in active shooter situations are shot at close range. Thus, it behooves potential victims to move quickly to put as much distance between themselves and the threat. Even the act of moving, especially if moving away at an angle, makes one a much harder target for a poorly trained marksman to hit.

Concealment And Cover

It is also important to think about and distinguish between concealment and cover. Items that conceal, such as a bush, can hide you from the shooter's line of vision but will not protect you from bullets the way a substantial tree trunk will. Likewise, in an office setting, a typical drywall construction interior wall can provide concealment but not cover, meaning a shooter will still be able to fire through the walls and door. Still, if the shooter cannot see his or her target, they will be firing blindly rather than aiming their weapon, reducing the probability of hitting a target.

In any case, those hiding inside a room should attempt to find some sort of additional cover, such as a filing cabinet or heavy desk. It is always better to find cover than concealment, but even partial cover — something that will only deflect or fragment the projectiles — is preferable to no cover at all.

There are many examples from the recent Paris and Bamako armed assaults of people who ran away from the scene of the attacks and survived. In the Bamako attack there were also many people who barricaded themselves inside their hotel rooms and hid until the authorities could rescue them. The August 2015 incident aboard a Paris-bound train provided a good example of potential victims who were trapped aboard a train car and fought back to end an armed assault.

Some people have mocked the simplicity of run, hide, fight. But as these cases demonstrate, all three elements of this mantra can and do save lives.

Reasonable & Deadly Force

Florida Law

Reasonable Force

The general principle is that the law allows only reasonable force to be used in the circumstances and, what is reasonable is to be judged in the light of the circumstances as the accused believed them to be (whether reasonably or not).

In assessing whether a defendant had used only reasonable force, Lord Morris in *Palmer v R* [1971] AC 814, felt that a jury should be directed to look at the particular facts and circumstances of the case. His Lordship made the following points:

- * A person who is being attacked should not be expected to "weigh to a nicety the exact measure of his necessary defensive action".
- * If the jury thought that in the heat of the moment the defendant did what he honestly and instinctively thought was necessary then that would be strong evidence that only reasonable defensive action had been taken.
- * A jury will be told that the defence of self-defence will only fail if the prosecution show beyond reasonable doubt that what the accused did was not by way of self-defence.

Self-defense laws restrict the protections of such a defense for those who initiate the conflict. There are two ways a person can remain protected under self-defense laws if he was the one to start the conflict. The first is if he chose to leave the fight and informed the aggressor of his surrender, and the aggressor pursued him anyway. The second is if the other person responded to the presentation of a conflict with excessive force.

Deadly Force

Use of Deadly Force

There are two primary statutes in Florida outlining when the use of deadly force is justified so as to avoid criminal liability. Under Section 776.012, Florida Statutes

(Florida's "Stand Your Ground" Law), a person is justified in using deadly force (and does not have a duty to retreat) if he or she reasonably believes that such force is necessary to prevent the imminent commission of a forcible felony or to prevent imminent death or great bodily harm to himself or herself or another.

Under Section 782.02, Florida Statutes, the use of deadly force is further justified when a person is resisting any attempt to murder such person or to commit any felony upon him or her or upon or in any dwelling house in which the person is located.

If the defendant is in his or her home or vehicle, then, under Section 776.013, Florida Statutes, the law will presume that the defendant had a reasonable fear of imminent death or bodily harm if the alleged victim unlawfully entered or remained or attempted to remove another person against their will.

A person who unlawfully and by force enters or attempts to enter another's home or vehicle is furthermore presumed to be doing so with the intent to commit an unlawful act involving force or violence.

The presumption of reasonable fear of imminent death or great bodily harm does not apply if:

- (a) the person against whom the defensive force is used has the right to be in the home or vehicle, or
- (b) the person or persons sought to be removed is a child or grandchild, or is otherwise in the lawful custody or under the lawful guardianship of, the person against whom the defensive force is used, or
- (c) the person who uses defensive force is engaged in an unlawful activity or is using the home or vehicle to further an unlawful activity, or
- (d) the person against whom the defensive force is used is a law enforcement officer, who enters or attempts to enter the home or vehicle in the performance of his or her official duties and the officer properly identified his or herself (or the person reasonably should have known that it was a police officer).

If a defendant was not engaged in an unlawful activity and was attacked where he or she was allowed to be, then the defendant has no duty of retreat and has a right to use force, or even deadly force, if the defendant (under those circumstances) reasonably believed that his or her use of force was

necessary to prevent death or great bodily harm. This is the key provision of Florida's "Stand your Ground" law.

Remember, a responsible gun owner seeks their own self-defense and to protect their family. The use of "Deadly Force" is always seen as a last resort when other alternative actions fail.



Christianity And Deadly Force

Pastors Packing Guns is becoming a common occurrence. Many churches have established security officers that carry concealed weapons into worship services. Protecting the congregation is a top priority these days. Even Jerry Falwell Jr., President of Liberty University, has encourages his students and faculty to apply for a concealed permit and carry on campus.

Several underlying questions still haunt many Christians. Questions like killing another human being, yes or no?; using deadly force when love and tolerance is the order of the day, yes or no?; when the golden rule is the mental and emotional directive, true or false? What do the Jerry Falwell Jr. Christians know that other Christians do not? Should deadly force and gun control even be discussion topics in our Christian life?

“How Should A Christian View Gun Control?” Excerpts From Got/Questions.com

Answer: The recent shootings across the United States have caused much heartache. The senseless and tragic incidents have also renewed the intensity of discussion regarding American gun laws. Politicians, sportsmen, and theologians have all weighed in on the issue of gun control. Guns are readily available in the U.S. and ownership is protected by the Constitution. How should a Christian view gun control? What does the Bible have to say?

The Bible was written long before the invention of any type of gun, so the phrase “gun control” will not be found in Scripture. However, the Bible records many accounts of wars, battles, and the use of weapons. Warfare is presented as an inevitable part of living in a fallen sinful world (Mark 13:7; James 4:1), and weaponry is a necessary part of warfare.

Weapons in the Bible were also used for personal protection. In some parts of Israel, robbers were common (see Luke 10:30), and many people carried weapons when they traveled. Carrying a weapon for self-defense is never condemned in the Bible. In fact, Jesus Himself mentioned it in a positive light on one occasion (Luke 22:35-38).

Christians are called to submit to governing authorities, and they are to obey the laws of the land (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17). This would have to apply to gun laws, too. If American gun laws change for the worst, American Christians should submit to them and work through a non-violent democratic means toward any desired alternatives.

The Bible does not forbid the possession of weapons, and neither does it command such possession. Laws may come and go, but the goal of the believer in Jesus Christ remains the same: to glorify the Lord (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Another biblical principle to consider is that “all who live by the sword will die by the sword” (Matthew 26:52). Jesus said this to Peter when Peter tried to mount an imprudent “defense” of Jesus against the mob that had come to arrest Him. Peter’s actions were not only futile against such a “large crowd armed with swords and clubs” (verse 47), but his rash behavior also belied Jesus’ submissive attitude (verse 50) and worked against the fulfillment of Scripture (verse 54). There is “a time for war and a time for peace” (Ecclesiastes 3:8), and Peter confused the two.

Christianity supports personal freedom. Romans 14:1-4 indicates that, when Scripture does not clearly address a particular issue, there is freedom for individual choice. America has historically embraced the concept of personal freedom that resonates with this principle, and the founding documents, (2nd Amendment), guarantee wide freedoms regarding firearms.

Some point to Matthew 5:9, in which Jesus pronounces a blessing on the peacemakers, and apply it to the issue of gun control. The idea is that guns are antithetical to peace. This may be more of a philosophical or political idea than a theological one, however. There is nothing theologically, or even logically, that links guns to a lack of peace; sometimes, guns help *maintain* civil peace.

Debates over *whether* to control guns or *how much* to control them depend largely on political and philosophical arguments, not moral ones. This is not to say that there is no moral component to the issue. Obviously, the gun itself is amoral, an object that can be used for good or for evil. More important is the morality of the person wielding the gun, and that is too often the missing consideration in the gun control argument. The fact that

some sinners use guns to commit sin does not mean guns are the problem. Sin is the problem, and that's a moral and spiritual issue. Since the very beginning of humanity, people have been killing other people, with and without weapons (see Genesis 4). Taking a certain weapon out of circulation might make murder more difficult but by no means impossible.

As far as the Bible is concerned, the use of guns is a matter of personal conviction. There is nothing unspiritual about owning a gun or knowing how to use one. There is nothing wrong with protecting yourself or loved ones. We should seek to neutralize threats without violence whenever possible.

Carrying A Concealed Weapon

From A Christian Perspective

If you are like me, you are a Christian. You have given your life to God by making Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior. You now seek, with all your heart, to do the will of God.

That brings up two serious questions as to Christians carrying a gun with the intent of using it if necessary. The questions are: "Is God ok with His children concealing a weapon that can kill another human being and is He ok with His children using deadly force in their self-defense?"

Those that argue against the use of guns by Christians say that it is a serious violation of one of the 10-commandments, "Thou Shall Not Kill!" To kill or be killed is always a possibility in a home invasion. Are we going against the will of God by using deadly force? Is concealing a loaded firearm an act of rebellion? Gun control advocates say, yes. They refer to scripture passages that promote submissiveness like, "Turn the other cheek; Obey government officials; Pray for those that persecute you; and so forth."

On the other hand, the Bible is full of historical accounts where the children of God used deadly force to protect themselves. Some examples are: when King David fought and won over his enemies with the approval of God. David & Goliath is a prime example. So did Samson and many others. Even Abraham after the Slaughter of The Kings, when he rescued Lot was greeted and blessed by Melchizedek, the king of Salem and Priest of God. (Hebrews 7:1& Gen. 14:17) All through history God supported His children in using deadly force to defend themselves.

The confusion comes from the idea that Christians should be submissive in all things and stay passive. This was not the case when Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt and into their promised land. They took it by force in obedience to the command of God. However, Jesus talks about submission to those in authority and those that persecuted them. It should be noted that the persecution was religious in nature. The Christian turned the other cheek because he or she was being exposed to ignorant religious hate. In no account did Jesus say not to defend himself or herself from a burglar or a violent attacker.

So, here's my question. "How should a Christian view gun ownership?" There are good reasons to allow law-abiding citizens to own guns. Ultimately, guns are not the problem. People are the problem. The 2nd amendment gives us the right to own and bear arms. The U. S. government cannot prevent gun ownership. They, however, can control it. We, as Christians, should speak up in support of our 2nd amendment rights and take responsibility in using deadly force if necessary but only as a last resort. This, I believe, is God's will. That is why I feel comfortable with my decision to carry a concealed weapon and am ok with using deadly force if necessary. My motives are pure...to defend my family and myself. That's what a Christian perspective is all about.

!!! Remember !!!

Your Greatest Defense Is God

Psalm 34:7 tells us... "The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them." NKJV

To fear the Lord is to reverence Him in all that you do. Do this & God's angel will set up his camp of "Warring Angels" all Around you to protect you and even deliver you form harm.

Conclusion

After many hours of research, interviews and deliberation, I have come to the following conclusions:

1. If only 1 in 1,000 experience a home invasion, the odds are 1,000 to 1 that it will not happen to me.
2. If 28% of all home invasions find homeowners at home, there is a 72% chance that I will be out of the house and safe from violence should it ever happen to me.
3. If only 7% experience a violent encounter with an intruder during a home invasion, there is a 93% chance that, should I be home during a home invasion, I will not encounter a violent act of aggression.
4. If only 5.6% of burglaries occur among Senior Citizens, there is a 94.4% chance that it will not happen to me.
5. If most home invasions occur in the top 10 counties of Florida, and the tri-county area, (Marion, Lake & Sumter), is not one of them, the odds are even greater that it will not happen to me.
6. If I have been diligent in conducting a Home Safety Inspection and now have a burglar alarm, bolted front door, two barking dogs and two loaded handguns ready to go, there is a much less chance of being targeted than if I did nothing.

7. If God is for me, who can be against me? Whoever it is cannot defeat the armies of God.

These are pretty good odds against becoming a victim of violent crime. However, because this world is full of sin and evil lurks around every corner, it is prudent to be ready at all times.

Glossary Of Terms

1911 ...The Colt-Browning United States Government Model of 1911 .45 automatic pistol. (Any pistol that uses the same design.)

ACP ...Abbreviation for Automatic Colt Pistol and used with caliber designations such as 25 ACP, 32 ACP, 380 ACP, and 45 ACP.

AD ...Accidental Discharge. A term incorrectly used to identify a negligent discharge. Following the three basic safety rules of handling a firearm is no accident. Not following them can lead to a negligent discharge. Firearms safety is no accident.

ACTION... Action is the working mechanism of a firearm. Various types exist, including single-shots, multi-barrels, revolvers, slide- or pump-actions, lever-actions, bolt-actions, semi-automatics and automatics.

AIR GUN... Not a firearm but a gun that uses compressed air or CO2 to propel a projectile. Examples: BB gun, pellet gun, CO2 gun.

AMBIDEXTROUS SAFETY...A manual, external safety that can be easily reached with either hand. It often features dual levers, with one lever on each side of the firearm.

AMMUNITION... (**Ammo is a shortened version of Ammunition**) This generally refers to the assembled components of complete cartridges or rounds i.e., a case or shell holding a primer, a charge of propellant (gunpowder) and a projectile (bullets in the case of handguns and rifles, multiple pellets or single slugs in shotguns). Sometimes called "fixed ammunition" to differentiate from components inserted separately in muzzleloaders.

ANTIQUE... By federal definition, a firearm manufactured prior to 1899 or a firearm for which ammunition is not generally available or a firearm incapable of firing fixed ammunition.

ARMOR-PIERCING AMMUNITION... By federal definition, "a projectile or projectile core which may be used in a handgun and which is constructed entirely (excluding the presence of traces of other substances) from one or a combination of tungsten alloys, steel, iron, brass, bronze, beryllium copper, or depleted uranium.

ASSAULT RIFLE... By U.S. Army definition... a selective-fire rifle chambered for a cartridge of intermediate power. If applied to any semi-automatic firearm regardless of its cosmetic similarity to a true assault rifle, the term is incorrect.

ASSAULT WEAPON... Any weapon used in an assault.

AUTOLOADER ...A semi-automatic pistol, shotgun, or rifle.

AUTOMATIC.... A firearm designed to feed cartridges, fire them, eject their empty cases and repeat this cycle as long as the trigger is depressed and cartridges remain in the feed system. Examples: machine guns, submachine guns, selective-fire rifles, including true assault rifles.

AUTOMATIC PISTOL... A term used often to describe what is actually a semi-automatic pistol. It is, technically, a misnomer but a near-century of use has legitimized it, and its use confuses only the novice.

BACKSTRAP... The part of a pistol that is exposed at the rear of the grip.

BALL... Originally a spherical projectile, now generally a fully jacketed bullet of cylindrical profile with round or pointed nose. Most commonly used in military terminology.

BALLISTICS ...The study of what happens to moving projectiles. Internal/Interior Ballistics studies what happens inside the firearm from the moment of ignition until it leaves the barrel. Exterior/External Ballistics studies the motion of the projectile after it leaves the barrel. Terminal Ballistics studies the projectile's impact on the target.

BARREL ...Rifled or smooth tube that the bullet when fired travels down before exiting the firearm.

BATTERY...Most firearms do not have literal batteries. But a firearm is said to be *in battery* when the breech is fully closed and locked, ready to fire. When the breech is open or unlocked, the gun is *out of battery* and no attempt should be made to fire it. A semi-automatic is *out of battery* when the slide fails to come all the way forward again after the gun has fired, making it dangerous or impossible to fire the next round. This condition can be created by a misfeed, a dirty gun, weak springs, the shooter's thumbs brushing against the slide, riding the slide, or any of several other causes.

BLANK CARTRIDGE... A round loaded with black powder or a special smokeless powder but lacking a projectile. Used mainly in starting races, theatrical productions, troop exercises and in training dogs.

BLOWBACK ACTION... A system where the pressure and energy from the cartridge discharge pushing rearward against the empty cartridge case is used to operate the unloading and loading cycle of a semi-automatic or automatic firearm.

BODY ARMOR...Material that can stop certain bullets. It is manufactured in different resistant levels, light weight and usually made of Kevlar.

BOLT-ACTION.... A gun mechanism activated by manual operation of the breechblock that resembles a common door bolt.

BORE... The interior of a firearm's barrel excluding the chamber.

BRASS A synonym for expended metallic cartridge cases.

BREECH ...The rear of the barrel into which the cartridge or propellant is inserted. Also called chamber.

BULLET PROOF VEST ...Slang for body armor. No vest is bullet proof. They are manufactured in different grades to stop certain bullets. They are rated in Levels.

CALIBER ...The nominal diameter of a projectile of a rifled firearm or the diameter between lands in a rifled barrel. In this country, usually expressed in hundreds of an inch; in Great Britain in thousandths; in Europe and elsewhere in millimeters.

CARBINE... A rifle with a relatively short barrel. Any rifle or carbine with a barrel less than 16" long must be registered with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. Shotguns with barrels less than 18" long fall into the same category.

CARTRIDGE... A single, complete round of ammunition.

CASE, CASING... The envelope (container) of a cartridge. For rifles and handguns it is usually of brass or other metal; for shotguns it is usually of paper or plastic with a metal head and is more often called a "shell."

CCW ...1. "Carry Concealed Weapon" To carry a handgun concealed.
"Concealed Carry Weapon" A permit/license to carry a concealed firearm.

CFP ...Carry Firearms Permit. A permit/license to carry a concealed firearm.

CHL ...Concealed Handgun License. A license to carry a concealed firearm.

CPL ...Concealed Pistol License. A license to carry a concealed firearm.

CWL ...Concealed Weapons License. A license to carry a concealed firearm.

CONTROLLED PAIR...Two shots fired in rapid succession. It is distinguished from a double tap because in a controlled pair, the second shot will be fired after the shooter has obtained a second sight picture, whereas in a double tap both shots are fired based upon the initial sight picture alone.

CYLINDER ...The drum of a revolver that contains the chambers for the ammunition.

CYLINDER GAP ...The maximum space between the cylinder and the barrel.

CYLINDER STOP... A device in a revolver to stop cylinder rotation that aligns the chamber containing the cartridge to be fired with the firing pin at the rear and the barrel at the front.

DOUBLE ACTION ONLY...Some pistols and revolvers can only be trigger cocked and are impossible to thumb cock. Even though it drives traditionalists nuts, these are called double-action-only firearms.

DEADLY FORCE (Lethal Force)... That degree of force that is likely to cause death or grave bodily injury.

DECOCKING LEVER... It allows for the hammer to be decocked with the aid of a lever, and, on some pistols, may also be positioned to prohibit firing of a weapon if the trigger is pulled.

DERRINGER... A small single-shot or multi-barreled (rarely more than two) pocket pistol.

DOUBLE-ACTION... A handgun mechanism where pulling the trigger retracts and releases the hammer or firing pin to initiate discharge.

DOUBLE ACTION / SINGLE ACTION ...DA/SA firearms are designed to operate in *double action* on the initial shot, and in *single action* on the second and subsequent shots. Consequently, these guns tend to have a long, heavy trigger pull for the first shot, and a relatively short and light trigger pull for subsequent shots. This is because the first trigger pull gets the internal parts into position, while the energy from the first shot is used to prep the mechanism for follow-up shots.

DRY FIRING ...Aiming and firing the weapon without live ammunition. This is an excellent technique to improve marksmanship skills, however, check with your gun manufacture to be sure it's ok for the type of gun you own. It can cause damage to certain weapons.

DUMMY ROUND ...Cartridge containing a bullet but no propellant, and an inert primer. Used for safe demonstration of loading procedure, testing of rifle actions, etc. Usually identifiable by hole drilled through case wall.

EJECTION PORT...The opening through which the empty, spent ammunition case is cast out of a firearm.

EJECTOR ...The mechanism that throws the cartridge case free from the gun.

EMERGENCY RELOAD ...is the reload in which you have spent all the rounds from your magazine/cylinder and your slide is locked back and the magazine is empty or the cylinder no longer contains any live ammo and the firearm must be reloaded to fire again.

EXTERNAL SAFETY...A safety that is placed on the outer surfaces of the firearm and is accessible to the user. Not all external safeties require user attention. For instance, a grip safety is an external safety, but requires no deliberate act on the part of the shooter in order to do its job.

EXTRACTOR...A hook device that pulls the case out of a chamber as the breech mechanism is opened. (The extractor generally brings the case within reach of the ejector, which then flips it out of the gun.)

EXPLODING BULLET A projectile containing an explosive component that acts on contact with the target. Seldom found and generally ineffective as such bullets lack the penetration necessary for defense.

FAILURE TO EXTRACT ...A semi-automatic firearm malfunction in which the extractor fails to yank the old case out of the way as the slide travels back, so the spent case is still in the chamber as the slide on its return journey tries to stuff the new round into the same space. A failure to extract often causes a double feed malfunction.

FAILURE TO FEED ...A semi-automatic firearm malfunction in which the slide passes entirely over the fresh round, failing to pick it up to insert in the chamber as the slide returns to battery. Failures-to-feed and misfeeds are closely related malfunctions, and the two problems often share a root cause.

FAILURE TO FIRE ...Any malfunction which results in nothing happening when the trigger is pulled. Most commonly caused by a failure to feed the ammunition properly into the chamber, a failure to fire can also be caused by bad ammunition or by a broken firing pin.

FEEDING RAMP ...Upward sloping, slightly concave metal ramp immediately below and in front of the chamber mouth, to guide the cartridge in its travel from magazine to chamber.

FIREARM... A rifle, shotgun or handgun using gunpowder as a propellant. By federal definition, under the 1968 Gun Control Act, antiques are excepted. Under the National Firearms Act, the word designates machine guns, etc. Air guns are not firearms.

FIRING PIN... The part of the breech mechanism that strikes the primer of the cartridge.

FIXED AMMUNITION A complete cartridge of several obsolete types and of today's rimfire and center-fire versions.

FLASH HIDER/FLASH SUPPRESSOR A muzzle attachment intended to reduce visible muzzle flash caused by the burning propellant.

FLINCH... To move or jerk a firearm involuntarily while shooting.

FOLLOW-THROUGH...The continued mental and physical application of marksmanship fundamentals after each round has been fired.

fpe ...Acronym for Foot Pounds of Energy. If you know the velocity and weight of a bullet you can figure its Foot Pounds of Energy.

fps...Acronym for Feet Per Second, the common units for expressing bullet velocity.

FRONT STRAP...The surface of the forward part of the handgun grip.

GAUGE... The bore size of a shotgun determined by the number of round lead balls of bore diameter that equals a pound.

Grain, gram... A unit of weight used in the U.S. for powder and bullets. There are 7,000 grains in a pound.

GRIP ...The small portion of the stock gripped by the trigger hand.

GRIP SAFETY... In some handguns, such as the venerable .45 Colt semi-automatic pistol, an auxiliary locking device located on the grip prevents firing until it is depressed.

HALF COCK... The position of the hammer when it is being retracted and held by the sear so it cannot be released by a normal pull of the trigger.

HAMMER ...The part of the action that drives the firing pin forward.

HAMMER BLOCK... A safety device that separates the hammer from the firing pin except when the trigger is pulled.

HAMMER SPUR... The extension on an exposed hammer that acts as a cocking aid.

HAMMERLESS... A firearm whose hammer and striker (firing pin) are concealed within the metal frame.

HANDGUN... Synonym for pistol.

HANGFIRE ...Extended delay (up to a second or more) between the firing pin blow and the ignition of the powder, usually caused by old or contaminated primer/propellant which ignites slower than usual. 1. Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. 2. Count

to ten SLOWLY. 3. With the opening in the action pointed away from your face, eject the cartridge and examine it. 4. Attempt to determine the cause of the failure.

HIGH-CAPACITY MAGAZINE... An inexact, non-technical term indicating a magazine holding more rounds than might be considered "average."

HP (Hollow-Point) A bullet with a concavity in its nose to increase expansion on penetration of a solid target.

IWB ...Inside Waist Band. A type of holster that fits inside the pants at the belt line.

ISOSCELES STANCE ...The gun is held thrust straight out from of the body, with both elbows locked in place. Thus, the arms and upper body form an isosceles triangle when seen from above. Modern Isosceles positions the lower body to fight or run. The feet will be shoulder width apart, knees slightly flexed, with the strong-side foot roughly a half-step behind the weak-side foot. Shoulders will be forward of the hips, and hips forward of the knees.

J FRAME...Small Frame S&W Revolver. Usually holds 5 rounds with 2” Barrel.

JACKET... The envelope enclosing the core of a bullet.

JAM ...A malfunction which locks up the gun so badly that tools are required in order to fix it. Sometimes used to denote a simple malfunction, but many people do make a distinction between a complete jam and a simple malfunction.

JHP...Jacket Hollow Point... A type of bullet that is designed to expand when it strikes its target.

JSP... Jacketed soft-point, a type of bullet generally used for hunting and not self-defense.

KEYHOLE... The elongated hole formed by an unstable bullet hitting the target sideways due to the failure to remain balanced in flight.

Laser ... As used around firearms, a laser is an alternative sighting device similar to a laser pointer, which enables the shooter to quickly and accurately see where the firearm is aimed even when lighting or other conditions preclude being able to use the gun's normal sights. Lasers may be located within or hung from accessory rails at the front end of the gun, or even placed within the firearm itself as part of the guide rod.

Laser Grip ...A type of aftermarket firearms grip which contains a pressure-activated laser pointer which enables the shooter to quickly and accurately see where the firearm is aimed even when lighting or other conditions preclude being able to see the sights.

LEADING ...Fouling of a firearm bore by metal particles from bullets adhering to the metal surface caused by heat or friction.

LETHAL FORCE (Deadly Force)... That degree of force that is likely to cause death or grave bodily injury.

LIGHT DOUBLE ACTION ...A double-action semi-automatic firearm that is designed to have a much lighter pull than is usual for a double action.

MAGAZINE... A spring-loaded container for cartridges that may be an integral part of the gun's mechanism or may be detachable. Detachable magazines for the same gun may be offered by the gun's manufacturer or other manufacturers with various capacities. A gun with a five-shot detachable magazine, for instance, may be fitted with a magazine holding 10, 20, or 50 or more rounds. Box magazines are most commonly located under the receiver with the cartridges stacked vertically. Tube or tubular magazines run through the stock or under the barrel with the cartridges lying horizontally. Drum magazines hold their cartridges in a circular mode. A magazine can also mean a secure storage place for ammunition or explosives.

MAGAZINE SAFETY...Also called a "magazine disconnect." A device that prevents a pistol from being discharged when the magazine is removed. (Warning: These devices are not always reliable.)

MAGAZINE WELL...The opening in the bottom of the gun into which a box magazine feeds. On a semi-auto handgun, the magazine well is at the base of the grip; on a rifle, it is usually placed somewhere ahead of the trigger guard.

MAGNUM... A term indicating a relatively heavily loaded metallic cartridge or shot shell and, by extension, a gun safely constructed to fire it.

MAINSRING... A strong spring, aka an energy storage device that operates the striker or hammer of a firearm.

MANUAL SAFETY...A safety which the shooter must deliberately disengage in order to fire the gun. All manual safeties are also external safeties, but not all external safeties are manual safeties as well.

MISFEED...In semi-automatic firearms, a failure of the next round to completely enter the chamber. A misfeed can keep the gun from going into battery, which in turn may prevent the gun from firing. Misfeeds and failures to feed are closely related: a failure to feed is a round that never even leaves the top of the magazine, while a misfeed is a round that leaves the magazine but does not enter the chamber.

MOON CLIP...A circular loading device for revolvers, similar to a speedloader in that it holds the ammunition together and facilitates quick loading. Unlike a speedloader, however, a moon clip is designed specifically for rimless cartridges (such as 9mm Luger or .45 ACP), and it becomes an integral part of the revolver while firing.

MOUSE GUN ...A gently derogatory name for any handgun that fires a small caliber.

MULTI-BARRELED... A gun with more than one barrel, the most common being the double-barreled shotgun.

MUSHROOMED BULLET A description of a bullet whose forward diameter has expanded after penetration.

MUZZLE... The open end of the barrel from which the projectile exits.

MUZZLE BLAST... The loud noise that occurs at the muzzle of a firearm when the projectile leaves the muzzle and hot gases are released into the air.

MUZZLE BRAKE... An attachment to or integral part of the barrel intended to trap and divert expanding gasses and reduce recoil.

MUZZLE ENERGY... A bullet's energy, measured in foot pounds, as it emerges from the muzzle.

MUZZLE FLASH... The bright flash or illumination at the muzzle of the firearm that results from propellant particles emerging from the barrel behind the projectile and igniting when mixed with oxygen in the air.

MUZZLE FLIP... (Muzzle Rise) Movement of the end of the firearm (Muzzle) upward when the firearm is discharged.

NEGLIGENT DISCHARGE... A term that is used to refer to unintended discharge of a firearm that causes bodily injury, property damage, etc. Gun advocates and proponents debate whether it should be synonymous with accidental discharge.

OFF HAND ...To fire while standing, without bracing against a bench, bipod, tree, or any other rest. Also refers to the non-dominant hand.

OUT OF BATTERY... The condition where the breeching mechanism is not in proper position for firing.

OVER-TRAVEL...Immediately after the trigger break which fires the shot, the trigger should be unable to move any further to the rear. If it is able to continue moving to the rear after the shot has fired, the trigger is said to over-travel.

OWB...Outside Waist Band. A type of holster worn outside the waistband.

P+ AMMUNITION (+p and +p+) ...Many calibers are available in both standard and +p or +p+ variants. Ammunition marked +p produces more power and higher pressures than the standard ammunition produced in that caliber, while ammunition marked +p+ produces even more power and pressure than the +p loading.

PARABELLUM ...Means "prepare for war." From a Latin maxim--si vis pacem, para bellum--"If you want peace, prepare for war." The European designation of the Luger pistol and (today more commonly) the 9mm cartridge it chambered.

PASSIVE SAFETY...Any safety, internal or external, which functions apart from the shooter's conscious control. Grip safeties are one example of a passive external safety; drop safeties are an example of a passive internal safety.

PEACABLE JOURNEY LAW... State laws concerning traveling through the state with a loaded firearm on you or in the vehicle without a permit. Some states allow for traveling through their state and keeping the firearm on you if you don't stop.

PEPPER SPRAY... (Oleoresin Capsicum) is a derivative of Hot Cayenne peppers. OC is much more efficient as compared to CN and CS; it's an inflammatory agent. Upon contact, it causes an intense burning sensation, temporary blindness, restricted breathing and disorientation. The effect of OC can last from 15 to 60 minutes depending on a concentration. Unlike CN and CS, OC perfectly affects on dogs, drunken and drug affected people. OC is a natural irritant, that's why it's much more innocuous in comparison with the chemical irritants.

PISTOL... Synonymous with "handgun." A gun that is generally held in one hand. It may be of the single-shot, multi-barrel, repeating or semi-automatic variety and includes revolvers.

PISTOL GRIP... The handle of a handgun or protrusion on the butt stock or fore-end of a shoulder-operated gun that resembles the grip or handle of a handgun. A "semi-pistol grip" is one less pronounced than normal; a "vertical pistol grip" is more pronounced than normal.

PLINKING... Informal shooting at any of a variety of inanimate targets. The most often practiced shooting sport in this country.

POA...Point Of Aim

POI ...Point Of Impact

POINT SHOOTING...Shooting without using the sights. Instead of using sights, point shooters use body position or other cues to provide a rough index of where the shots will land. Point shooting is a source of much controversy in the shooting community, especially online.

PORTING ...May mean either lowering the ejection port of a self-loading pistol to ensure greater reliability and less damage to cases or the practice of drilling gas vents in a barrel to reduce muzzle jump. The proprietary Mag-na-port system is a well-known example of this.

PRIMARY GUN... The first pistol you draw when a firearm is needed. Typically loaded with medium to large caliber rounds.

PRIMER... The ignition component of a cartridge generally made up of a metallic fulminate or (currently) lead styphnate.

PRINTING...A condition in which the outline of the concealed handgun may be discerned through the outer clothing. The firearm itself is not visible, but its presence and shape may be readily apparent to an observer.

PROPELLANT... In a firearm the chemical composition that is ignited by the primer to generate gas. In air or pellet guns, compressed air or CO2.

RACKING THE SLIDE...A semi-automatic term that means pulling the slide back to its rearmost position, and then letting it go forward under its own spring tension. If the magazine is loaded and inserted in the gun, racking the slide loads the chamber and prepares the gun to fire.

RAILS ...The usually metal surfaces upon which a semi-automatic's slide travels to and fro when each shot is fired. For proper function, they need to be clean and wear a light coating of oil.

RECEIVER... The housing for a firearm's breech (portion of the barrel with chamber into which a cartridge or projectile is loaded) and firing mechanism.

RECIPROCITY... A mutual exchange of privileges. When two states agree to honor each others privilege of carrying concealed firearms it is called reciprocity.

RECOGNITION... A unilateral action by one jurisdiction (state) to honor a permit or license from another jurisdiction.

RECOIL... The rearward or opposite force or movement of a firearm caused by and equal to the force the firing or moving the projectile forward. Commonly called kick and measured in foot-pounds.

RECOIL SPRING ...The recoil spring is the powerful spring that cushions the slide in its rearward travel and then sends the slide forward again with enough force to drive the fresh round firmly into the chamber.

REVOLVER... A gun, usually a handgun, with a multi-chambered cylinder that rotates to successively align each chamber with a single barrel and firing pin.

RIFLE... A shoulder gun with rifled bore.

RIFLING... Spiral grooves in a gun's bore that spin the projectile in flight and impart accuracy. Rifling is present in all true rifles, in most handguns and in some shotgun barrels designed for increasing the accuracy potential of slugs (a slug is a single projectile rather than the more common "shot".)

RIMFIRE ...A rimmed or flanged cartridge with the priming mixture located inside the rim of the case. The most famous example is the .22 rim fire. It has been estimated that between 3-4 billion .22 cartridges are loaded in the U.S. each year.

ROUND.... Synonym for a cartridge.

SAFETY...A device that blocks the firing mechanism of a firearm.

SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL... a pejorative or slang term used in the United States for any inexpensive handgun. It is sometimes called an SNS in written shorthand. Traditionally, Saturday night specials have often been defined as compact, inexpensive handguns with a barrel length of under three inches (for pistols, overall length of under six inches) and low perceived quality, although there is no official definition of "Saturday night special" under any federal or state law.

SAWED-OFF SHOTGUN (RIFLE)... Common term for federally restricted "short-barreled shotgun (rifle)" i.e. a conventional shotgun with barrel less than 18" (rifle less than 16") or overall length less than 26."

SEAR ...The portion of a firing mechanism that holds a hammer or striker cocked.

SELECTIVE-FIRE... A firearm's ability to be fired fully automatically, semi-automatically or, in some cases, in burst-fire mode at the option of the firer.

SEMI-AUTOMATIC... A firearm designed to fire a single cartridge, eject the empty case and reload the chamber each time the trigger is pulled.

SIGHT ALIGNMENT... The manner in which the sights are lined up properly in front of the shooter's eye, to form a straight path to the target at the moment the trigger is pulled.

SIGHT PICTURE ...What the shooter sees when looking through the sights at the target at the moment the trigger is pulled.

SNUB-NOSED... Descriptive of (usually) a revolver with an unusually short barrel.

SLIDE LOCK...When most semi-automatic firearms have been fired until empty, the slide will remain in its rearmost position rather than going forward as if to chamber another round. This condition of the gun is called slide lock.

SLIDE RELEASE...The slide release lever, usually located on the left side of the slide, is pushed down to unlock the slide and allow the slide to move forward into its normal position. It is sometimes called the slide stop or slide stop lever.

SLIDE STOP...The slide release lever.

SNAP CAP ...A type of dummy round. An inert ammunition-shaped object, used in practice to simulate misfeeds and other malfunctions. Some folks also use them in dry fire practice.

SPEEDLOADER... A circular gadget that holds revolver cartridges preparatory to loading them into the revolver's cylinder. It holds the rounds in the correct configuration to plunk all of them at once straight into the chambers.

STAGGERED COLUMN MAGAZINE... A box magazine that has two staggered columns of cartridges that increase capacity but not length of the magazine.

STOVEPIPE...Malfunction occurring when a case gets stuck between the breech face and the slide.

STRIKER FIRED ...A striker is a form of firing pin that replaces the hammer and firing pin with a single unit. So a striker-fired handgun is a semi-automatic that uses a striker, rather than a hammer or a firing pin, to hit the primer and fire the round.

SUBMACHINE GUN... An automatic firearm commonly firing pistol ammunition intended for close-range combat.

TACTICAL RELOAD...is the reload in which you encounter a lull in the gunfight and you have time to top off your firearm to bring it back to its maximum ammo capacity. You know you have shot some ammo from your firearm so placing yourself behind cover you remove the magazine from your firearm and replace it with a full magazine. With a revolver replace the spent cartridges or dump the contents of your cylinder into your hand and keep the live rounds and reload the cylinder with a speed loader.

TAP, RACK, BANG...The slang term for the procedure to clear a misfeed. To clear a misfeed, tap the base of the magazine firmly to be sure it is properly seated, rack the slide to eject an empty case or feed a new round, and assess to be sure your target still needs shooting. If it does, bang.

TEFLON... Trade name for a synthetic sometimes used to coat hard bullets to protect the rifling. Other synthetics, nylon for instance, have also been used as bullet coatings. None of these soft coatings has any effect on lethality.

THUMB BREAK ...A type of retention device built into some holsters, consisting of a strap of holster material that must be unsnapped or levered off the gun before the gun can

be removed from the holster. It is called a thumb break because the shooter's thumb is most often used to accomplish this task.

THUMB SAFETY...An external, manual safety that is typically disengaged with the firing-hand thumb.

TMJ...Total Metal Jacket [bullet design]

TRANSFER BAR...A revolver safety mechanism that delivers the force of the hammer blow to the firing pin by means of an intermediary piece of metal that rises into firing position only when the trigger is pulled.

TRIGGER...The part of a firearm mechanism that releases the firing pin.

TRIGGER GUARD...A metal loop around the trigger designed to protect it.


TRIGGER PULL...The entire process of moving the trigger from its forward most position to its rearward most position, causing the hammer to fall and the shot to fire.

TRIGGER PULL WEIGHT ...How much pressure the trigger finger must put on the trigger before the gun will fire. Trigger pull weight is measured in pounds and ounces.

TRIGGER SAFETY...An external, passive safety that can be found on the face of some trigger designs (most notably found on Glock firearms). It is intended to prevent the trigger from being pulled by objects that find their way into the trigger guard area.

WEAPON... Webster defines it as "an instrument of offensive or defensive combat." Thus an automobile, baseball bat, bottle, chair, firearm, fist, penknife or shovel is a "weapon," if so used.

WEAVER STANCE...In the Weaver stance, the body is angled slightly in relation to the target rather than squarely facing it. The elbows are flexed and pointed downward. The strong-side arm is slightly straighter than the weak-side arm. The shooter pushes out with the gun hand, while the weak hand pulls back. This produces a push-pull tension, which is the chief defining characteristic of the Weaver stance.

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Self-Help True/False Test

The following pages are a self-help multiple-choice test and the correct answers. It's time to find out what you remember from all that you have read.

Gun Safety Concealed Carry & Self-Defense

This self-help test is designed to measure your recall ability after reading and studying your Home Resource Guide. It will surely identify areas that didn't register in your memory and where further review is recommended. There are 60 True/False question.

Print the test, answer the questions and then go to pages 75 & 76 to check your answers.

1. A basic gun safety course is all that is needed to obtain a concealed carry license in the state of Florida. **__ True __ False**
2. Ongoing education is necessary for only those that want to be an instructor. **__ True __ False**
3. A "**Backstrap**" is the strap that goes over your shoulder to carry your range bag. **__ True __ False**
4. A Semi-Automatic weapon will keep shooting as long as you keep the trigger depressed. **__ True __ False**
5. The, "Breech" is also called the Chamber which is the back of the barrel of a gun where the cartridge is inserted. **__ True __ False**
6. A single action revolver means you have to pull back on the hammer before you can fire the gun. **__ True __ False**
7. The only way to clear a Jam/Malfunction is to take the gun entirely apart to be sure it is fully clear of gunpowder. **__ True __ False**
8. The magazine well is the opening at the bottom of the gun into which the magazine feeds. **__ True __ False**
9. A responsible gun owner is actually a, "Freelance Policeman" and should be ready at all times to defend others that may be in trouble. **__ True __ False**

10. Florida Law tells us we can “Stand Our Ground” if and when we are attacked by an assailant. **__True __False**
11. The concealed Carry Law refers only to handguns. No knives or other objects. **__True __False**
12. A CCWL grants you the right to carry concealed in any state. **__True __False**
13. You do not have to reveal the fact that you are carrying a concealed weapon to a law enforcement officer unless he or she asks you if you have a weapon. **__True __False**
14. Any gun owner can use deadly force against a threat of deadly force. **__True __False**
15. It’s ok to point my gun at someone else if it isn’t loaded. **__True __False**
16. Little children can hold and handle a real weapon as long as an adult supervises them. **__True __False**
17. “Muscle Memory” is the ability to remember what hand mussels to use in gripping your weapon. **__True __False**
18. The “Weaver Stance” is where the shooter is more at an angle to the target with arms bent. **__True __False**
19. The, ”Teacup” grip is the best possible grip to enhance shooting accuracy. **__True __False**
20. Your “Dominant Eye” is the eye that best keeps the target in focus. **__True __False**
21. “Riding The Slide” is a term that refers to playground etiquette. **__True __False**
22. State & National Parks, Wildlife Management Areas, National Forests, and Road Rest Areas are all gun free zones and are excluded from places we can carry a concealed firearm. **__True __False**
23. It is illegal to carry a concealed weapon in your vehicle without a concealed carry license. **__True __False**
24. Printing is a common concealed carry mistake. **__True __False**
25. You do not have to carry your CCWL when carrying your weapon concealed. It’s ok as long as you know where it is. **__True __False**
26. Responsible gun owners hold the belief that their weapon is always loaded even when the magazine is missing from the magazine well. **__True __False**
27. Verbal threats are not enough to justify deadly force. **__True __False**

28. It's ok to carry a concealed firearm into a police station as long as you call ahead and notify them that you are coming. **__True __False**
29. There is no need to clean your gun after every trip to the range. A good rule of thumb is after 1,000 rounds. **__True __False**
30. Dry Fire practicing should not be done on a regular basis unless authorized by the manufacture. **__True __False**
31. It's ok to have a few beers at an outdoor range with friends while shooting at a stationery target. **__True __False**
32. Dealing with, "What If" Scenarios is not recommended as it will confuse and frighten women gun enthusiasts. **__True __False**
33. Never leave your weapon unattended. **__True __False**
34. You should always obey range rules and range officer commands except when other shooters do not. **__True __False**
35. All family members should know all there is to know so as to prevent firearm accidents. **__True __False**
36. Never use your weapon in an attempt to get even or to settle an argument. **__True __False**
37. Aiming at a target and not shooting is ok. It will enhance shooting accuracy. **__True __False**
38. Open Carry is legal in Florida as long as you have a permit. **__True __False**
39. If you are the victim of a home invasion, you should Shoot First & Ask Questions Later. **__True __False**
40. There is no particular difference between a "Center Fire" pistol and a "Rim Fire" pistol. **__True __False**
41. A safe room is not really necessary if you have a gun. **__True __False**
42. You should always seek out the intruder and attack him before he attacks you. **__True __False**
43. A home where barking dogs live is safer than one without dogs. **__True __False**
44. If you have to shoot you should keep shooting until the threat is stopped. **__True __False**
45. Roll Playing different possible threats is a good strategy for self-defense. **__True __False**
46. A good home security plan takes into account criminal activity from

- the past. **True** **False**
47. Most home invasions happen between 10 pm. and 4 am. **True** **False**
48. We practice shooting at paper people so we are ready for real burglars.
 True **False**
49. When faced with a possible gunfight you should escape if possible rather than fight because fighting should be your last resort. **True** **False**
50. You can deter a would-be intruder from breaking in by keeping the television on when you are not at home. **True** **False**
51. Pepper Spray, Stun Guns and Tactical flashlights are all part of a good self-defense kit. **True** **False**
52. Most burglars are friendly and compassionate when they encounter a homeowner. Be nice and they won't hurt you. **True** **False**
53. Using deadly force requires police approval. **True** **False**
54. Standing Your Ground and The Castle Doctrine refer to the same thing.
 True **False**
55. Calling out to an intruder is ok as long as you don't use profanity.
 True **False**
56. If you think there is an intruder in your home, the very 1st thing you should do is turn the lights on to be sure. **True** **False**
57. A burglary usually takes less than 60-seconds unless you are home.
 True **False**
58. 39% of homeowners admit leaving their doors unlocked the same or more as their parents. **True** **False**
59. Self-defense takes forethought and even thinking on the fly as situations occur.
 True **False**
60. Being, "Street Smart" is the key to good self-defense. **True** **False**

Proverbs 15:14

**“The heart of him
that has understanding
seeks knowledge:**

**But the mouth of fools
feed on foolishness.”**

Self Help Multiple Choice Test

Answers

1. **True** for the state of Florida.
2. **False**, everyone needs ongoing training.
3. **False**, A backstrap is the portion of the gun where you grip it. They come in several sizes to fit various hand sizes.
4. **False**, Semi-Automatic means you have to pull the trigger each time you fire but the actions of the slide loading and firing is automatic. You do not have to rack the gun every time you fire.
5. **True**, The breach is also called a chamber.
6. **True**, single action does require hammer cocking before you can fire the weapon.
7. **False**, you do not have to disassemble the weapon to clear a jam or malfunction. You drop the magazine and rack the gun until the jam is ejected.
8. **True**
9. **False**, we are never considered a “Freelance Policeman.” We carry concealed for our own protection and avoid disputes that do not concern us unless a felony act or serious bodily harm is being enacted.
10. **True**, this is known as, “The Castle Doctrine”
11. **False**, knives, pepper spray and other weapons are also included.
12. **False**, there are many states that recognize your CCWL but not all.
13. **True**
14. **False**, deadly force has to be only when your life is subject to SBI (Serious Bodily Injury) or a threat of death that is imminent.
15. **False**, never point a gun at anything unless you are willing and ready to destroy it.
16. **False**, weapons and kids do not mix. Teaching them about gun safety is good but small children should not be allowed to handle guns in any fashion.
17. **False**, Muscle memory is the ability to act without thinking about what you are doing. It just comes natural to you.
18. **True**
19. **False**, it is the worst type of grip.
20. **True**
21. **False**, riding the slide is not allowing the spring-loaded action to work properly.
22. **False**
23. **False**
24. **True**, printing means you can see the outline of your concealed weapon through your clothing.
25. **False**, you must have it on you at all times when carrying concealed.
26. **True**
27. **True**
28. **False**
29. **False**, you should clean your weapon after every use.
30. **True**, always follow the recommendations of the gun manufacturer.

31. **False**, never drink alcohol or take drugs when carrying or practicing shooting your weapon.
32. **False**, you should think out every possible situation and determine a plan of action.
33. **True**, never leave your weapon alone where it could be stolen or get into the hands of a child.
34. **False**, always obey the range rules and commands of the range master.
35. **True**, family education on gun safety is really important. It could save a life.
36. **True**, weapons are not meant to give you a superior attitude but rather to defend you in a situation that could cause you serious bodily injury or even death.
37. **False**, never aim unless you plan to fire.
38. **False**, open carry is not legal in Florida at this time.
39. **True**, you do not know if the invader is armed or not. All you know is that your home is being invaded by a person that will hurt you if you get in the way or maybe even if you don't get in the way.
40. **False**, center-fire refers to a cartridge that has the gunpowder only in the center and the firing pin must strike it there. On the other hand, Rim-Fire refers to Gunpowder being all around the rim of the cartridge and the firing pin can strike anywhere on the back of the cartridge to fire the weapon.
41. **False**
42. **False**, never seek out an intruder.
43. **True**, dogs are great protectors
44. **True**
45. **True**
46. **True**, statistics show us a pattern.
47. **False**, it really 10 am to 3 pm.
48. **True**, our paper targets represent the real thing.
49. **True**, escape is wise and could save our lives.
50. **True**, a loud playing TV is really good.
51. **True**, these are great for close encounters
52. **False**, Intruders are evil and not to be given any place.
53. **False**, you do not need police approval but are accountable for every shot
54. **True**
55. **True**, never call out to an intruder. You will give away your location.
56. **False**, again...this will give away your location.
57. **False**, you don't want to reveal your position.
58. **True**
59. **True**, failing to plan ahead is planning to fail when it really counts.
60. **True**

.....
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