



WORKING FROM HOME

YOUR GUIDE TO STAYING SAFE



SAFER AT HOME? IT'S COMPLICATED...

LEARN HOW COMFORT CREATES VICTIMS

■ Many Americans are now at risk of becoming victims of serious crimes just by working from home. That may sound dramatic, but the fact is that home invasions occur as much during the day as they do at night. You have a responsibility to yourself and your family to ensure your and their safety in your house. This may not be something you've considered before since you most likely feel safe within your own home.

But that's precisely why it was so important that we put this "Working From Home" guide together. Whether you're a man or a woman, young or old, own a gun or don't, there

are a number of steps you can take to protect yourself from danger – and, better yet, to avoid a dangerous situation before it occurs. Don't allow the comfort and convenience of working from home to cause you to become a victim. Follow the simple steps in this guide and integrate them into your everyday routine.

We'll address the various ways you can make your home less enticing to criminals, how to better secure your home, how to remain more aware of potential threats, various laws applicable to self- and home defense, and some basics about home-defense weapons.

"WHETHER YOU'RE A MAN OR A WOMAN, YOUNG OR OLD, OWN A GUN OR DON'T, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM DANGER – AND, BETTER YET, TO AVOID A DANGEROUS SITUATION BEFORE IT OCCURS."





ARE YOU AT RISK OF HOME INVASION?

ENTER THE MIND OF A CRIMINAL

■ Burglary attempts can vary widely based on the specific neighborhood, the individual situation and the goals of the specific criminal or criminals. Traditional burglars prefer unoccupied homes because they don't like confronting potentially armed residents. Home invaders are different. They intend to have face-to-face confrontations to commit their crimes, which are often drug-related. Rapists also often break in at night while their victims are asleep and most vulnerable.

Residential burglars tend to be small in stature – around 5 feet, 6 inches to 5 feet, 8 inches in height. They can fit

through and hide in unbelievable spaces. **They pick entry points that pose the least risk of detection.** Sometimes entry is as simple as smashing a sliding glass patio door or kicking in the front door, as burglars with lock-picking tools are almost mythical. Most often, an entry tool is picked up on scene, such as a rock thrown through a window. Entry through side or rear windows is also common.

More-violent home invaders attempt to trick victims into answering their doors for them, making a "dynamic entry." The options are limited only by a criminal's imagination and desperation.

*Learn more about this topic by visiting the USCCA Firearms & Self-Defense Blog:
"Defense at Home: Once Again, Prevention Beats Cure"*



WORKING FROM HOME



YOU HAVE THE WHO AND THE WHY

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR HOME?

■ Now that you have a general idea of the criminal you might encounter, we can address what you can do about the situation. If you're reading this, you've actually taken the first step: You take your own safety and protection seriously enough to initiate the education process. So let's take it a step further and explore courses of actions that are most tangible.

AN UNATTRACTIVE HOME DOESN'T MEAN AN UGLY HOME

■ Making your home less desirable to a criminal does not mean making it look like a dump. There are three main attributes that enhance a home's "curb appeal" to an intruder. First, is the target worth the risk? Does it appear that the house has a high likelihood of desired property, outweighing the risk of apprehension? Second, would entry take minimal effort? Is there good cover, such as trees or bushes, that would conceal entry through a window? And, third, is there an "absence of capable guardians" who can thwart the attempt to enter on the property?

CONSIDERATIONS FOR MAKING YOUR HOME LESS ATTRACTIVE TO CRIMINALS:

- **Don't flaunt your stuff.**

Keep large TVs and expensive tech (like your workstation) away from large windows.

- **Get rid of the ads.**

Stickers, posters and signs are clear indicators of what may be inside your home. Throw them out today!

- **Help them see the light.**

Although some criminals break in during daylight hours, you can still deter those who operate under the cover of darkness. Install more lighting for underlit areas that aren't easily visible from the street.

- **Don't wait to trim down your greenery.**

Cut back any vegetation that covers potential entry points, such as basement windows.

- **Give them a sign.**

Even if you don't have a security system, a sign in your yard declaring that you do can be a temporary solution. The implication could be a sufficient deterrent in the short term until you have one installed.

Learn more about this topic by visiting the USCCA Firearms & Self-Defense Blog: "Making Your Home a Less Attractive Target: Reducing Criminal Curb Appeal"

Copyright © 2021 by Delta Defense LLC

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted by any means: electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or otherwise, without first obtaining written permission from Delta Defense LLC.

DISCLAIMER – The views expressed in this article are exclusively the personal and/or professional views of the author and do not express the views, policy or position of Delta Defense LLC ("Delta") or the United States Concealed Carry Association, Inc. ("USCCA"). This article is provided solely for educational and entertainment purposes. This article is not offered for legal or other professional advice. Delta and the USCCA do not make any representations or warranties of any kind and disclaim any implied warranties for fitness of use for a particular purpose or merchantability. Delta and the USCCA do not assume and hereby disclaim any liability to any party for any loss, damage or disruption, including incidental or consequential damages caused, directly or indirectly, by the information in this article or reliance thereon, including any errors or omissions. Delta and the USCCA are neither responsible nor liable for any information contained in this article. Nothing in this article is intended to be legal advice or to substitute for legal advice, as this article is a general guide relating to legal issues and/or is specific to a certain set of facts and certain jurisdictions. Every situation is unique, and the reader should consult an attorney in the reader's jurisdiction for legal advice on any legal issue.



WORKING FROM HOME



SECURING YOUR HOME BEFORE GETTING AN ALARM

ADDRESSING THE WEAK POINTS

■ Non-alarm options for beefing up your home's security are usually cost-effective and easy for DIYers. Installation of deadbolts on exterior doors, "burglar bars" on windows and sliding-door security bars not only are practical but also offer another layer or visual deterrence. When walking around your home, does it look like you'd be able to make your way inside? If so, you'll definitely want to address those areas. You may also want to consider the following:

Whether you like them or not, neighbors are an asset.

You don't have to be best friends, but getting your neighbors on board with keeping an eye out for each other is an important contribution to a safe community. Think about it: If a suspicious person is lurking around the neighborhood, who is most likely to notice it? That's right ... the couple down the block who keeps giving you a hard time about leaving your garbage cans out too long on collection day. Well, when the same car keeps circling the block, that couple will most certainly take note and bring it to your attention. Aside from it being the right thing to do, your safety depends on befriending your neighbors and confirming

they'll keep an eye out for you (as you will for them). This is especially important when your face is buried in your computer all day, as a good relationship with your neighbors will mean someone will be watching your back.

Dogs are superior (sorry, cat lovers).

Again, all you have to do is ask yourself if you'd rather cry and break into a home with a cat or a dog inside of it. A cat's indifference toward human presence is the warmest welcome a criminal can receive, but a dog's intimidating bark is often deterrence enough to keep most common criminals away.

Be a stickler for details.

An unmowed lawn or the aforementioned garbage cans still out on the curb might make it look as though your family is away on vacation or otherwise not at home. Not letting the small things slip through the cracks can go a long way toward preventing a criminal encounter.

*Learn more about this topic by visiting the [USCCA Firearms & Self-Defense Blog](#):
"How to Secure Your Home Without an Alarm"*





BECOMING 'BIG BROTHER'

INVESTING IN A HOME-SECURITY SYSTEM

■ The ability to monitor what's happening around your property (whether you're there or not) provides a huge advantage when it comes to your safety. If you have the means to do so, consider investing in a security or alarm system. Available options range from self-installed door and window sensors to professionally installed full-service security systems, and let's not forget technology like a video doorbell.

If you're wondering about the effectiveness of a home alarm or surveillance system, consider the following: Anecdotal speaking, businesses with alarm systems are targeted by criminals more often than residential homes.

Why? It's a simple risk-reward calculation: A business that is open to the public can be "cased," so criminals know what can be stolen, where the access points are and the type of resistance they may encounter. Residential homes, on the other hand, are widely unknown to potential criminals. They've likely never seen the inside of a home prior to the burglary, so they'll be unsure as to the exact layout of the home and the location and quality of valuables. Much more time within a particular residence is needed, increasing the risk of capture. Why break into a home with an alarm system when the home next to it has no alarm and looks like it will offer equal value?

Learn more about this topic by visiting the USCCA Firearms & Self-Defense Blog: "Top 3 Considerations When Purchasing a Home-Security System"





YOUR HOME'S SECURE. NOW WHAT?

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

■ At this point, you've taken steps to prevent your home from being broken into, but what about the last line of defense — you? What is your mental state? Are you ready to take matters into your own hands if your safety depends on it?

Being situationally aware doesn't necessarily mean engaging in an act of self-defense. In fact, paying proper attention to your surroundings can help you avoid having to defend yourself in the first place. Remember, you can't address a problem or threat if you don't know it's there. Situational awareness helps you keep your guard up and gives you the maximum amount of time to make a decision about what action to take in a given situation.

When inside your home, are you completely oblivious to what's going on outside your home? Do you pay attention to sirens, abnormally loud noises or a neighbor's barking dog?

These seemingly normal (or even annoying) interruptions could be threat indicators if you maintain the presence of mind to pay attention to them. Learning to be situationally aware starts by being more observant and fighting the tendency to let your mind go into "autopilot."

How about when you're working at your computer? Are you taking time to look up and survey your surroundings now and again, or are you locked into your screen with tunnel vision? Even more importantly, how about when you're working with headphones on and staring at that computer screen, leaving two of your most vital senses for threat detection preoccupied? Take some time to learn about situational awareness, including Col. Jeff Cooper's Color Codes of Awareness, and start training yourself to tune into what you've possibly previously overlooked.

Learn more about this topic by visiting the USCCA Firearms & Self-Defense Blog:

"Are You Paying Attention? How Close Is Too Close?"

"Staying Safe While Working at Home"



WORKING FROM HOME



BEFORE ARMING YOURSELF, WHAT LAWS APPLY TO HOME PROTECTION?

THE LEGAL SIDE OF SELF-DEFENSE

■ The house is secure and you're aware – what comes next? Additional options to keep yourself safe at home include lethal and less-lethal weapons. However, before exploring which options are best-suited for you and your home office, it is important to understand which laws will apply in your specific circumstance. Your state may have one, or both, of the following: Castle Doctrine and so-called "stand your ground" laws. Understanding these types of legislation is an essential part of knowing how you can protect yourself, your loved ones and your property.

CASTLE DOCTRINE

Castle Doctrine applies to your home, vehicle or business. Laws vary based on your location, but, essentially, Castle Doctrine allows a person to use deadly force within the home, vehicle or business should he or she feel there is an immediate threat of death or great bodily harm.

In its original form, Castle Doctrine declared that people have a right to be secure in their homes against all comers. This concept was also enshrined in the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: "The right of the

people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause..."

However, while Castle Doctrine has been around for more than 200 years now, it has multiple interpretations and variations. Some locales choose to ignore it entirely. Make sure you understand the laws in your own state as well as those of other jurisdictions to which you travel while armed. Never consider these laws as something that automatically makes the use of deadly force your first option. Deadly force should always be an absolute last resort.

STAND YOUR GROUND

So-called "stand your ground" laws are different from Castle Doctrine in where each applies. Castle Doctrine, depending on the laws where you live, only **applies to your dwelling**. It can also sometimes apply to your vehicle or place of business. "Stand your ground" laws remove any legal "duty to retreat" from a deadly threat so long as you are legally allowed to be where you are.

Learn more about this topic by visiting the USCCA Firearms & Self-Defense Blog:

"What Is Castle Doctrine?"

"What Is 'Stand Your Ground?'"

"Castle Doctrine & Home Defense: What You Need to Know"

"Home Invasion: How Does 'Stand Your Ground' or Castle Doctrine Apply?"

"Stand Your Ground? A Good Idea, But Questions Remain..."



WORKING FROM HOME



LESS-LETHAL SELF-DEFENSE

WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS?

■ Now that you're more familiar with the idea of protecting yourself while working from home and have a basic understanding of what laws may apply to self-defense in your specific jurisdiction, you're ready to take a look at less-lethal weapons. Although these weapons are considered non-lethal, don't make the mistake of considering them non-dangerous. Appropriate education and training are still necessary to ensure your safety and the safety of those you are looking to defend.

PEPPERBALL TCP

The PepperBall Tactical Compact Pistol (TCP) is a civilian pistol-style launcher that is exactly the same as the original law enforcement model (also called TCP). The PepperBall TCP is simple to operate. There are no moving parts other than the trigger, magazine release and index-finger-activated crossbolt safety. Unlike CO2-operated airsoft or BB pistols, there is no moving slide.

TASER PROFESSIONAL SERIES

Like PepperBall, Taser has really upgraded its line of civilian self-defense options. Many of the Tasers used by law enforcement are also available for citizen purchase, including the latest two-shot models. And the micro-compact single-shot Taser Pulse (\$399.99) is also still available.

The two-shot X2 uses a standard five-second "Safe Escape" incapacitation time. If the aggressor is becoming violent again, another five-second cycle can be sent down

the lines. To fire a second shot, you simply pull the trigger again. This can also incapacitate two subjects simultaneously. Range is approximately 15 feet, and the price is \$1,599.99.

The newest Taser for citizen use is the two-shot Taser 7CQ. The 7CQ (as in "close quarters") uses a new probe system that drives probes that deliver nearly twice the kinetic energy for better penetration through clothing. The Taser CQ's cartridge has a range of 12 feet, with an optimal probe spread for best energy delivery. Both the Taser X2 and 7CQ are significantly larger than the single-shot X26P, and the 7CQ is the most expensive model at \$1,799.99.

FULL-SIZED AND EDC FOGGER PEPPER SPRAYS

OC (short for "oleoresin capicum," also called "pepper spray") represents the best bargain in terms of less-lethal self-defense. For home or vehicle defense, Fox Labs Fog Spray Tactical Unit is recommended. The 12-ouncer is priced at \$58.99, while the Five Point Three EDC model is priced at \$17.99.

Less-lethal self-defense options are not only important for those unwilling or legally unable to use a firearm for self-defense but also should be strongly considered by those who own firearms. Not every situation can — or should — be solved with a firearm. Pick a self-defense tool that best suits your needs, and be certain to check local laws to make sure such a device is legal in the jurisdictions in which you live or to which you are traveling.

Learn more about this topic by visiting the USCCA Firearms & Self-Defense Blog: "Self-Defense Weapons That Aren't a Gun"



THE USCCA PROVIDES FIREARMS EDUCATION & TRAINING FOR RESPONSIBLE AMERICAN GUN OWNERS

**READY TO LEARN MORE AND START TRAINING?
CONTACT THE USCCA!**



DOES GETTING A GUN SOLVE THE PROBLEM? THE LEGAL SIDE OF SELF-DEFENSE

■ Up to this point, we've explored many options that can play a role in your safety and protection while you're working from home. Before diving into the topic of gun ownership for self-defense, it is important to answer one question: Are you willing to shoot another human – and potentially end that human's life – in order to protect your own life or that of a loved one? If so, read on. If not, you may want to stop here and focus on what you've learned so far. If you're curious about what gun ownership for self-defense involves, we're glad you've chosen us to join you on this journey.

***We recommend starting with our six-part "Beginner Series" on the
USCCA Firearms & Self-Defense Blog:***

"New to Owning a Gun? 3 Questions to Ask First"

"Concealed Carry: 3 Tips for Getting Started"

"Good Guns for Starting Out"

"Firearms Ammunition"

"Gun Holsters"

"Practical Gun-Training Tips to Try at Home"

Related posts on the USCCA Firearms & Self-Defense Blog:

"Beginner's Guide to Best Home-Defense Rifles"

"Best Handguns for Training New Shooters"

"7 Things to Consider When Choosing a Home-Defense Firearm"

"Choosing a Home-Defense Shotgun"



WORKING FROM HOME



GAIN CONFIDENCE, PREPAREDNESS & PEACE OF MIND

*WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO THE
U.S. CONCEALED CARRY ASSOCIATION*

www.USCCA.com/Join

877-677-1919

