

A Gun Owner's Guide to SURVIVING MASS SHOOTINGS

*An Overview of Preparation,
Training and Fighting*



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Foreword

The content of this booklet was contemplated, written, rewritten, and endlessly modified in the very difficult weeks following a series of tragic, mass-shooting events.

It deeply saddens me to write this. More to the point, it saddens me that we live in a society with so much senseless violence that something like this needs to be written. Yet, if the truth be told, sad is not the best description of my state of mind.

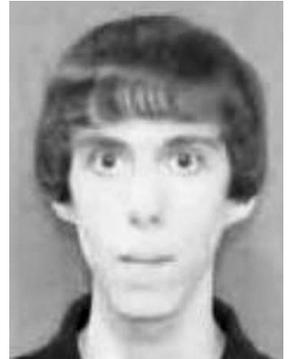
I started writing this when I was angry. I know that I am not the only one feeling it. If you are not angry at the monsters among us that who kill innocent people—mothers, fathers, grandmothers, grandfathers, sons, daughters and worst of all, small children—there's something wrong.

I hoped that by writing this booklet it help the anger subside...but it hasn't. When I think of the way the children of Newtown and the moviegoers in Aurora died, I get fired up all over again. I will carry this for a long, long time. And, perhaps that's how it should be. The evil and broken people who take innocent lives aren't going away and neither should our desire to stop them.

The tragic events have intensified my conviction that all citizens who are capable and willing be able to carry firearms for personal defense. We don't have to be helpless in the presence of evil. We don't have to cower, waiting endless minutes for help to arrive when death is only seconds away.

We have a natural, human right to defend ourselves and our loved ones—and thanks to the Second Amendment, we have a constitutionally, guaranteed right to keep, carry and use firearms for that purpose.

You won't see much in national headlines, but armed citizens can, and do, stop mass shootings. Just a few days before the Newtown shooting, a would-be mass murderer open fired in a crowded mall in Oregon. Seconds later, confronted by a shopper carrying a legally concealed pistol, he fled and then committed suicide. Thanks to the heroic actions of a private citizen, the death toll stopped at two.¹



Sandy Hook Elementary School
murderer, Adam Lanza
Evil personified

We should use our anger for good. Transform anger into determination, worry into vigilance, and go forward knowing that we don't have to let the monsters win. We *can* fight back. We *must* fight back. It is our right and our duty.

It is my hope that this booklet will encourage gun owners, and future gun owners, to protect themselves and defend our right to keep and carry the best possible tools of self-defense.

Please share this booklet with as many people as possible. It may be downloaded for free under the publications link at:

www.ArmedResponseTraining.com

Prepare, train, practice and stay safe.

David Kenik

¹“Clackamas Mall Shooter Faced Man with Concealed Weapon,” KGW News Channel 8, Portland.

www.kgw.com/news/Clackamas-man-armed-confronts-mall-shooter-183593571.html.

About the Author

David Kenik is the owner of Armed Response, author of the book, Armed Response, co-author of the Armed Response Video Training Series and a contributing editor to several, national firearms magazines.

David is a certified police instructor in pistol, revolver, shotgun and rifle, and has trained with internationally recognized use-of-force programs in the judicious use of lethal force, firearms, defensive shooting and weapon disarming and retention.

As a gun rights advocate he is the co-founder and past chairman of the Citizens' Rights Action League, a group that advocates the right to self-defense and lobbies against gun legislation in Rhode Island.



This booklet is dedicated to the innocent lives lost at the hands of society's monsters, the devastated survivors left in their wakes, and to those who are committed to protecting themselves, their families and our communities.

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Preface

As a firearm instructor and author specializing in defensive shooting, tactics and techniques are always at the forefront of my mind. But after reading detailed accounts of the recent tragedies, and the comments from many people on what types of things they do and don't feel prepared for, I concluded that there is a need for a discussion of some preplanning and action items to survive a mass shooting incident.

This is, by no means, a complete analysis of the subject. It is rather, more like an overview, meant as a starting point for individuals to evaluate their awareness, preparedness, planning and skills needed to survive potential carnage. While every violent encounter is different, and tactics and techniques need to be adapted to the specific situation, some considerations are nearly universal and apply to most violent encounters.

Always Carry Your Gun

I can't tell you how many gun owners that I know either don't carry, or only carry occasionally. Some have actually said to me that they only carry when they go into a less-than-safe area such as, "downtown." If you think about that, it's pretty silly. While crime is certainly more rampant in some locations than others, crime happens everywhere. I live in a sleepy, tiny town. Nothing ever happens here...except, we had an armed robbery at the corner store two years ago. Crime happens even in my rural, out-of-the-way, slice of heaven and it can happen in yours.



CARRY YOUR GUN!

Note that, in the first place, many of the recent shooting tragedies happened in broad daylight, in highly-populated areas and in wealthy locations—quite the opposite of many myths. Secondly, if you only carry when you go into a "dangerous" area, that means that you are going to a place that you consider to be unsafe. If you think that you need a gun to go somewhere, don't go. Nothing is worth getting into a gunfight.

Don't Attract Unwanted Attention

Your choice of clothing can directly effect the initial impressions of you, both by the assailants, and by the responding police officers and other citizens. The expression, "fog of war" comes to mind. In the confusion of a mass shooting, both the good guy's and bad guy's first impression of you will determine their action. In the eyes of an assailant, tactical looking clothing, such as 511s or camo, may label you as law enforcement and emblaze "shoot me first" on your forehead. In addition to shirt and pants, your belt and shoes should also be location-relevant as well. Obvious gun belts and nylon belts, as well as tactical or military-style boots may also project the wrong impression.

Curiously, this same tactical look may paint you as a military/police "wannabe," communicating to responding officers possible

apocalyptic, psychotic visions. This may not only slow down their response time towards the real shooter, thus endangering more lives, but any misinterpreted movements or actions on your part, matched with suspicious dress, may have disastrous consequences.



Likewise, being dressed in old jeans and a black hoodie at the scene of a mass shooting may have similar repercussions. Just like fancy clothes, flashy jewelry and expensive cars attract thieves, your attire can effect how people react to you during a mass shooting. You are no less dead whether shot by a police officer or shot by a murderer. The best advice is to blend in—don't stand out from the crowd and draw unwanted attention to yourself.

Shoes

Beware of summer shoes. Flipflops and sandals may be comfortable in the summer heat, but will hinder you if you need to escape fast. Wear shoes that will enable you to run. In more formal settings, dress shoes with leather soles tend to slip on smooth surfaces. A better option is rubber-soled dress shoes as they provide better traction on tile, carpet and linoleum, etc.



The concept of wearing proper shoes goes for the entire family as well. Lady's high heels look nice on nights out, but they don't lend themselves to a fast getaway. If your child can't run because of improper footwear, it slows the entire family down as well.

Family Communication

The actions to take in an emergency must be planned before an attack. Discuss and agree beforehand as a family what to do and



where to go in an emergency. The entire family needs to recognize that if you or someone else in the family says "Let's get out of here now!" that the family does just that, with no questions asked. Just get up and go. If you are the "protector" of the

family and decide to respond with force, the rest of the family needs to know that your action may attract gunfire, and if you engage the attacker, they should move away from you to stay out of the line of fire.

Be Aware

Awareness is a must. It is best to remain in a Condition Yellow state, which is a state of relaxed awareness. You should study entrances, egresses for both you and attackers. Whenever you enter a building, you should seek the natural exits (doors), emergency exits, back room exits (such as the kitchen or employees lounge, etc.) and improvised exits: places where you can break a window and exit, as well as the tools to break a window, such as a chair. Also, you should locate what can be used for concealment and cover.



Have a place of escape and a back-up plan if you are separated from a family member, such as in the case of a trip to the restroom. One often-overlooked element of awareness is to know your exact location and its street address. This is important to know if you have to call 911.

Recognize Potential Threats

Unfortunately, it is not possible to define the profile of a mass murderer. Some common traits of school shooters include having been victims of bullying, assault, or intimidation. Most had issues coping with significant losses, or personal failures and some are on prescription drugs for depression, as well as anti-psychotic medications. Does that mean that all people with these issues become murders? Hardly. In fact, only a minuscule percentage of people with these concerns turn violent. In terms of strangers, all we have available for us to ponder is behavior.



Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold,
Columbine High School killers



Awareness is not just about the room and your location, it's about people, and their actions as well. Sit in a location and direction from where you can scan the room. Watch

and listen for suspicious people. When scanning, also be on the lookout for odd behavior or clothing that is out-of-place, such as a long coat on a warm day, etc.

Since mass shooters most often bring the weapons with them, large or unusually heavy backpacks or boxes may be your first sign of impending trouble. The carrying of building materials or anything that could be used to fashion a barricade might also be suspicious, as well as, someone carrying chains, locks, zip ties, or handcuffs, etc.

In terms of workplace violence, we have the benefit of knowing the behavior patterns of fellow employees. While not every employee will know the behavior of all others, certainly every person is known by at least one other. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security suggests that if you recognize any of the following traits, or similar, you should notify management¹:



- Increased use of alcohol and/or illegal drugs
- Unexplained increase in absenteeism
- Vague physical complaints
- Noticeable decrease in attention to appearance and hygiene
- Depression / withdrawal
- Resistance and overreaction to changes in policy and procedures
- Repeated violations of company policies
- Increased severe mood swings
- Noticeably unstable, emotional responses
- Explosive outbursts of anger or rage without provocation
- Suicidal; comments about “putting things in order”
- Behavior which is suspect of paranoia, (“everybody is against me”)
- Increasingly talks of problems at home
- Escalation of domestic problems into the workplace; talk of severe financial problems
- Talk of previous incidents of violence
- Empathy with individuals committing violence
- Increase in unsolicited comments about firearms, other dangerous weapons and violent crimes

EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING

Know How To Use Your Gun

I talk to a lot of folks and I read a lot of blogs and forums to hear people's opinions and to see what people are doing and thinking. I was stunned to see the number of posts from shooters who stated that they felt their shooting skills were not good enough to take the kind of shot that they thought might be required in a situation such as the Batman movie shooting at the Aurora theater. All too many people buy a gun, put it away and think they are safe. In addition to the purchase, proper training and practice is a **MUST**.

Gun "shooting" is nothing like "gun fighting." Just because you can hit a bull's-eye on the range does not mean you are capable of defending yourself with a firearm. Classes in defensive shooting will teach you what you need to know about shooting, as well as, tactics and techniques needed to defend yourself in a life-threatening situation. Training is not a one-time event. I have been training for over 20 years, teaching for 8, and I still take as many classes as I can.

Taking classes is not the end-all. I tell students in my classes that I will not teach them to shoot. Rather, I will teach them what they need to learn to teach themselves to shoot. No instructor can make anyone an expert marksman or tactician in a few hours on the range. The only thing a class can do is teach you what you need to practice. The rest is up to you.



Have Enough Gun

I have also heard many people admit that they don't think that the gun they carry everyday would have been good enough if they were caught in a situation such as the Aurora theater shooting. Either they felt the gun itself is difficult to shoot at distance, the sights are too small to be useful at anything other than close range, or the caliber was too small, etc.

Small guns are easy to carry, but often difficult to shoot. Sights on pocket guns tend to be sized somewhere between small and minuscule, or sometimes even non-existent. Add in their short sight radius and their lack of usefulness at distance and it ranks them somewhere between barely acceptable to useless.

Small guns have small grips that typically allow only a two-finger purchase, or often only a one-finger grip, as opposed to a three-finger grip on a full-sized handgun. The fewer fingers on the grip, the less recoil control you have, making follow-up shots slow and difficult.

Capacity is also limited on small guns. Yes, the average gunfight is typically less than three rounds, but there is no guarantee that your gunfight is going to be average. By definition, average means there are some instances above that number and some below.

Almost half of today's violent acts are perpetrated by more than one attacker, and that percentage is rising. Do you carry enough ammo for two, or perhaps three, or more assailants?

Instances such as mass shootings are anything but average. Many are perpetrated by multiple shooters. Combined with the propensity to miss under high-stress situations with moving attackers, and while you are moving (hopefully), a five-shot capacity may not be sufficient.

Compared to compact pistols, larger guns are easier to shoot because of their full-length grip, proper sights and longer sight radius. Fourteen to seventeen-round capacity handguns are common. They are not as easy to carry as compact guns, but they are not difficult either. You just need a quality holster, a proper gun belt and suitable concealment garments.

While modern ammunition design has reduced the gap between the stopping capabilities of 9mm and .45ACP ammunition, sub-calibers still provide sub-performance. Yes, criminals have been stopped by 380's, 25's and 22's, but that doesn't mean that I want to stake my life on these calibers every time. Most professional instructors recommend the use of 9mm and larger.



A combination of its subcaliber, one-fingered grip, and minuscule sights make this subcompact a less than optimal choice for a defensive gun

Use A Proper Holster

Deep concealment holsters are great for concealment, but are slow to draw from, difficult or impossible to access during movement and often take two hands to do so. That becomes a problem if your support hand is not available. Off-body carry, such as a purse or briefcase is not recommended because it is easy to leave them behind accidentally. It is also slow and takes two hands to draw as well. Belt carry is, by far, the best, but if that doesn't work for some reason, some good alternatives are a shoulder holster, pocket carry or even ankle carry.



Pocket carry can often be a good solution when other locations are off limits. With your hand on the gun inside the pocket, the draw can be lightning fast. It will be a bit slower during movement and when sitting.



Ankle carry can be very concealing and is easy to access while sitting. Its biggest drawback is that you have to be stationary to draw, thus precluding you from drawing while moving.

Like most things, there is no perfect holster for every occasion. Multiple guns in multiple locations is my personal preference.

Learn Beyond The Basics

Practice shooting two-handed, one-handed and weak-handed. One arm may be needed to block a blow from your attacker, to strike your attacker, or put forward pressure while you shoot. You may need one hand to control a loved one, or one hand or arm may have sustained an injury. If you are hurt, one-handed gun manipulation and malfunction clearance skills may be needed. You never know what kind of shots you will need to take, so be prepared.



Be Able To Access Your Gun With Either Hand

You never know which hand will be available to reach your weapon (see above). The best case scenario is that you can grasp your gun with either hand. If your primary carry location does not allow that, a back-up gun, accessible to the support hand, is a good solution.



Practice Shooting At Distance

While the vast majority of shootings happen at very close distances, your particular gunfight may not. Most killers at mass shootings could have been shot at close or far distances. Practice at all reasonable handgun distances.

Carry Back-Up Magazines And Guns

Snubbies and sub-compact autos often hold only five or six rounds. That may not be enough if you are facing multiple attackers or if you miss, which is quite likely in a dynamic, stress-filled gunfight. Employing a back-up gun is faster than reloading a revolver. Even if you carry a full-size gun, spare magazines are not only necessary for additional ammo, they offer a solution if your gun malfunctions due to a magazine problem. A back-up gun is also useful if you can't reach your primary weapon due to body position or injury, and it can be given to another person who may not be carrying at the time.



Practice Using Cover And Concealment

When at the range, practice getting to cover and concealment. Learn to shoot from behind, below and beside cover and concealment. Don't forget to practice shooting two-handed, one-handed and weak-handed with cover and concealment. Practice shooting from the ground, when kneeling, when sitting and from odd positions and different angles. You may not be standing when the need to react arises. Shooting from an angle may require a different hit placement.



Inexpensive 3-D targets are great to practice shots from odd angles so you can see where your bullets need to go in order to hit vital organs from various directions.



If appearing out from behind cover and concealment multiple times, do so from multiple locations and at multiple heights. Don't create a pattern so the shooter can predict where you will appear next. If you run behind a table from the left, emerge from the right. If you appear around a door at the top, next time come out from the bottom. Surprise is your goal.

It is not necessarily a requirement for you to get close to cover to use it effectively. You just need to get cover between you and the bad guy as soon as possible, even if the cover is distant from you.

If cover is not available, shooting behind concealment is the next best option. Often human nature precludes us from shooting at what we cannot see so concealment may offer some limited protection for you. Realize though, that not only can you get shot through concealment, shooting through concealment is an option for you as well. Be certain that you know exactly where the shooter is and that there are no innocents in the line of fire.

Cover and concealment works both ways. If the shooter's body is not entirely available, shoot at whatever you can see. If all you see is an ankle, shoot the ankle—you will probably see the rest of the body soon.

Use Moving Targets

Unlike at the range, attackers are usually moving, so learning to shoot moving targets is vital. One of the best ways that I know to practice shooting moving targets is with a balloon attached to a remote control vehicle. Practice getting off the line of attack and shooting while you are moving. If bullets are flying in your direction, you don't want to be a "sitting duck." Practice moving away from the line of fire and returning fire as you do.



Balloon lifts as it is pulled along to make a great, inexpensive, moving target system



Facing Body Armor

It is not uncommon for assailants in premeditated attacks to wear body armor. Looks, however, can be deceiving. The shooter in the Aurora theater reportedly wore body armor, but it turned out to be just a carrier vest without any ballistic protection. That would be impossible to know by just looking at it from a distance, especially while under fire. If hits to center mass fail, or if you know armor is being used, aim for whatever parts you see are unprotected: head shots, groin, arms, legs, feet, etc.

Facing Multiple Assailants

Roughly fifty percent of all attacks are by multiple attackers and that percentage is rising. Multiple attackers are also common with mass shootings. When facing multiple assailants, if there is a disparity in the threat they present, shoot them order in of threat—the most dangerous get shot first. If multiple attackers present similar threat levels,



shooting one shot each and then repeating may be a better option than shooting one person multiple times before moving on to the next. The problem with that tactic is that the additional threats will continue their attack on you while you are fixated on the first. Practice both tactics on the range, as you won't know that you will need and so you don't get locked into just one technique.



Michael de Bethencourt of Snubtraining.com teaching firearm disarming and retention

Firearm Disarming And Retention Training

As a last resort, you may be able to disarm an attacker. The concept of disarming is pretty simple: you use leverage and your body weight to rotate the gun out of the assailant's hand. Because of the use of leverage, and the fact that the gun is held in the hand

with relatively small muscles, it is rather easy to do so, even if there is a disparity of body size. This does require proper training and ongoing practice. Handgun retention training goes together with disarming training—teaching you how to retain your weapon during a gun grab.

Learn Emergency Medicine

You will be just as dead from bleeding out from a gunshot wound as you would be if you were killed instantly. Learning first aid for gunshot wounds is vital. Chances are tourniquets and sterile bandages will not be available, so learn life-saving techniques with improvised medical supplies such as shirts, ties, belts, etc. Learn to apply these skills on yourself as well as on others.

CPR is another vital emergency skill that may be needed to treat victims of mass shootings as well as in more typical emergency circumstances.



Other Safety Equipment

Beyond use as a defensive tool for use with firearms, a flashlight is a useful tool that should be carried everyday. I use a flashlight more than any other tool I own. Power outages can occur in everyday life, as well as in an attack. Victims in the September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center used cell phones as flashlights to navigate dark hallways and stairwells, but a flashlight would have been far better.



A cell phone is another safety tool should also be carried. Not only can it serve as a makeshift light, it can be vital to call for a tow truck, for requesting emergency medical assistance or for calling in the location of a gunman.

Pepper spray is an effective, close quarters, defensive tool that may help de-escalate a violent situation before it becomes a life-threatening event. Its low position on the force scale allows its use in less violent encounters. It should not be your first choice against a gunman unless it is your only option.



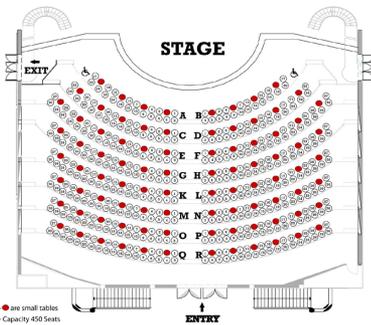
DURING THE CRISIS

Fight Or Flight

In assessing the threat of an incident and determining your action, one immediate decision that you need to make is if you are going to stay and fight, or if you are going to flee. There are several things that you need to keep in mind: 1. Our ultimate responsibility is to protect our families and ourselves. 2. Just because you have a gun and have trained and practiced doesn't mean that you are actually going to win the gunfight. **You could do everything right and still die.** 3. Avoiding a gunfight, or fleeing the scene instead of getting into a fight, is a win. The important thing is that you are alive to tell the tale.

The decision to fight or flee depends on an incomprehensible number of variables. Not the least of which is the ability of the attacker, his weaponry, what you are carrying, your skill level, whether your family is with you, and if bystanders in the way, just to name a few. Distance plays a factor as well. In the Aurora theater for instance, those in the rear, far from the shooter may have been better off running. Those close to the shooter may have had a better

chance of survival if they had shot back (had they not been disarmed by corporate policy). Whatever you choose, be decisive and put your plan into action fast.



Defense Of Strangers

Whether to risk your life to defend a stranger is one of the most difficult and controversial topics there is in the field of personal defense. On one hand, you don't want to let someone die who you could have saved. On the other hand, you have to consider the fact

that you may die for your heroic efforts. As I have often stated, just because you have a gun and decide to use it does not mean you will be victorious. You can do everything right and still die.

I can not answer the question for you in a short article, not even if I wrote a tome. Truth be told, you probably won't be able to answer that for yourself either until the need arises. I do have a couple of suggestions for you to ponder: 1. Make that decision with the possible consequence of your own death in mind—are you willing to die for your actions? 2. If you are with loved ones, get them to safety before taking action.



This topic is explored in more detail in my article, “Heroic Consequences,” published in *Handguns* magazine, and is available as a free download at www.ArmedResponseTraining.com under the “Magazine Articles” link.

Remain Stealthy

If you do decide to engage an active shooter, be aware that you may easily be mistaken for the shooter. Being spotted with a gun in hand by another armed citizen, off-duty cop, plain-clothes officer or SWAT team could have disastrous results.

As you head towards the sound of gunfire, keep your gun holstered as long as possible—only unholster it just before you need to. Timing of unholstering may be a difficult decision if you don't know where the shooter is, or if you encounter another assailant on the way to the shooting.

If/when you do shoot, holster as soon as possible as all hands will be heading in your direction with orders to stop the killer immediately. (This is where a non-collapsing holster is essential.) If you are approached, it is best not to have your gun in



A properly designed holster will not collapse when the gun is removed, even under pressure from a belt

hand. Obey all commands without question and without hesitation. If they think you are the shooter, a single misplaced movement may end the encounter and not to your liking.

As previously stated, multiple attackers are rather common with mass shootings. Not only should you use cover and concealment when shooting, you should maintain cover after the shooter is down because another shooter may be on the way. Always do a threat scan looking for other attackers and approaching responders. Hiding may protect you from secondary shooters as well as from responding citizens and police.

Use Of Improvised Weapons

Since it is not always possible to have a firearm with us at all times, being aware of what improvised weapons are in our environment



is vital. An improvised weapon is any object that we can find to use as a tool to disable an attacker: a chair, an umbrella, a book, a stapler, spray paint—almost anything can be used as a weapon. Make it

part of your routine to scan your location for improvised weapons wherever you are. Keep in mind though, that these same items can be used against you.

Realize also that there are improvised weapons that you can bring and have with you almost everywhere. Magazines (which can be rolled up) and canes make great defensive tools that will pass through any security checkpoint.

Act At The First Sign Of Trouble

If something happens, react. React immediately. Don't just sit there. During the 2010, Florida School Board incident, a lone



gunman held the Board hostage. The situation started with the assailant spray painting a large symbol on the wall. Instead of escaping at the first sign of trouble, the audience and the Board members just sat there and watched him

paint, patiently awaiting his next action. By the time a handgun was pulled out, the possibility for escape was over. If something is amiss, leave the location fast. Don't wait for bullets to fly before taking action.

The same goes if responding force is necessary. React, and do so quickly and decisively. Force-on-force training has demonstrated that the longer the attacker has to proceed with his plan, the harder it will most likely be to stop him.

Understand The Situation

Before you act, make SURE you KNOW what is happening and do NOT shoot otherwise. Walking into a location after hearing gunfire and seeing someone shooting people may NOT be what it looks like. It could be another armed citizen or off-duty officer shooting to stop a violent crime. Do not shoot unless you have witnessed the entire scenario and are SURE of what is happening. Assumption is the mother of all screw ups.



Evacuate

During evacuation, follow through on your escape plan regardless of what other people are doing. If you know there is an exit behind you and everyone is running the opposite way, don't let that influence you. Chances are, most people are following blindly with no idea what to do. Help others escape if you can, but if they refuse to go, leave without them. Don't waste time gathering your belongings. Unless they are in hand, leave them behind. The seconds you save may make the difference between your own life and death.



If orders are given by police officers, follow their instructions. Don't seek out law enforcement during the crisis as their immediate job is to stop the shooter, not to deal with you. That is, unless you have specific information to help them in their search. Also, officers are bullet magnets in shooting situations—best not to be too close. Call 911 when it is safe to do so.

Hiding

If evacuation is not possible or it is deemed unsafe, the next best option may be to hide. Find a location where the shooter is least likely to find you. That is, out of visual sight, or in a place where people are not normally found, such as in a closet. Look for a hiding place with a door that can be locked, then fortify it with heavy furniture, if possible. Belts make great tools for securing doors without locks (learn how in advance). Stay quiet no matter what happens nearby, including shooting. Call 911 only if you can do so without alerting the attacker. When you do call, leave the phone connection open to allow dispatch to hear what is going on. You may need to cover the speaker with your hand to maintain silence. Remain calm and stay barricaded until police arrive, even if it takes hours for them to get to you.



A storage or janitor's closet may offer safe refuge in an emergency

If the shooter is nearby, keep quiet, silence your cell phone, and turn off any noise sources such as radios or televisions in the room to avoid attracting the shooter's attention.

School Lockdowns

The standard safety protocol for school shooting scenarios is lockdown—lock and barricade the classroom doors, turn out the lights, cover the windows and hide out of the line of sight. The concept however, is not without controversy. The problem with lockdown is that it is not necessarily effective. In some school shooting incidents, shooters bypassed locked doors, some broke through. With the latter, when the shooter breaks



through the doors, students and teachers are “sitting ducks”—There is no “Plan B.” Some recent examples of lockdown failures include Red Lake High School (MN) and Virginia Tech (VA).

A better option is escape. History has shown that virtually all students who have escaped the school building during an active shooting situation survived, whereas, most students who faced a gunman by hiding, died. When my son is old enough, I will teach him that if he hears gunfire inside his school he should escape the building through the closest exit or through a window (breaking a window if needed), regardless of teacher instructions.



Keep in mind though, escape is not always the best action, it depends on the threat. If threat is located outside, staying inside is probably the safest choice.

If you give this advice to a young child, include a discussion on where you should meet in case of an emergency. The location should be far enough away from the school so that it is not included in the barricaded, traffic perimeter, since all close roads will be shut down.²

Call 911

When calling 911, tell dispatch that there is an ongoing shooting at your location. Tell them where you are and, if possible, in what area of the building the shooter is located. If you know, tell them how many shooters there are, quantity and type of weapons they have, their physical description, what they are wearing and the number and location of victims. Only tell them what you know for sure—don't guess—as wrong information can impede their progress. Keep the phone line open to let dispatch listen, if possible, but don't allow noise from it attract attention.



In addition to information about the attackers, describe yourself, what you are wearing, your location, and what if any action you plan on taking—*especially* if you are armed. Keep in mind, even though you give your description to dispatch, responding officers may not get it for a myriad of reasons; first responders may be off-duty and not have a radio, they may be on a different radio channel because they are from a different agency, it is possible that they may not hear

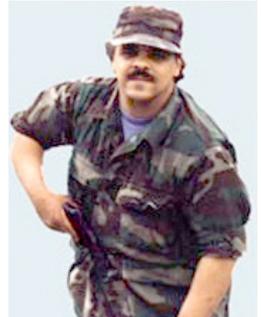
the radio call over the noise or they may not even be police officers.

When Responding Officers Arrive

Police may arrive in off-duty clothing, patrol uniforms or in full, tactical gear. When shooting is ongoing, law enforcement's sole mission is to stop the shooter. They will walk right past people, regardless of their wounds, to get to where bullets are flying. Don't try to stop or impede them. If they are pushing their way through a crowd you are a part of, do your best to let them through.



Depending on the specific situation, they may use pepper spray on individuals or crowds and may push people down or out of the way for their safety and/or the officers safety. If approached by police officers, remain calm and follow their instructions. Keep your hands visible and avoid making quick movements—they don't know if you are the good guy or the bad guy.



Good guy, or bad?

Dealing With The Wounded

Unless the wounded are in mortal danger from ongoing shooting, do not move them—doing so may do more harm than good. Basic tenants of ditch medicine teach that stopping the bleeding is paramount to survival, regardless of a lack of sterilization. Let the ER worry about infection after the life is saved. Apply a tourniquet, pack the wound and bandage it.

Perform CPR if needed—ER docs emphasize that the most important thing is to make sure that the injured person is breathing.



POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS

Assault Weapons

The anti-gunners have created a fake class of weapons, based solely on appearance, and deceptively named them “assault weapons.” Their hope was that their scary looks combined with an evil sounding name will influence the unknowing public in supporting a ban on them. They use every tragedy, whether rifles are involved or not, to vilify these rifles. Unfortunately, it works.



With every evil, criminal act committed with firearms, comes an increased call for all forms of gun control. The mass killing of young children at Sandy Hook Elementary School created an anti-gun backlash, the intensity of which has never been seen before.

Because an AR15 was in the horrendous crime, outrageous calls for local, state and federal assault weapon bans sprang out of the woodwork everywhere. This, despite the facts that:

- Connecticut (location of Sandy Hook Elementary) has some of the toughest gun laws in the country, including an assault weapons ban, which obviously was completely ineffective.
- the now sunsetted, 1994 federal assault weapons ban had no measurable effect on crime, according to the CDC.³
- rifles are among the least-used weapons in firearm-related murders according to the FBI.⁴
- hands and feet are used to kill twice as many people as rifles, according to the FBI.⁴

I pose this simple question: If the same murderer had stolen a car and killed the same number of children by driving it into a classroom, would there be a call to ban cars? Of course not! The logical reasoning is that, although twice as many people are killed every year in auto-related incidents than with gun-related ones, cars have a great benefit to society. I completely agree with that conclusion.



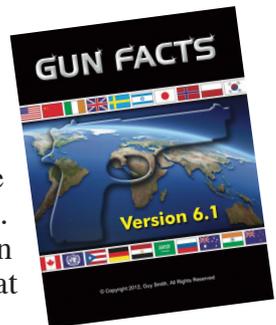
What the politicians and gun grabbers fail to accept—even though it has been proven to them time after time—is that the same societal benefit is true for firearms. According to noted criminologists Gary Kleck and John Lott, guns in the hands of law-abiding citizens stop between 1.5 and 2 million crimes every year. That’s 4000 to 5,500 crimes stopped by law-abiding citizens with guns, every single day!

Notice that gun bans exempt police officers. The reason most often stated is that police officers face violent criminals and need “those” types of rifles to protect themselves and the community. I completely agree with that conclusion as well.

However, private citizens also face violent criminals and do so without the benefits of back-up nor bullet-resistant vests. Politicians and gun grabbers ignore the fact that private citizens kill twice as many criminals as police, and do so with a 5 times lower error rate than police.⁵ If there is a need for police to have “those” rifles, there is twice the need for private citizens to have “those” rifles.

Gun Facts

There is an excellent, free booklet, Gun Facts, that debunks all of the myths about guns, complete with documented references—something the gun grabbers never offer, because their arguments are nothing more than lies and fear mongering, devoid of fact. This is a must-read for all Americans, gun owners or not. The booklet is available free at www.gunfacts.info.



No Gun Zones

What an idiotic concept! There is no such thing as a “no gun zone.” Have you noticed that all of the mass shootings happen where law-abiding citizens are completely forbidden from carrying firearms to defend themselves?

Criminals don’t care about signs, nor laws—certainly not those criminals hell-bent on mass death and destruction. Imagine if just one Aurora theater patron had been armed? The theater’s “No Guns Allowed” sign was an obvious lie, it should have read: “Only Murderers May Be Armed In This Establishment.”

Let us not forget, that guns are not needed to inflict death. Everyday common objects, such as knives, tools and even hands and feet can be used to kill.

Disallowing legally-armed citizens from carrying guns endangers both the locale’s patrons and employees. If a company does not respect my right to self-defense, I vote with my wallet and they don’t get my business. I won’t be defenseless because of a merchant’s stupidity.

Unfortunately, it is common to see an uptick of people wanting to create more gun-free zones after every tragedy. Somehow they can’t understand the fact that the Sandy Hook Elementary School, Aurora theater, Virginia Tech, Columbine, etc., were all so-called “gun-free zones” and the “no gun” policy worsened the carnage by not allowing the victims to defend themselves. Talk about having one’s head up one’s kiester!

Call To Arms

Gun grabbers use the *elephant eating* methodology to perpetrate their crimes against the Constitution—they can’t eat it all at once, so they take a little bite at a time, one right at a time.

First, they call to ban so-called assault weapons, which is



happening right now. They do so while pretending to protect and hold sacred hunting rifles, because they “claim” to believe in the 2nd Amendment (proven liars that they are.) With so-called assault weapons banned, they will declare that since hunting rifles are chambered in even more powerful cartridges than so-called assault rifles, they pose a great threat to our communities, so they too should be banned. Next on their list will be semi-automatics, so shotguns and pistols are gone. One bite at a time, until all of our firearms and rights have disappeared.

I urge you to make your voice heard. Contact your local, state and federal officials. Remind them of the benefits of gun ownership and ask them prosecute criminals not guns, to protect your rights and uphold the Constitution. After all, self-defense is a human right.

*Prepare, Train, Practice, Stay Safe and
Don't Get Caught Dead in a “No Gun” Zone*

ENDNOTES

¹ U.S. Department of Homeland Security. “Active Shooter, How to Respond,” P. 10.

² Greg Ellitritz, “A Parent’s Guide to School Shootings.”

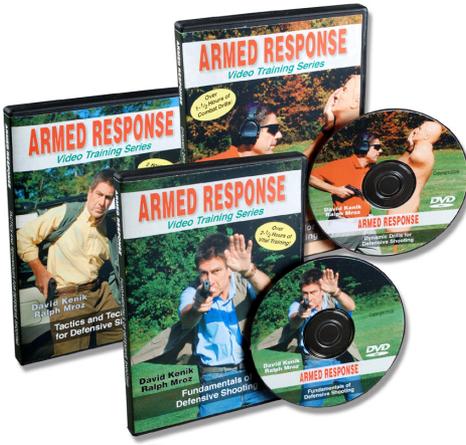
³ U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention, “First Reports Evaluating the Effectiveness of Strategies for Preventing Violence: Firearms Laws,” Summary, October 3, 2003.

⁴ U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2007-2011 “Murder Victims by Weapon,” 2007-2011.

⁵ Newsweek Magazine, “Are we a Nation of Cowards?,” November 15, 1993.

ARMED RESPONSE

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