

Rangemaster Firearms Training Services
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MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER

DRILL OF THE MONTH

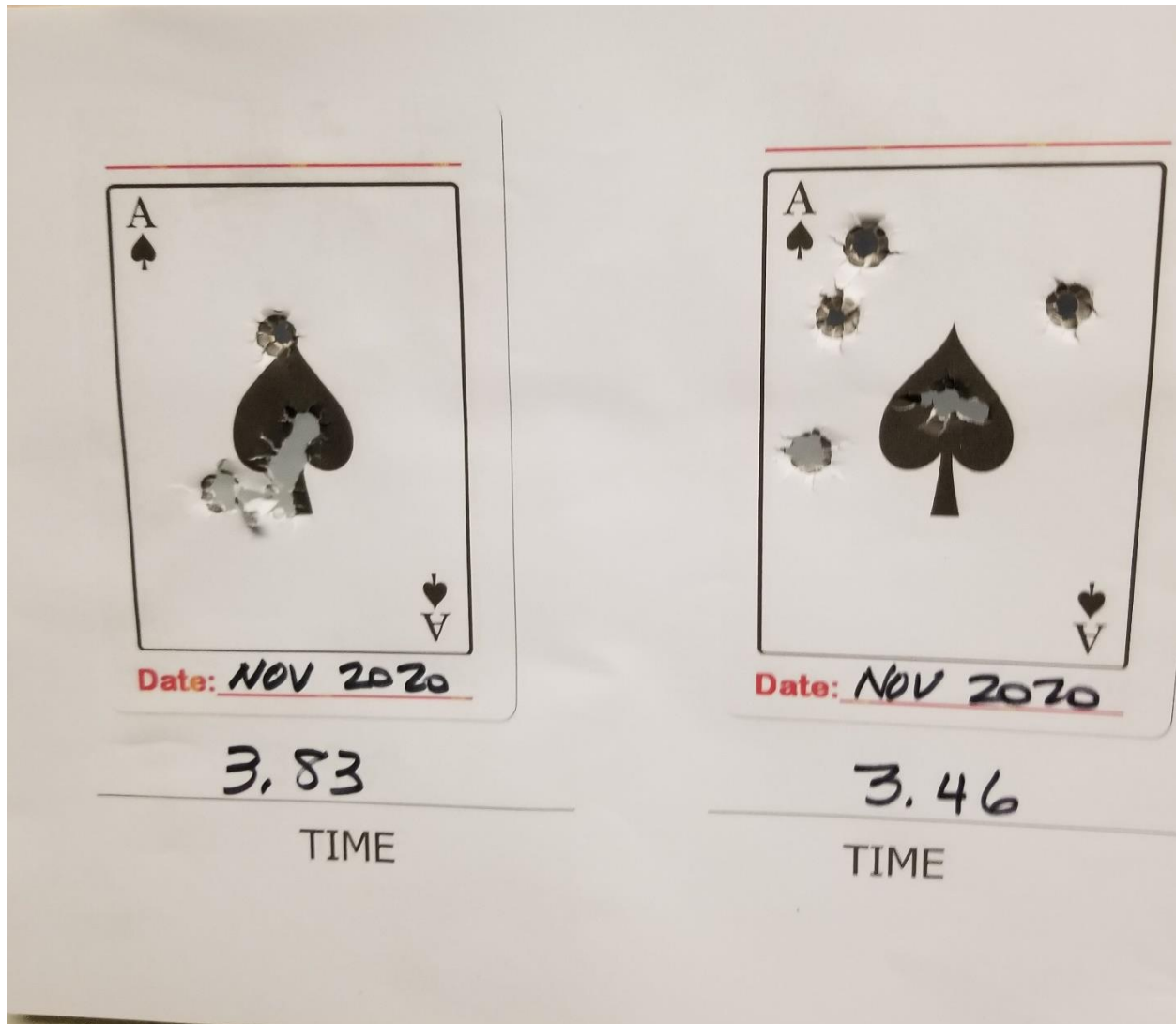
Throughout 2021 we will be running a Drill of the Month in each edition of the newsletter. The goal is help motivate folks to get to the range and actually shoot their defensive weapons, and to have some fun in the process. Each month we'll post a drill or a short course of fire. You are encouraged to go to the range, shoot the drill, and then post your thoughts and a photo of your target on the Rangemaster Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/rangemaster/>.

The Card Drill

This is a fun little drill I usually run in classes, to give students a way to obtain a neat souvenir from class and give them a quick and easy skill check. I use an actual card that is a little bigger than this target in class. On this printable target, the cards are 2 ¾ inch by 3 ¾", making for a good challenge. You can print this target by going to https://rangemaster.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/scan_cards.pdf

Place the target at 5 yards. On the left Ace, start at The Ready, and on signal fire 5 rounds. Use an electronic timer and record your time for five shots. On the right Ace, draw from concealment and fire 5 rounds, again recording the time. Write the time for each string on the space provided on the target. To count as a valid run, all five rounds fired at an Ace have to be inside the outline of the playing card.

The time limit for each run is 5 seconds. All rounds must be inside the playing card, and all fired under 5 seconds for a run to count. In my case, my goal is a clean card from The Ready in around 2.5 seconds, and from a concealed holster in around 3.5-3.8 seconds. My card from The Ready was slower this time, as I went for a tighter group. Give it a try.



Revolver Modifications

As with most weapons, there are certain things we can do to a modern revolver to make it more user friendly and easier to shoot well. Minor modifications, such as stocks that better fit your hand, removing the hammer spur to prevent snagging, and generally smoothing up the exterior surfaces of the gun go a long way toward making it easier to carry and shoot well. Here are some suggestions based on a lot of experience with revolvers over the years.

Note: Any work should be performed by a qualified gunsmith, with experience on revolvers. The action of a wheelgun is much like that of a wind-up watch. Everything has to be timed precisely, so that each chamber aligns with the bore and locks-up prior to hammer fall. This requires extensive training/experience.

Recommended:

- Trigger job, for a smoother, not necessarily lighter trigger pull
- Smooth face of trigger, remove grooves
- Round off sharp corners all over the gun
- (Owner) install stocks of proper shape/size to fit user's hand. This can aid tremendously. Be sure the stocks don't impede ejection of fired cases or insertion of a loaded speedloader.

Optional:

- Colored front sight insert or tritium insert (night sight)
- Remove hammer spur
- Round off corners of the butt
- Chamfer chamber mouths, to ease reloading
- Relieve lower edge of cylinder latch to allow more clearance for speedloaders

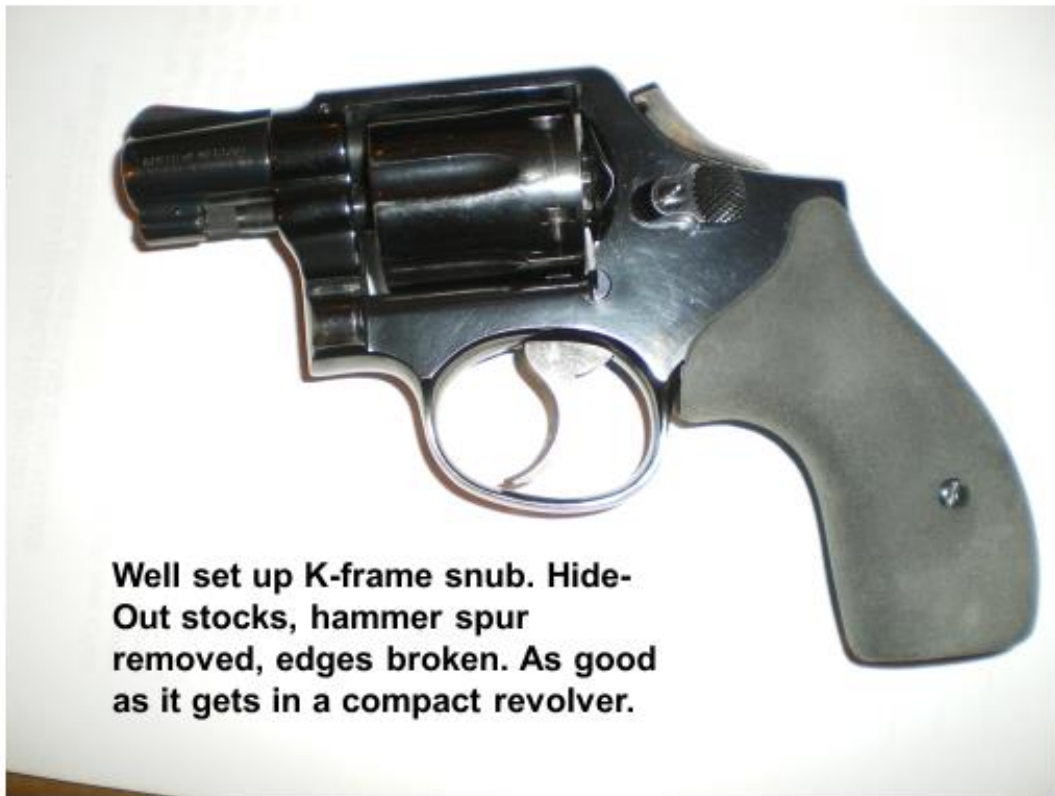
Prohibited:

- Cut away front of trigger guard
- Add on trigger shoe, which can slip and lock the gun up solidly
- Remove coils or otherwise do anything to weaken a spring
- Grind end of strain screw (see above)
- Install stocks that block ejection of fired cases or insertion of speedloaders.

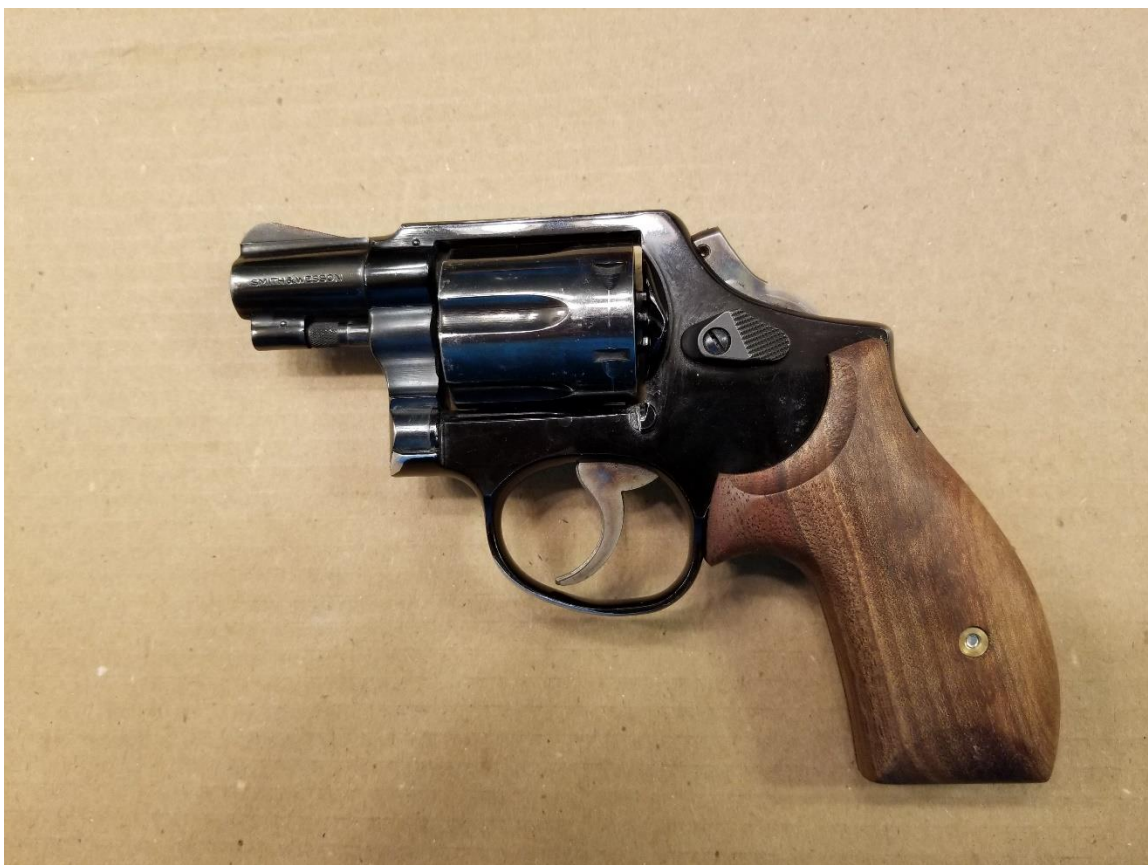
Options like rust resistant finishes are your choice. If you don't want to have a colored insert installed in your front sight, model paint or automotive touch-up paint work just fine. Recommended revolver plumbers:

Karl Sokol <http://chestnutmountainsports.net/>

Cylinder & Slide <http://www.cylinder-slide.com/>







PERSONAL SAFETY CHECKLIST

For most of you, none of this is new information, although it certainly doesn't hurt to refresh your thinking on the matter every now and then. Please also share this information with your family members and others you care about, who might not be as attuned to the issues as we are.

Basic Safety at Home:

1. If you have a security system - Use it!
2. Never open your door to a stranger.
3. Never tell anyone you are home alone.
4. Keep your home well-lighted at all times – inside and out.
5. Keep windows and doors locked.
6. Keep shrubs around your home well trimmed.
7. New home or apartment? – have ALL locks re-keyed immediately.
8. Never hide a door key under a mat, flower pot or mailbox.
9. Lock your doors whenever you are in the yard or garage.
10. Take a cordless phone or your cell phone with you when you work in the yard.

Parking Lot and Vehicle Safety:

In Your Car

1. Lock your car door immediately after getting in your car.
2. Do not sit in your car in a parking lot --- get in and drive off.
3. Check your surroundings before you turn off your car and get out.
 - Anything suspicious? Drive off!!!
4. Keep your cell phone handy at all times.
 - A decent medical kit in your car is mandatory!
 - A flashlight, rain gear and canned “flat fix” also good to have
5. Make a practice of filling your gas tank when it drops below ½ full.
6. Don't EVER park next to or get in your car next to a panel van.
7. When stopping, make certain you can see the bottoms of the tires of the car ahead of you. This leaves you room to drive around that vehicle.
8. Avoid driving in the middle lane, so that you have options.
9. In your car, put your purse behind your legs against the seat
10. If you're being followed, drive to the nearest Emergency Room.

Around Your Car

1. Be alert and aware when leaving stores, malls, etc.
2. Have your keys in your hand as you approach your car.
 - About 40% of all robberies happen at the door of your car.
3. Look inside your car before getting in.
4. Lock your car and take the keys when you get out to pump gas.
5. Don't use ATMs at night or in vulnerable places.
6. Avoid filling your arms with packages that obscure your vision.
7. Avoid stairs in parking garages ... walk down the ramp facing traffic.
8. In parking lots, walk down the middle, not close to parked cars.
9. If a driver asks for directions while you are on foot, stay back several paces from the car.

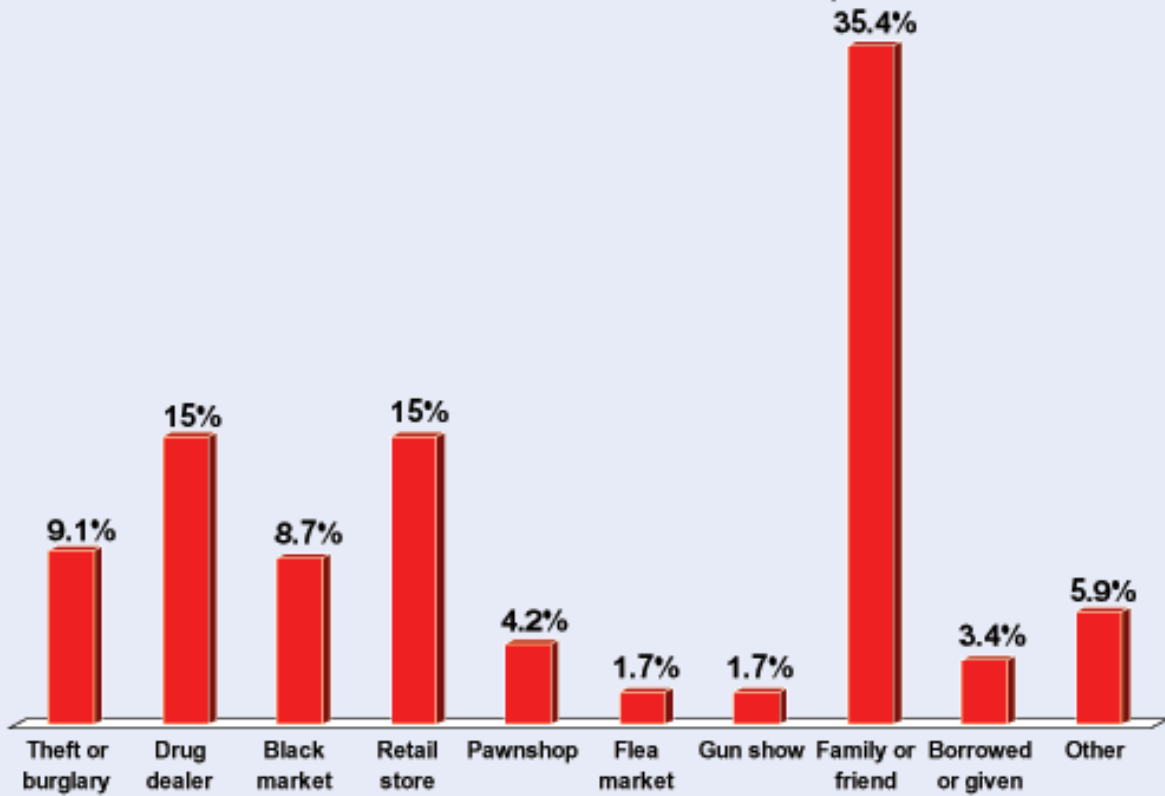
General Awareness & Mindset:

1. Stay alert anytime you are outside your home.
2. Walk with eyes up, looking around you at all times, not talking on your cell.
3. Maintain your personal space in public.
4. Check behind you periodically.
5. Look for anything in the immediate area that looks out of place, out of context, or "just not right".
6. Mindset: "I won't be a victim!"



The Gun Show Loophole

**Source of Firearms Possessed by
Federal Prison Inmates, 1997**



Source: John Scalia, *Federal Firearm Offenders, 1992-1998*, Bureau of Justice Statistics.

The Left and the Media constantly harp on “the gun show loophole. The “gun show loophole” sounds pretty silly when you see where criminals actually get their illegal guns. Note that gun shows accounted for 1.7% of the criminals’ guns in this federal government study.

Inspection of Self Defense Ammunition

Ammunition made in the US is of very high quality. American manufacturers, however, turn out tens of millions of rounds of ammunition *each day*. Any product that is made by the millions per day will suffer from defective, out of spec, or damaged specimens and these will find their way into the boxes shipped to your local dealer.

Handguns rely completely on quality, in spec ammunition to function. Here are just a few of the things we see go wrong frequently:

High Primer- the primer should be seated just below flush in the base of the cartridge. A "high primer" is one that protrudes above the base of the cartridge. In revolvers this can bind against the breech face, preventing rotation of the cylinder. In autos, this can keep the cartridge from sliding up under the extractor, and keep the slide from going into battery.

Inverted Primer- Occasionally we find a cartridge in which the primer was inserted backward.

Damaged Rim- The extractor must grab the rim of the cartridge and pull it out of the chamber so it can be ejected. The rim should be uniform, and have no bends, tears, or burrs.

Damaged Case- The case may have a big dent in it, or the case mouth may have been caught by the bullet's base when the bullet was seated in the case, tearing the case mouth. These will often go into a magazine, but not feed into the pistol's chamber, causing a stoppage.

Bullets- We see bullets inserted backwards in the case, or loose in the case, or pushed back too deeply into the case.

We see a lot of ammo fired every year and we see these deficiencies in every brand and type of handgun ammunition. Before you trust your life to ammunition, inspect it carefully for

the problems described above. I suggest the following for ammo you will actually be carrying:

- 1 Visually inspect the primers carefully. Be sure every case has a primer, that the primer is seated fully, and the primer is not dented or damaged.
- 2 Visually, and by feel, check the rim for damage or burrs.
- 3 Visually check the case, especially the case mouth.
- 4 Visually check the bullets, then with only finger pressure make sure they are not loose in the case. You should not be able to move the bullet at all with your fingers.

Without properly functioning ammunition, your defensive firearm is just a club. Take a few moments to ensure that your ammunition is up to the task.



Examples of bad cartridges, directly from factory boxes.

COMMON “SELF-DEFENSE LAW” MYTHS

Steven M. Harris

Florida Bar 1979

Martindale: Preeminent® - AV (35+ years)

[Refer to your state law to evaluate the following -- for what you need to know. Note: Nothing herein constitutes particularized legal advice or creates an attorney-client relationship between a reader and the author.]

Let's examine (in no particular order) some common “self-defense law” myths:

Stand Your Ground (“SYG”). SYG now influences the “self-defense law” in about two-thirds of the states. However, it remains largely misconstrued. The catchphrase can be traced to federal common law (cases) dating back about 125 years. The contemporary impetus for states to adopt a SYG statute appears to be the belief that prosecutors improperly second-guess the mores and/or antecedent lawful behavior of a defensive force user. SYG is not a creation of the NRA or its Florida lobbyist, or of the Florida governor or legislature. There is no such thing as a “SYG defense” as distinguished from “classic” or “normal” self-defense. SYG was not at all relevant in the half-baked prosecution of George Zimmerman. SYG is merely a short-hand term for the removal of the nebulous “duty to retreat” (which arises just before the decision to use defensive force is made). In some circumstances, for the duty to be removed, one must be lawfully present where and otherwise law-abiding when the defensive force is used. Noncompliance with a SYG precondition should result in the application of state law on “retreat” as it existed before SYG. (That may include that the state prove a safe opportunity for retreat was readily apparent). The pretrial

process available in some states to determine *immunity* from prosecution is often incorrectly referred to as a SYG hearing. Moreover, retreat is rarely an issue in such proceedings. Retreat is logically inapposite when a defender is facing an armed malefactor or multiple malefactors, is physically compromised, in confined space, downed, or disabled. Similarly, it has no application in the defense of others, crime intervention, or citizen's arrest. In a state with SYG, a jury will likely be instructed that the defendant was entitled to "stand his or her ground and had no duty to retreat," without explanation. Thus, prosecutors often remain free to weave their own avoidance theory into the evidence and argument through the predicates of reasonable belief, necessity and imminence.

Firearm Display, Brandishing, Gunpointing, Warning. I frequently read or hear: "Do not display or draw your firearm unless you have already decided to shoot." Or, the related "pointing a gun is the use of deadly force." Those observations do not reflect universal *legal* principles. Display of a holstered firearm, brandishing an unholstered one, and gunpointing are almost always the subject of discrete statutes and/or caselaw. They are likely *nondeadly* force. Usually, only the discharge of a firearm (including a "warning" or missed shot) is considered the use of deadly force as a matter of law. The flip side is the notion that a nonsworn must first display a firearm or issue a verbal warning before shooting. As a matter of law, that is probably almost never correct. The mistaken notion is the result of confusion with inapplicable law – an LEO's "excessive force" Constitution-based duty to issue a verbal warning to someone "fleeing." That said, if state law makes a thing of "threatening" deadly force, gunpointing may under some circumstances be deemed that, and thus be lawful only to oppose an unlawful deadly force threat.

Provocation, "Aggressor." I frequently read or hear that if one provokes another, and then uses defensive force, he or she is considered the "aggressor" and "loses the right to claim self-defense." By statute or case law that *may* be the result; most often, it is not. Many states just impose further requirement(s) (for example, duty to communicate a change-of-mind, actual disengagement, attempt to retreat, or use of nondeadly force first) for deadly force to be justifiable. State laws differ on what constitutes provocation. Words are usually insufficient to make one an "aggressor," unless they threaten imminent unlawful force or are "fighting words." Conduct which is entirely lawful should not be considered provocation, and provocation should be framed so as to be limited to at or very near to the time the defensive force is used. Of note: The concept of

“aggressor” should have no application in the defense of others or crime intervention.

Stand-Alone Justifiable Use of Deadly Force. It is not unusual for those who are acquainted with their state’s “self-defense law” to be unfamiliar with their state’s statute or caselaw (likely dating back to the 1800’s) on justified deadly force detached from self-defense. Such law usually applies when deadly force is used to oppose attempted murder of the force user, or an actually occurring personal or “Castle” felony where the force user is present. As such laws address actually occurring crimes, they do not require reasonable belief, imminence and necessity, nor impose a duty to retreat. Some states have repealed their iteration of such law, or updated it to impose self-defense predicates. Also often overlooked: Deadly force may be lawful in situations where human life is not being threatened. Many states permit deadly force intervention to counter certain imminent or in-progress crimes, without requiring the belief that great bodily harm or death is imminent.

“I Was In Fear For My Life.” Related: “He/she *might* have had a gun.” Exclaiming either or both doesn’t make deadly defensive force more likely to be justifiable. Bare fear and speculation are legally insufficient to justify the use of deadly defensive force. An objectively reasonable, honestly held belief is required. Related to this myth is the belief a deadly force response is lawful only *after* one has been attacked with unlawful force likely to cause death or great bodily harm. Imminent in defensive force analysis is, however, directed at what one reasonably believes is *about to happen*. (Perfection is not demanded, just reasonable belief).

Workplace Violence

Violence in America is an every day issue, and no one is immune. According to the National Association of Security Professionals (NASP) the total number of reported homicides in the US is about 16,500 per year, but adjusted for unreported cases, the total is thought to be about double that figure. The same goes for other crimes, which are often grossly under-reported for a number of reasons. Reported

Assaults, for instance, were 7,560,000 last year, but the actual total is estimated at 37,800,000! Violence in the workplace mirrors the situation in the country as a whole. OSHA reports 1,000 workplace homicides per year, but that does not include a huge number committed at businesses too small to come under OSHA reporting guidelines. OSHA reports 51,000 sexual assaults in the workplace per year, but again those not coming under OSHA are thought to number as high as 500,000 incidents per year.

Some of the factors that increase the risk of violence in the workplace include exchanging money with the public; working alone or in isolated areas; providing services and care; and working in retail sales. That pretty well sums up darn near everyone's job!

What can you do to reduce your risks?

1. Accept that violence can occur anywhere, any time there are people present. You are not "safe" just because you're at work.
2. Take outbursts, erratic behavior, or threats by co-workers seriously. Report such activity to security or HR and insist on follow up.
3. Wear your gear. When someone is shooting up your office, the sidearm at home in the sock drawer will not be of much use to you.

FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR LEVEL COURSES IN 2021

Although we have student level training courses for handgun and for shotgun all over the US in 2021, the majority of our course offerings will be instructor level classes. Here is a list of locations for our instructor development courses in 2021.

INSTRUCTOR LEVEL COURSES IN 2021

Three Day Firearms Instructor Development Course, Pistol

April 9-11 Pistol Instructor Development, Bandera, TX

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tx-tickets-102857140476>

Apr 23-25 Pistol Instructor Development, KR Training, TX

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tx-tickets-100979414146>

May 21-23 Pistol Instructor Development, Decatur, TX

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-125267196557>

June 25-27 Pistol Instructor Development, White Hall, AR

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-ar-tickets-100967205630>

Sept 3-5 Pistol Instructor Dev., Red Hill Range, Martin, GA

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-ga-tickets-101013492074>

Oct 15-17 Pistol Instructor Development, Kansas City, MO

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-handgun-instructor-development-course-tickets-122880074611>

Nov 5-7 Pistol Instructor Development, Dallas, TX

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-pistol-instructor-development-course-tickets-122880213025>

Advanced Firearms Instructor Development Course, Pistol

Jan 24-25 Advanced Pistol Instructor, Homestead, FL

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/advanced-firearms-instructor-development-course-fl-tickets-99757148316>

June 28-29 Advanced Instructor Dev., White Hall, AR

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/advanced-firearms-instructor-development-course-ar-tickets-100968896688>

July 17-18 Advanced Instructor Development, Racine, WI

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-advanced-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-122879406613>

July 23-24 Advanced Instructor Development, Pittsburgh, PA

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/advanced-firearms-instructor-development-course-pa-tickets-101908125948>

Aug 14-15 Advanced Instructor Development, Nashville, TN

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/advanced-firearms-instructor-development-course-tn-tickets-101235558280>

Nov 13-14 Advanced Firearms Instructor, Casa Grande, AZ

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/advanced-firearms-instructor-development-course-tickets-133622694075>

Master Firearms Instructor Development Course, Pistol

Oct 1-3 Master Instructor Course, McLoud, OK

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/master-firearms-instructor-development-course-ok-tickets-101013835100>

Three Day Defensive Shotgun Instructor Development Course

Oct 8-10 Shotgun Instructor, White Hall, AR

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/defensive-shotgun-instructor-development-course-tickets-112318704268>

Rangemaster Firearms Instructor Reunion & Conference

**June 12-13 Rangemaster Instructor Reunion/Conference
Athens, Georgia**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/rangemaster-annual-instructor-reunion-conference-tickets-127518690837>

More follows, read on!

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 9-11 Pistol Instructor Development, Bandera, TX

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tx-tickets-102857140476>

Apr 21 Historical Handgun, KR Training

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/historical-handgun-tickets-113945638472>

Apr 22 Defensive Revolver, KR Training, Lincoln, TX

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/one-day-defensive-revolver-course-tx-tickets-100979534506>

Apr 23-25 Pistol Instructor Development, KR Training, TX

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/three-day-firearms-instructor-development-course-tx-tickets-100979414146>

Apr 26

Defensive Shotgun, KR Training, Lincoln, TX

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/one-day-defensive-shotgun-course-kr-tickets-100980836400>



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