



Safe Defensive Living Column Series

January 2017

John Deans – NRA/LTC Firearms Instructor



SAFE DEFENSIVE LIVING

Storage of firearms needs a rational balance

The sheepdogs of our society have taken on the responsibility of protecting themselves and their loved ones by obtaining firearms for defensive reasons. Gun owners can never get sloppy and lazy with their gun because this could lead to the unauthorized use and deadly results. We never want to live the nightmare of a deadly accidental shooting by a child who found our non-secured gun.

Whether it's an old hunting shotgun or a new handgun you purchased to protect your family, every firearm



JOHN
DEANS

under your ownership is constantly your responsibility. Securing does not mean just hiding your gun. Kids can find anything they are curious about.

For home protection, there also must be a rational balance between quick access to your gun and safely securing it from the wrong hands. Everyone needs a strong gun safe that must be

bolted to the floor and made very difficult for thieves to open or remove from the home. Place your long guns and non-critical handguns in the safe

without any rounds in the chambers. Consider these your 'cold' guns since they are not readily accessible in emergencies such as a burglary or home invasion.

Your quick access firearm, or your 'hot' gun, needs to be loaded, chambered and ready to deploy in seconds when the wolf is at your door. Here is where the balance between secure storage and fast emergency access comes into play. The 'hot' gun cannot be just hidden in a bed stand drawer, between the mattresses, or on a high shelf. Young kids will find them and really bad things can happen that would haunt you for the remainder of your life, not to mention you may spend time in prison.

I recommend strategically hidden

small gun safes that only the owner both knows about and can open with either a strong combination, RFID bracelet, or biometric fingerprint. If a home invader kicks in your door, you will only have mere seconds to attain and deploy your weapon against possibly numerous bad guys.

Same goes for your vehicle. Those small safes are made for under the seat and inside the center console installation. Always lock your car when guns are stored in them and avoid leaving valuables visible that may attract thieves thereby tempting them to get at your guns.

Concealed carry people have a whole other level of firearms safe storage issues due to their having a gun on their person

most of the day. CHL holders have to think about where their firearm is when in the restroom and even just changing clothes. Again, hidden is not secured.

Texas state law 46.13 has teeth to strongly inspire your safe storage practices. If a minor gains access to your firearm and causes serious bodily injury or death to himself or another, you will be charged with a Class A misdemeanor and most likely do time.

Take time today to evaluate your current implementation of safe firearms storage and verify they are secure.

Next month's column: Gun Range Safety

John Deans is a local firearms instructor teaching CHL and handgun classes, www.DeansDefensiveShooting.com.

SAFE DEFENSIVE LIVING

Safety key no matter your gun range expertise

Since firearms proficiency is a perishable skill, shooters need to visit a gun range on a regular basis to maintain their marksmanship. Anytime you are practicing shooting any firearm, safety must be your number one focus.

Before you even leave for the range, make sure you pack protection for your ears and eyes. Remember that shooting a gun is basically holding piece of metal



JOHN
DEANS

focusing its energy on a projectile. If anything goes wrong with the gun or the vector of the bullet and its fragments, you must protect the only two eyes God gave you. Ear protection is also a must unless you want to hear ringing in your ears everyday all day for the rest of your life. Ask me how I know this is true.

Visit the gun range's website and review their safety policies and range rules to make sure your firearm, ammunition, and

practice plans are compliant. Nearly all ranges ban rapid fire, paper targets with human faces, some larger caliber guns and sometimes magnum ammo. Try not to be 'that guy' that gets fussed at during his first trip to the range.

Also before you head to the range, unload your weapon and lock the slide back so you can enter the range with a 'cold' gun. Concealed Handgun Licensed gunners need to take extra care when they are transitioning their concealed gun to the range shooting line.

My extra safety trick to protect me from other possible careless shooters is to pick the furthest lane on the left or right so I only have one shooter next to

me to worry about. I also pay close attention to their behavior and skill level. If a two people are using the lane next to me that are horsing around and not taking safety seriously, I pack up and move to the other end.

The number one rule at all ranges is to always keep the firearm pointed in a safe direction down range (toward the designated targets). Never point the gun, loaded or unloaded, in the direction of yourself or any other person. Even when you are taking the empty gun out of the case, have the case first pointed down range and then take out the gun. This way it is not pointed to the side where other shooters may be.

Keep your finger off the trigger and indexed along the frame of the gun unless just about to shoot. A more crude way to put it: "Keep your booger hook off the bang stick." This is very important when you rack the slide or have to clear a jam. If there are not separator walls between you and other shooters, make sure you do not over react if you get hit by hot brass ejected from other guns.

Take your time at the range, follow all the safety rules and range policies, and work on your accuracy first because the speed will come later.

John Deans is a local firearms instructor teaching CHL and handgun classes.

SAFE DEFENSIVE LIVING

Being aware is critical for safe defensive living

Being aware of your surroundings is critical for safe defensive living. The situational awareness levels can be color coded based on the threats you perceive or experience.

Level White is the naïve state that many people live in thinking no evil will ever come their way. They walk across parking lots with eyes down texting on smart phones never looking around for possible threats. The old saying that 'ignorance is bliss' truly fits here



JOHN DEANS

because once someone accepts that bad things could happen to them and they need to be responsible for their own self-protection, the Level White is no longer a safe clueless refuge.

The Yellow Level of situational awareness is where accountable ones have taken charge of their own safety and are acutely aware of their surroundings. They see when things are just not right or out of place. They can sense ill-intent from a rough stranger quickly approaching

them. They also know how to avoid dangerous situations but not putting themselves at risk to begin with.

This state of raised consciousness is not paranoia but rather being in tune with the real world. Watch the Houston TV news or even just read the Brenham Banner to see how bad people actually do harm good people on a regular basis. That Level Yellow awareness helps you remember to lock the doors as soon as you get into your car at Walmart. It inspires you to keep your head up and monitor the behaviors of others while getting gas at the Shell station on the east side.

The heightened Orange Level is the condition of focused attention on a possible threat. This step up from Level

Yellow was due to a mental trip wire getting triggered because your situational awareness flagged something 'not quite right.' A possible threat has been identified and a mental plan is quickly being developed. You now are evaluating all possibilities, preparing defenses, and boosting our physical apparatuses to maybe engage the threat. Avoidance is also being considered if at all possible and mostly preferred. If you are able to avoid the threat, then good. If the threat turned out to be a false alarm, even better. Toggling back down to Level Yellow of awareness should be relieving.

However, if the threat is real and approaching, immediate awareness escalation to Level Red must be made in

less than a second. Level Red is battle. Implement your self-defense skillsets in force and with vigor.

If you rise out of Level White and live in Level Yellow, occasionally raise up to Level Orange to evaluation specific threats, you may never have to jump to Level Red because you saw the Evil coming and were able to avoid it. Pray you never have to feel Level Red, but prepare for it just in case the Wolf comes your way.

Next month's column will be about non-lethal protection tools.

John Deans is a local firearms instructor teaching CHL and handgun classes. www.DeansDefensiveShooting.com.

SAFE DEFENSIVE LIVING

Protecting yourself during mob violence

Numerous times this year we have seen news events of civil disturbances, out of control protests, and even mob violence and riots in multiple cities. Twenty years ago we all watched in horror as South Central Los Angeles burned and more than 100 people were killed. Our fathers remember the similar Watts riots during their generation.

Now with Ferguson and Baltimore demonstrating how the War on Cops is raging, officers are under siege in many



JOHN DEANS

urban areas. I would include the massive shooting in Waco last month at Twin Peaks, but let us just see what the real story is there since things in Waco are smelling a bit fishy again.

Whatever the cause of the uprising, you need to have your situational awareness in high gear to avoid getting caught up in such chaotic scenes that can quickly become

urban anarchy zones. You must assume that the police cannot save you during those war-like events. Your survival

skills will be all that is protecting yourself and your family when large groups of negative people pack up and become destructive.

Since avoidance is most often the best option, stay informed on both local and national news and current events. Know if a highly charged court decision is about to be announced. Be aware that a questionable shooting has just occurred that may cross racial fire lines.

Stay informed of dates and places of organized demonstrations especially when lead by so called community leaders that have been the center of problems before — Houston's Quanell X is a perfect example.

On Channel 13 news I saw Quanell's protesters blocking the Highway 281 south of Houston's medical center trying to pull a lady out of the car who was trying to get the hospital just after the Zimmerman acquittal a couple of years ago.

If by chance you do drive into a hot bed of protesters or God-forbid a riot, here are some suggestions to help get you out of the lion's den. Best try your last chance to avoid and evade by looking out for large groups of people on the streets with signs. With the first indication of an unusual gathering turn around immediately. If that means hopping a median or tearing up some grass then do it if you can safely and worry

about a traffic ticket later after you are headed to a less hostile area.

Worse case if you become surrounded, do not open your windows to talk or taunt. Simply roll slowly forward (2-4 mph) if you can to get out of harm's way. Only after rioters start to break your vehicle's glass can you implement Texas Castle Doctrine and use deadly force whether it is with your vehicle or a force multiplier like a firearm. But that would be the last resort in many ways.

Next month's column: Road Rage.

John Deans is a local firearms instructor teaching CHL and handgun classes. www.DeansDefensiveShooting.com.

Non-lethal force 'multipliers'

You've probably heard the saying, "To a hammer, everything looks like a nail." In the realm of self-defensive there are many levels of response to a threat. They range from avoidance all the way up to battle. There can be numerous situations where a firearm is not the tool necessary to stop danger.

In the previous column we discussed the importance of situational awareness and how seeing the danger coming is everything. Avoidance is the most beneficial tool in your array of defensive tactics. I would much rather diffuse a problem than battle a fire I didn't have to walk into anyway.

If a threat comes at you quickly and your situational awareness goes from yellow to orange in seconds, then having some type of weapon to stop that



**JOHN
DEANS**

threat can be critical. Any type of physical object that can be used as a weapon enables you to have your level of defensive force multiplied.

This is why items like a bat, knife, gun or even a large rock are called "Force Multipliers."

A force multiplier can be as simple as your hand. My open hand moving in a slapping motion can be force. My closed fist moving quickly with momentum backed by my body's weight can be a force multiplier. Having a folding knife in your pocket has the potential to be a deadly force multiplier, but may be too much force necessary for

some confrontations.

Non-lethal force multipliers are available to the Texas based general public that can be easily carried on our person. The most popular is pepper spray. The keys with this force multiplier are volume, reach, and intensity. Don't both with the small loz keychain versions since it is not enough to stop an attack and will most likely just make the aggressor angrier.

Do the research and spend the money, \$30-\$50, and buy a 4+ ounce bottle with at least a 10 foot range that has a high Oleoresin Capsaicin (OC) percentage strength of 10% or more. Shy away from the foams since they have a shorter range of 4-6 feet but also be careful with the foggers because of the chance of you being downwind and becoming your own victim of an hour of pepper induced pain. I keep a full 16-oz. police-rated pepper spray with an 18%

OC strength in a Cone delivery shooting 15 feet of streaming pain in the door pocket of all my vehicles.

Stun guns can deliver 50K volts of short time pain to attackers, but you need to be in close quarters which can get rough real quick. Tazers that shoot wired barbs delivering a 5 second shocking ride to the bad guy from a distance of 15 feet can be the best non-lethal force multiplier, but get ready to spend a couple hundred dollars. Just remember, something is better than nothing.

Next Month's Column: Road Rage.

John Deans is a local firearms instructor teaching CHL and handgun classes.

**ABCATS Trips
2015**

Trans-Canada Train Journey

SAFE DEFENSIVE LIVING

Avoid road rage at all costs

You are going the speed limit in the right lane of U.S. 290 and look in your vehicle's rear view mirror to see some jerk right on your tail. You cannot even see his front grill since he's so close on your rear end. Out of frustration you tap the brakes, and he slams his on out of surprise. Then his anger increases and he comes around on your left side yelling and shooting the finger at you. You then respond with a ... and it all goes downhill front there.

Road rage can erupt quickly, anytime and anywhere. Though your chances are higher as you travel east across the Brazos River, it can even happen trying to cross Highway 36 South exiting Walmart here in Brenham. It could start as a simple honk, which can lead to an obscene gesture, and then two hotheads exiting vehicles to commit some level of assault.

The Washington Post reported last year that since 2005 road rage fatalities have



**JOHN
DEANS**

increased 400 percent, and it's still getting worse. With cutting and swerving being the top aggressive move, we are seeing this national mobile hostility everyday here in Central Texas. Shootings in Houston originating from Road Rage incidents are reported in the *Houston Chronicle* every month.

The solution is similar to last month's column of mob violence being "avoidance."

Avoid committing aggressive driving yourself. Remember the old 1980s public service awareness project of "Drive Friendly?" That is more important in today's trip-wired and hot-tempered society.

If someone else is taunting you in their vehicle, it's up to you to not keep the ball rolling. This is one that I still have to work on every day. Avoid honking back, speeding up to cut him off in return, shooting the bird back to him (or her).

Women are equal opportunity offenders of road rage. So, if you are being harassed

by another driver without your own return provocation, try to slow down in another lane and just let Angry Andy go by. If he persists and is progressing into dangerous behavior then call 911 to report him.

If things really get out of hand with Angry Andy becoming Dangerous Dan who starts waving a gun, then hit the brakes and get behind him for two reasons. First, it's real hard to shoot a target to the rear while driving. Second, you can then start filming him on your smartphone, capturing both his threatening actions and license plate. Immediately call 911 and report the deadly menace.

Absolutely avoid a road rage instigated gunfight at all costs. However, if you are at no fault, he's got you boxed-in, then gets out and tries to break your vehicle's glass, you must defend yourself and your family by all means necessary. Try your best to never let it get that far.

Next month's column: Avoid firearm accidental discharges,

John Deans is a local firearms instructor teaching CHL and handgun courses. www.DeansDefensiveShooting.com.

SAFE DEFENSIVE LIVING

Avoiding firearm accidental discharges

We were finishing out my law enforcement buddy's practice for his firearms recertification the next week, when something bad happened.

Back in 2000, he had just received his new duty Glock .45ACP semi-automatic pistol with its accompanying redesigned retention holster and we were working on the mandatory draw-and-shoot drill.

As the then 30-year police veteran with multiple gunfights under his belt holstered his new duty weapon, his index finger hit the retention extension. Trying to push the gun into holster past the obstruction, the improperly placed finger then entered the trigger guard and then onto the trigger just as the handgun entered the holster. Boom. Scream.



JOHN DEANS

The ball ammo .45ACP bullet entered his buttocks high, exited lower thigh, re-entered upper calf and stopped inside just above the ankle bone. I ripped off my shirt to apply pressure on all three bullet wound holes and called 911.

No major damage was done with the exception of his ego, and he still has that slug on his keychain to remind him of trigger discipline.

Any manipulation of a firearm that is loaded (assume they all are) can result in an Accidental Discharge (AD). That is why the golden rule is to have the gun always pointed in a safe direction. The second rule is to keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to fire.

Both law enforcement (LE) professionals and

concealed handgun license (CHL) holders must be ever vigilant when holstering or un-holstering their weapons.

This is especially true when loading or unloading handguns. Make darn sure your index (trigger) finger is straight along the gun's frame and not inside the trigger guard when pulling back the slide.

Setup your iPhone 6 to film slow-motion video of your trigger finger during dryfire draw. It should not enter the trigger guard until the handgun is nearly level and nowhere near your hip, leg, or foot.

Long guns can also AD when a round is left in the chamber and absentminded hunters are moving their deer hunting or AR-15 rifles around from the gun safe to the truck and back.

Always clear your rifle's chamber before any other activity other than immediate shooting events.

Our precision rifle marksmen are under strict rules at our range to have at least a 2-pound trigger pull. Any custom trigger jobs that are less than that are apt to AD with a simple bolt run during the chambering process. Also the manual safety must be engaged on all chambered rifles when shooters are adjusting the scope turrets, bipod legs, stock bags, or even themselves at the firing line.

The two loudest sounds a gun makes is 'bang' when it should go 'click' and 'click' when it should go 'bang.' Trigger discipline, proper loading practices, and common sense safety procedures go a long way to prevent AD's.

Next month's column: civilian defense — active shooter

John Deans is a local firearms instructor teaching CHL and handgun courses. www.DeansDefensiveShooting.com.

SAFE DEFENSIVE LIVING

Defending yourself against an active shooter

Just a couple of weeks ago, four brave Americans on a train in France heard a gunshot and then saw an Islamist armed with an AK-47 enter their passenger car trying to clear a rifle jam. One of our boys said, "Let's Go!" The three unarmed Americans ran towards the active shooter, took him down, disarmed him, choked him out and beat him unconscious.

Group One of active shooters have three common denominators: 1) Young angry males, 2) who were on prescribed psychotropic drugs, and 3) had played violent video games for years. Some 30 percent of the active shootings happen at schools and 40 percent occur at the workplace with the rest at other public venues. Group Two are the



JOHN DEANS

Islamic terrorists.

The police say "Run, Hide, and then Fight." For those who have the physical ability and the Sheepdog in them to arm up and get trained, I say fight right away like those three brave young Americans on that French train. The only thing that

stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun. Be that good guy who runs toward the screams and gunfire.

The vast majority of the victim deaths from an active shooter occur in the first five minutes before law enforcement arrives. Armed civilians have stopped numerous active shooters in their tracts, saving countless lives.

To become that Sheepdog, first get your CHL and learn the lifestyle. I have had mine for 19 years now and I feel na-

ked being light without my gun when I'm at Brenham High School listening to my daughters in the band.

Next, get training. As a CHL instructor I am amazed at the lack of skill many CHL holders possess. Gun fighting is a perishable skill that needs to be practiced and worked. You need to be able to "run the gun" to protect yourself and others in deadly active shooter situations.

If you do find yourself in an active shooter event unarmed like

the young men on that French train, then it's time to adapt and react. Group up like they did and move quickly, viciously and effectively. Give the evil wolf no quarter and eliminate the threat with extreme violence. Check into carrying "tactical pens" available online.

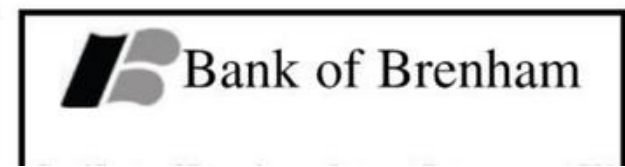
If the shooter has a pistol, get your hand on the slide and push back constantly to momentarily disable it. Odds are the active shooter will have an AR-15 or AK-47 long gun. Grab the magazine or pistol grip and torque

the rifle to break his grip while keeping the barrel pointed down towards his feet or legs. Bang your head into his face.

The most important aspect to survival of an active shooter is to have situational awareness. Hear it, see it and feel it coming so you can act. Be the Sheepdog, not the sheep.

Next month's column: Report and track drunk drivers.

John Deans is a local firearms instructor teaching CHL and handgun classes. www.DeansDefensiveShooting.com.



SAFE DEFENSIVE LIVING

Tactical techniques to help catch drunk drivers

Back in the early 1990's, I was driving home from a client site late at night after upgrading a network when a drunk driver nearly side-swiped me and then weaved on down the highway.

This infuriated me, so I followed the impaired driver and placed a call on my cell phone to the Houston Police Department since the 911 service was not available on the early cellular network 22 years ago. I stayed on the phone while tailing the drunkard until an HPD cruiser caught up with



JOHN DEANS

me and then pulled over the dangerous idiot.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) got their start in the early 1980s when over 20,000 Americans lost their lives yearly to drunk driving wrecks. As of 2014, that number of tragic fatalities has been cut in half to around 10,000 due to stronger drunk driving laws, stricter enforcement, and

an overall public awareness that drinking and driving is a bad thing.

This nationwide problem is still not resolved, and just three years ago, we

lost four young lives to a drunken illegal alien on Highway 36 near the state school.

Illegals have a higher rate of drunk driving, but that's an article for another venue. The issue for today is that we still have too many drunken idiot drivers on the road putting our loved ones at risk. We can make a difference on a daily basis if we are willing to put some skin in the game.

Law enforcement can only bust the intoxicated motorists they encounter, but we as civilian mobile observers can be their force multipliers on the roadways. When we see obvious drunken drivers grossly weaving, overtly running stop signs and red lights, or just driving extremely slow, the opportuni-

ty is ours to make a 911 call and alert the city police, county sheriff or state trooper.

The call you place to local law enforcement on your way home from a movie at Westwood about a suspected drunk driver you just observed endangering the public could actually save lives. If you do find yourself in the eyewitness role to the crime of drunken driving in real time, here are some tactical techniques you may want to utilize.

First, keep your distance. Try not to tail the drunk to the point you become a point of interest or a perceived threat. Wait until a stop at a red light, stop sign, or intersection to capture the license plate and relay it to the 911

operator who you will keep informed the whole time you are following the impaired driver. Accurately communicate the perpetrator's location, direction of travel and vehicle description.

If you have another person in your vehicle, have them video the event on their cell phone since documentation is everything. Hopefully, the officer will catch the inebriated person you have reported, and no one will get hurt that night.

Next month's column: New gun laws taking effect in 2016.

John Deans is a local firearms instructor teaching CHL and handgun classes. www.DeansDefensiveShooting.com.

SAFE DEFENSIVE LIVING

New 2016 Texas gun laws Part I – open carry

Earlier this year the Texas legislature authored two new major gun rights legislation later signed into law by Gov. Greg Abbott. The first of legal entity addressed the long anticipated "Open Carry" law enabling citizens to openly carry handguns on the their person under specific guidelines.

What did not pass was a strongly pushed 'constitutional carry' which would have negated our 18-year-old concealed handgun licensing (CHL) program for an all-out-carry without any licensing



JOHN DEANS

or training. Being a rabid 2nd amendment rights advocate, I could see both sides of this contentious argument.

Of the numerous bills filed, the version of open carry that did finally pass authorizes those with current CHLs to either carry concealed or non-concealed as of Jan. 1 2016. The only technical restriction is that the firearm has to be held in

a belt or shoulder mounted holster.

There will not be a separate license for open carry participants and no immediate training requirements were

written into the law. Current and future CHL holders will simply have the option to open carry. We CHL instructors have not even been trained on how to teach our students on open carry procedures. DPS will deliver our new curriculum to us by December to implement into our CHL classes before 2016 begins.

One strong recommendation from the DPS and most firearms instructors will be for the open carry gunner to utilize the same retention holsters as law enforcement. This keeps the bad guys from coming up from behind and pulling the gun out of an unprotected holster. Two-point, if not three-point, retention holsters should be used to safeguard your exposed weapon.

Numerous businesses will start posting official 30.07 signage which bans open carry on their premises similar to all the 30.06 signs we have seen for a decade banning concealed carry. I expect a larger number of businesses to ban open carry compared to concealed carry just because of the exposure concerns from other customers.

Being heavy concealed legally since 1996, I do not plan to open carry in the near future. My goal is to be the quietly armed sheepdog that nobody notices. I want to keep my tactical advantage over the wolf maintaining my element of surprise if evil comes my way.

Though the open carry law takes effect in two months, I do not think we

will see too many exposed handguns hung from hips. At a recent meeting of over 150 CHL instructors, they were asked by the DPS trainer who planned to open carry come January 1st 2016. Only three people raised their hands and then felt uncomfortable looking around the room at the other 147 instructors not raising their hands.

An armed society is a polite society and I'm remaining on the more polite side, for now.

Next Month's Column: New Gun Laws Taking Effect in 2016 Part II – Campus Carry.

John Deans is a local firearms instructor teaching CHL and handgun courses. www.DeansDefensiveShooting.com.

SAFE DEFENSIVE LIVING

New Texas gun laws Part II – Campus Carry

Last month we discussed the 'Open Carry' law enabling citizens to openly carry handguns. The second major firearms legislation passed was coined Campus Carry (S.B. 11) which goes into effect at four year public universities like UT and A&M the coming August. Legally armed carriers will be able to be heavy on junior and community colleges like Blinn College the following August in 2017.



**JOHN
DEANS**

Texas with private colleges and universities like Rice and TCU likely remaining large gun-free zones. Since nearly every mass shooting has occurred in these gun-free zones, you can make the choice where to send your kid. I will be happy for my daughters to be in a Texas public university where fellow armed sheepdogs can be nearby to help protect my lovely

girls.

The Campus Carry law only effects public higher learning institutions in armed adults will have to be at least 21

years of age and have completed their Texas Concealed Handgun License (CHL) course. Their firearm will have to remain concealed while on campus. There will not be Open Carry on the Campus Carry enabled environments, so do not combine these two major legislative entities.

Less than one percent of the University of Texas students have their CHL. So we are talking around only 500 people out of 50,000 have taken responsibility for their safety with the remaining 49,500+ remaining unarmed either due to their young age or their decision to remain defenseless.

The Campus Carry law does allow public universities to carve out specific areas where the concealed carriers can-

not be armed. These locations are being debated as we speak and will have to be approved by the university's Board of Regents. If college directors get carried away by making these special gun-free zones too vast thereby negating Campus Carry, those over reaches may be reviewed by state legislators.

Two UT graduate students consulted with me last month about active shooter defense because they were involved in the forum charged with doing the ground work to determine those areas off limits to Campus Carry. I'm hoping I may have educated them into understanding that only a good guy with a gun stops a bad guy with a gun.

One of the off limits area that made sense dealt with labs containing highly

volatile and potentially explosive materials. Stopping an active shooter is one thing, but risking blowing up a building would not add up.

Our Blinn College here in Brenham will be a safer place when the two professors with their CHLs who train at my gun range will be able to protect the students starting August 2017. They are currently being trained on active shooter defense techniques. Hopefully more will become campus sheepdogs in the years to come.

Next month's column: nighttime defensive technique

John Deans is a local firearms instructor teaching CHL and handgun courses. www.DeansDefensiveShooting.com.

SAFE DEFENSIVE LIVING

Low light defensive techniques for your home

Ten years ago my Brenham High School graduate son called me at 10 p.m. on a Friday night telling me he would be spending the night at the home of a buddy, who was having a party.

Four hours later I hear a side door open abruptly in our home and I go into condition red since I know it's not our son. With 12-gauge in hand and tactical flash light engaged, I begin clearing our home for the potential invader.

I as swept the family room I caught the glimpse of an arm and I hear, "Dad!



**JOHN
DEANS**

It's me!" Shotgun immediately aimed at the floor, I confirmed it was my son who broke the golden rule by returning home unannounced when thought to be out for the whole night. Fear burned into anger then to tears in seconds as I realized I almost killed my son.

A decade later with dozens of painful replays in my mind, I know I had to investigate the likely break-in from what I knew at the time. I had my wife and young daughters to protect.

What protected my ignorant son's life and my sanity, was the intensive firearms training I had received over the prior years.

What saved my family that night was a heavy focus on situational awareness, threat evaluation, and target identification.

In low light scenarios, your source of light is everything. Forget the yahoos who say, "I don't want to make myself a target with a light."

When the wolf is in your home with established natural night vision, your projected illumination immediately takes out 90 degrees of his focal point and degrades the majority of his ability to visualize the battlefield.

Your advantage is that you can pos-

itively eliminate friendlies quickly and foes even faster. Yes, there are tactical techniques utilizing light sources for clearing multiple rooms in a home and I strongly recommend low light tactical training courses. The critical point I'm pushing here is that you must have positive threat identification at night before you deploy force of any kind.

Also a decade ago, I spent many nights near the southern border with the Texas Border volunteers spotting illegal foreign invaders and aiding the U.S. Border Patrol in apprehending these law breakers.

Since they primarily moved at night, we utilized covert thermal and night vision optics for reconnaissance along with full illumination during confron-

tations to eliminate resistance. The light during the night was our friend in the civilian defense of our borders.

The deployment of light in dangerous situations helps provide clarity and reduces misidentifications. Conflict and confrontations are dynamic and difficult in nature.

Determining friend or foe in the dark of night requires well-lit knowledge to prevent disaster. Shedding light on a potential threat can be enlightening and possibly even save a life.

Next month's column: Domestic violence avoidance.

John Deans is a local firearms instructor teaching CHL and handgun courses. www.DeansDefensiveShooting.com.

SAFE DEFENSIVE LIVING

Recognize the cycle of domestic violence

My father Jack Deans counseled over 5,000 troubled men and women as a lay therapist from the 1960s till the late 1980s at our home in Bellaire.

I was only 12 when I overheard Dad telling Mom that a physically abusive husband of my father's counselee was on his way over to kill Dad tonight for telling his wife to leave him.

Mom and I were terrified and frustrated because my WWII drill sergeant father refused to call the police and instead sat out on the front yard in a lawn chair waiting for the thug. The big talking wife beater never showed.

Sadly, we are sometimes more at risk from the people we know or even love rather than the



**JOHN
DEANS**

stranger wolf on the streets. Domestic abuse is a horrible act which can repeat itself over generations across all economics levels.

Just as we utilize situational awareness to protect ourselves from the street wolves, we need to avoid placing ourselves in bad domestic situations. Prevention comes from perception and recognition of domestic abuse red flags.

My counselor father taught me as a young man, "Son, you never ever hit a woman. If she hits you willy-nilly, you hit the door and leave her." I hang with some of the toughest good guys around and none of them would ever strike a lady. Weak men do, unfortunately.

My short message to guys receiving abuse from their female spouses is to smile as you walk out the door. Do not reciprocate the violence, simply leave her to the demons of her own creation.

Ladies, you need to recognize the cycle of abuse of 1.) Abuse Event, 2.) Make Up, 3.) Calm, 4.) Tension Buildup and 5.) Repeat of Abuse.

Guys who hit women will do it again eventually. Know the warning signs, such as when they try to isolate you from your family and friends. This is a common technique to strategically break down the healthy support network of positive influences.

The abuser has more control on you when the people that truly care about you are pushed aside by him or by you trying to make him happy.

Try to see these abusive red flags before a relationship gets too serious.

Another rule of thumb my dad gave me was, "Watch the way a man treats his mother, since that will tell volumes on how he'll eventually treat you." In other words, if he disrespects his own mother odds are that same negative energy will be directed your way one day.

Spousal abuse will often digress to child abuse as the years go by. Being proactive to rid yourself of an abusive romantic partner early in the relationship cycle can save a lifetime of agony for future children.

You would not let the wolf from the street into your home, so try not to let the abusive lover into your life.

Next month's column: When to walk away — when to bow up.

John Deans is a local firearms instructor teaching LTC and handgun courses. www.DeansDefensiveShooting.com.

SAFE DEFENSIVE LIVING

You have to know when to just walk away

I deliver a strong message to 21-year-old males in my CHL/LTC class that they will have to adopt a more passive demeanor and strive to avoid potential conflicts when carrying a firearm. Young men can have a short temper and lack of judgement due to their inexperience dealing with aggression. To many hammer headed guys, everyone mousing off can look like a nail.

Whether you carry a gun or not, the goal is to avoid conflicts. The first step in this proactive avoidance process is that you do not initiate trouble by being rude, vulgarly loud, or an overly aggressive driver. It is easy enough to come across belliger-



**JOHN
DEANS**

ent jerk looking for trouble or have a road rage maniac pull up next to you. So do not increase the likelihood of getting into a fight with some guy over a parking space or an idiot driver cutting you off while on the highway.

Ladies should also not be so quick to throw out an abrupt "Excuse Me!" when another shopper at H-E-B is blocking the aisle. Women these days can be just as apt to physically go off with the slightest perceived insult. Try not to be the lady that sparks the fire of someone just looking for an excuse to take someone out.

There may be unavoidable encounters where

the aggressor has you cornered and gives you no other option but to respond with opposing force. It is at that time you get quieter, but stronger, by saying something like, "I'm not wasting my time on you" in a calm but firm voice. My favorite is, "I'm not going risk losing my CHL over you" which has worked a time or two.

Only after all de-escalation efforts have failed do you resort to physical force. Distance is your friend so attempt to maintain at much space between you and the aggressor. Words cannot hurt you, but hands and feet can so watch for any precipitous movements indicating a strike towards you is imminent.

Since the speed of action always beats reaction, you may have to deliver the first punch if the bad guy is quickly closing in on you with the intent of assault. Keep in mind, you may likely

be charged with assault by striking first. If your hand-to-hand skills are sharp enough, you can intently watch hands and wait for the aggressor's first punch, then block, and counter quickly. This way, you are in a self-defense mode and on better legal ground.

Also remember any blow to the head can be viewed as the use of deadly force in the Texas Penal code. I've seen many fights come to a quick end without permanent or severe injury by a fast and strong punch to the solar plexus.

Bottom line, better to first utilize your brain than having to resort to your brawn.

Next month's column: Shooting accuracy techniques.

John Deans is a local firearms instructor teaching LTC and handgun courses. www.DeansDefensiveShooting.com.

SAFE DEFENSIVE LIVING

Techniques to help with your shooting accuracy

When I teach a firearms course, I first focus is on safety, demonstrating and mandating muzzle discipline where the gun is pointed. After covering other critical issues such as keeping your finger off the trigger by indexing the gun until ready to fire, my next big push is for shooting accuracy.

Whether you are a new shooter or a seasoned gunner, your shots have to be on. Too many times, I have seen people put up a large paper target and send lead down range, only to be satisfied they hit the sheet most of the time. Since we are all responsible for the final destination of every bullet we fire, it is absolutely critical that our projec-



**JOHN
DEANS**

tiles must hit and stay in the hostile entities targeted. In other words, your bullets best hit the bad guy and stay in him.

Let's start from the ground up with your stance. Form an aggressive isosceles stance, with your feet shoulder distance apart and your knees slightly bent. Lean forward a bit and fully extend out your arms, locking your elbows. This is a true fighting stance that can move quickly and help absorb handgun recoil.

Having the most meat on the gun is needed to have a firm grip so the recoil works properly enabling smooth semi-automatic ammunition recycling. Never cross your thumbs

or the semi-auto slide will cut your knuckle. Hold the gun tight enough to keep it from bouncing around, which would result in reload jams and inaccurate shots.

Sight picture is the image of the target view just above the front sight centered between the rear sights on the handgun. Only the front sight will be in focus since your eyes cannot keep all three entities of rear sight, front sight, and target image visually clear at the same time.

Trigger control is the most important factor in making a clean and accurate shot. The mind does not like the surprise bang and kick of a handgun. To compensate we purposely pull the trigger abruptly to avoid this uncomfortable surprise, which drops the shot to low and left.

The critical key technique is to slowly press the trigger back while holding your breath and

maintaining a solid sight picture, therefore not knowing when the shot will go off. We must press the trigger back ever so slowly and maintain the focused view of the front sight centered between the rear sights. Then we wait for the gun to go off and surprise us. Only then will the bullet travel the intended path and land solidly on target.

Only with consistent practice, starting with hundreds and then thousands of rounds accurately fired down range, will the civilian marksman be able to achieve the NRA goal of a 90 percent grouping on a 6" circle target at 15 yards.

Next month's column: Defensive of life vs fighting for property

John Deans is a local firearms instructor teaching LTC and handgun courses. www.DeansDefensiveShooting.com.

SAFE DEFENSIVE LIVING

Staying safe while traveling on summer vacation

School's out and vacation time is here! Whether you are traveling a couple of hours to Galveston Island or several thousand miles to Thailand, here are some general precautions to keep your family safe.

When we leave Washington County for a short day trip to see family, there are some basic steps I perform to be safely proactive and avoid security problems. First, I top off the gas tank to eliminate filling up in Houston and verify my bugout bag (or bug-back-home)



**JOHN
DEANS**

has clean water and fresh batteries. I check my weapon systems for functionality and accessibility both on my person and within my vehicle. Since escaping Houston over 17 years ago, I cannot conceive how people travel to and from that crime-ridden city without access to a firearm.

Multi-day trips inside Texas can be a bit more involved due to overnight stays. In hotel parking lots, try to park your vehicle as close to the front lobby as possible to avoid break-ins, or worse

yet, car-jackings. Be careful of following recommended shortcut routes suggested by your GPS in strange urban areas. The last place you want to end up after a long day's drive is gangland.

If you have a flat, make sure you pull completely off the highway. Pulling off to the shoulder makes you vulnerable to run-ins by distracted or even drunk drivers. Drive an extra few hundred yards, exit the freeway and find a driveway or parking lot to perform your breakdown diagnostics. While outside the vehicle, remain in situational awareness level Orange and be in criminal profiling mode for anyone that approaches you.

When I travel out of state, I first an-

alyze the reciprocity issues of my License to Carry (LTC) so I know the laws carrying my handgun both on my person and within my vehicle. If I'm forced to travel to hostile anti-gun states like California, I utilize other force multipliers I can conceal and get away. If you are required to visit high risk locations like Chicago or Detroit, which have both severe firearms restrictions and extreme gun crime, awareness and avoidance is absolutely critical.

Outside the USA is a whole different scenario. Gone are your American rights to self-defense and in some cases, the right to a fair trial. No way can I carry my firearm like I have here in the

states for 25 years, and even carrying a knife can put me in a foreign prison. Next month I'll be the only sheepdog armed with only my tactical pen with my wife's entire family in Thailand. My strategy will be awareness, avoidance, and prayer.

Just over the Brazos or across the Pacific, there are steps to take and plans to make so you and your family will have a safe trip and a positive travel experience.

Next month's column: Our returning warriors

John Deans is a local firearms instructor teaching LTC and handgun courses. www.DeansDefensiveShooting.com.

Defense of life versus fighting for property

JOHN DEANS

After learning how to shoot in the 1970s and carrying a gun for 25 years, I started teaching others to shoot. First, I had to get right with the Lord and my conscience since the raw truth is firearms instructors teach people how to kill other human beings. On the day I meet my Maker, I want to stand in front of God with a clean soul. I believe use of deadly force in defense of innocent life is justified in our Lord's eyes.

When I teach License to Carry (LTC) class, one of the major parts of the course is the Use of Deadly Force law covered under Chapter 9.32 in the Texas State Penal Code. It is justified to the degree you reasonably believe deadly force is immediately necessary to prevent the imminent commission of aggravated kidnapping, murder, sexual assault, aggravated sexual assault, robbery, or aggravated robbery



**JOHN
DEANS**

against yourself or an innocent third party.

There are other parts of the statute in Chapter 9 that also allow you to use deadly force to prevent a theft of your property at nighttime. Those situations can get dicey very fast depending on the make-up of the grand jury for that county. I may get No-Billed by a Washington County grand jury if I shot a car thief driving off with my truck out of my driveway near Bren-

ham. But, that may not be the case in Austin (ie. San Francisco of Texas).

After consulting with DA Julie Renken, Investigator Mark Whidden and Sheriff Otto Hanak, I've adopted the stance of only deploying deadly force in defense of life. If I see some punk stealing my car, I would use force by threatening him with my firearm, but if he is no physical threat to me or my family, it's just not worth the trouble.

Robbery is a whole different scenario. If a bad guy uses illegal force upon myself or my family to rob us, burgle our home, or car jack our family vehicle, it'll be rounds going down range his way quickly.

Defense of a third person is also covered under Chapter 9.32 of the Texas Penal code enabling you to use deadly force to protect someone else. The trick here is to know who is who

when two strangers are in combat. You would not want to be the LTC holder who shot a plain clothes officer trying to gain control of an escaped female felon because you mistook the rough arrest for a sexual attack scenario.

Learn the Texas self-defense laws. Get professional firearms training and obtain your License to Carry. Build your confidence to become the Sheep Dog to protect yourself and the sheep around you.

Think twice before taking some punk's life over stealing your weed eater from the backyard shed, but be ready to stop the wolf with precision accuracy if he comes to harm you or your family.

Next month's column: Traveling defensively.

John Deans is a local firearms instructor teaching LTC and handgun courses. www.DeansDefensiveShooting.com.

SAFE DEFENSIVE LIVING

Give a special thanks to our returning warriors

My personal heroes — my father who manned a 50-cal against the imperial Japanese in WWII, my brother Mike who battled the Vietcong, my nephew Devin patrolled the sands in Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and my son Dustin who hunted Islamic wolves in Iraq — all had one common trait: they were warriors and gentlemen. The freedom we all enjoy now was paid for in blood, tears, and time in hell by American warriors and I pay them homage.



**JOHN
DEANS**

Have never served myself, I've always had that nagging debt to freedom I owed and felt I had make up for it someday to those who paid my tab. My drill sergeant father and I went round and round when I was 17 wanting to fly helos for the Army back in the Jimmy Carter bad days. Dad was against it and he won that fight. I lost in many ways.

Decades later I was able begin to "give back" to those who truly paid our dues for liberty. After our gun range

was constructed back in 2009, I opened it up to veterans returning from the "sandbox" that needed to keep up their craft. My only request from these battle tested warriors was that they teach my civilian crew their proven skill sets.

Over the years we have hosted numerous Army Scouts, Marine Corps Snipers, and even a few Navy Seals at our Seven Eagles Shooting Range. These are some of the toughest fighters that have been battle tested in the worst parts of the world. The common denominators of these military veterans is the calm demeanor, gentle nature, and overall good human spirit.

They taught our civilian marksmen to consistently hit dinner plates from

eight football fields away on our precision rifle course, and apple-sized targets with our handguns at 50 yards (not feet, but yards).

Many former combat veterans now work at gun stores and firearms training facilities, teaching civilians like us how to survive combat. My current instructor, Paul Howe, was one of the primary Special Operations fighters on the ground during the "Black Hawk Down" battle in Mogadishu. Paul is one of the nicest guys I have ever met.

I no longer worry about an unconstitutional gun confiscation by rouge federal government for one simple reason. These former warriors, who battled

the Islamic wolves for 15 years, now walk and work among us. These honorable veterans are very well armed, supplied, and experienced in the art of war. These heroes are on our side and we shall never give up our arms.

So when you come upon a veteran, thank them for their service. They, the one percent, have paid the price for the cake life we live here in America. So, this coming 4th of July, buy them lunch or at least say, "Thanks Brother!"

Next month's column: Women and guns.

John Deans is a local firearms instructor teaching LTC and handgun courses. www.DeansDefensiveShooting.com.

SAFE DEFENSIVE LIVING

It's time we back up our 'Brothers in Blue'

After July's two group assassinations of peace officers in Dallas and Baton Rouge, it is painfully obvious the war on cops is full on.

When the Black Lives Matter (BLM) group chants, "What do we want? — Dead cops! When do we want it? — Now!," race relations and respect for law and order is degrading at a record rate.

The safety of our officers is paramount. They are the blue sheepdogs who protect us from the criminal wolves.



**JOHN
DEANS**

During the early 1970s, the last rough time for cops, my brother Mike, then a Houston police officer, had to take the life of a thug that did a surprise draw on him and his partner.

Later, Mike took a brick to the head at the Moody Park riots in Houston. He survived that incident, but events like that sharpen my resolve to help protect our law enforcement brothers.

Putting the blue line up on your Facebook page or saying "I got your back"

to cops sounds good, but we civilian sheepdogs need to step up and walk the walk.

We do not want to be a distraction to them or a hindrance in anyway, but we can help actually watch their backs and be ready to fight alongside them.

When you walk into a restaurant and see one or more cops sitting there, choose a tactical position to sit where you can see the entrance and the cops at the same time. That way, if some thug walks in armed and ready to shoot cops, you can immediately warn them by standing up, pointing to the potential cop assassin, and yelling "gun!"

Does this put you in harm's way?

Absolutely it does and welcome to their world!

Next scenario, you are leaving Walmart walking to your truck and see a lone Brenham PD officer trying to restrain a larger suspect who is starting win the fight against the cop.

Guys, I'm talking to you here — time to jump in the fight. With no weapons in your hands, aggressively apply pain management to the thug beating on the officer, and help that officer gain control of the situation.

During a ride-along with Houston PD over 24 years ago, I had to put a wife-beater in a choke hold to get him off the cop who was trying to subdue him.

There was no talking and it happened in less than five seconds. HPD Sgt. Smith was quite thankful that night.

The final scenario would be the possibility of a trained licensed to carry holder to enter a firefight in the aid of an officer under heavy fire.

Due to the risk of other arriving officers mistaking you for the bad guy, I could not advise it for others. That said, my trained civilian sheepdogs, who can handgun steel at 50 yards, are ready.

It's time we back up our "Brothers in Blue" for real.

John Deans is a local firearms instructor teaching CHL and handgun courses. www.DeansDefensiveShooting.com.

SAFE DEFENSIVE LIVING

Women looking to firearms lessons for self-defense

Since 75 percent of my firearms lessons are with ladies, I have learned a great deal about women and guns. Heck, I just like that sound of it — women and guns.

They watch the sobering news of the war on cops and weekly carnage of the Islamic Wolf from all over the world, putting them in a self-defense mindset. Some live alone and want to protect themselves, others are finally seeing the potential threats their husbands have been talking about for years.



JOHN DEANS

Whatever their inspiration, they have made the conscious decision to become a lady sheepdog and I commend them.

The first thing I tell them is to pick out their own gun and not to let their male counterpart pick it for them. Choosing a handgun is very personal. It's a bit like buying underwear since it has to fit just right. The parameters I give them

is to shy away from those cute .380s and opt for a stronger 9mm housed in a quality yet compact semi-automatic

frame. They need to plan on spending \$450 to \$600 for a Kahr, Smith & Wesson, Springfield, Glock or Ruger. Do not even bother with junk like Hernandez selling for \$350 or less.

Training is absolutely critical. Numerous times I have had a lady arrive at my range with a new gun she says "Scares the daylight out of her." After less than two hours, I have her running that gun safely, accurately, and confidently. By the end of the first lesson she is smiling and now has the skills to deploy a strong force multiplier to defend herself and her family.

The firearms training must start with gun safety. Muzzle discipline and trigger clearance is strongly enforced

along with a briefing on safe storage. The mandatory eye and ear protection also helps put them at ease.

We begin with dry fire exercises on a SIRT gun which is a Glock-like laser gun to teach the basics like stance, grip, breathing, sight picture, trigger control and follow through. Only after those fundamentals are built and verified, do we move on to their real gun.

The lovely aspect of teaching ladies how to shoot is that they do not have previous bad habits or stubborn poor shooting techniques some guys bring to the gun range. Plus, they just learn faster than guys do, sorry fellows.

After their shooting skills are safe and accurate, I then get them into

my CHL/LTC class for licensing so they can be heavy (carrying a gun) on a daily basis. Remember, you can only fight with what you bring to the fight.

It is so satisfying to see that timid female who had showed up to my range with a new scary gun six months later at H-E-B. I'll say "Hello" and then whisper "Are you Heavy?" I then beam with pride as she smiles, pats her purse, and says "Heck yeah!"

Next month's column: PreFence — Part I.

John Deans is a local firearms instructor teaching LTC and handgun courses. www.DeansDefensiveShooting.com.

Brenham, Texas | The Banner-Press | Sunday, October 2, 2016 | Page A3

SAFE DEFENSIVE LIVING

Being safe at the lease is just as important as the range

By the time this column runs, I hope the weather has cooled down and fall finally begins. This time of year kicks off deer season which means hunters will be sighting in their deer rifles and prepping the feeders on the leases.

Since I put so much time and ammo into defensive firearms training and teaching, I rarely have time to hunt. However, gun safety is just as critical out at the deer lease as in the gun range. With high powered rifles, a mistake with such



JOHN DEANS

misdirected power can be catastrophic.

Having an accidental discharge (AD) on the range with your 9mm handgun is dangerous enough, but multiply that power using a .308 or even a 7mm Magnum and you have a disaster. Sounds bad, but you and your leg could survive an accidental pistol gunshot wound long as major arteries or not severed. After

the devastating power delivered by a hunting rifle round, the victim would be lucky to not lose the leg even after prompt medical care.

The 165gr projectile from the standard 30.06 leaves the muzzle at 2,800 feet per sec pushing 2,700 foot/pounds of energy. The 9mm delivers only around 400 foot/pounds of energy. This calculates out to six times the destructive force of a 30.06 rifle round compared to the 9mm pistol round.

The intense power of a rifle is why muzzle discipline is critical out in the field. Keep the rifle pointed down or straight up at all times until you are ready to harvest that deer. Numerous accidental shootings occur when transitioning in and out of ATVs or trucks. My recommendation is to remove the ammo magazine and clear the chamber to make the weapon cold. At the hunting camp it is a good practice to leave

the bolt locked back so all can see the rifle is cleared and safe.

Do not rely on the mechanical safety to prevent ADs. That said, utilize that safety when running your bolt, making bipod, or positioning changes. Only disengage your safety just before taking the shot. When climbing a deer stand, stepping across a cattle guard, or crawling through a fence, first clear the rifle and verify that there is not a round in the chamber.

This goes double for you guys that had trigger jobs knocking the trigger break pressure down to less than two pounds. Some yahoos have tweaked their triggers to less than a pound of pressure for improved trigger response and accuracy needs. I've seen single

pound triggers on .308s AD while aimed up at the sky by just running the bolt to chamber a round. Wonder where that bullet landed?

Like the NRA safety rules state, know your target and what's beyond it. Only make sight picture on a true legal animal target. Keep your finger off the trigger when utilizing your rifle scope for a game locating monocular. Finally, easy on the booze during those hunting trips. Don't walk around heavy and wet (Armed and Intoxicated).

Next month's column: PreFence — Part I.

John Deans is a local firearms instructor teaching LTC and handgun courses. www.DeansDefensiveShooting.com.

SAFE DEFENSIVE LIVING

Eyes and ears need safety while shooting

Back in the 70s, it just was not 'cool' to wear hearing protection while shooting. When I was 10, my Houston Police Officer brother used to take me to the downtown HPD shooting range under I-45 for target practice. He and I would take turns shooting his new 'Dirty Harry' 44 Magnum with no ear muffs on, because we were cool. Now we both have severe Tinnitus with ringing in our ears 24 hours a day 7 days a week. So much for being 'cool.'



JOHN DEANS

When shooting anything from a .22cal firearm (122db) on up, you must wear hearing protection. Hearing damage is possible at any noise level over 85db. It starts hurting with sharp noises over 120db. Your 9mm pistol produces a deafening 155db crack just like your .308cal deer rifle.

Five years ago, a buddy brought out a Barrett 50cal sniper rifle to our rifle range near Burton. Numerous other friends showed up one Saturday to shoot the

\$5-per-round monster. Guys were taking turns shooting, and moved their ear muffs up and down to hear each other in between shots. One guy forgot to place the muff back over his ear and he went to the ground in extreme pain the instant the large caliber fired. He lost his hearing in that ear for three days and suffered permanent high frequency hearing loss.

Now in my 50s, I have three levels of Tinnitus including high pitch ringing, low hums, and now a random chirping sound. There is no formal medical cure for it, so protect what hearing you have by always wearing ear protection or as we call them 'ears'. I strongly recommend the 'active' ear protection

which is powered by AA batteries that cancel out the sharp gunshot while enhancing speech. That way my students can hear my instructions during a firearms lesson without risking their hearing.

Eye protection is another must since the loss of an eye would be critical and both eyes catastrophic. Ten years ago during a BPD Citizens Police Academy activity of shooting M4s at the old police range, our officer took some AR15 bullet fragments to his hand from over 30 yards away. Had he not been wearing eye protection, those sharp metal bullet fragments could have easily damaged his vision.

Shooting steel targets presents even

a more critical requirement for eye protection. Though 99 percent of the bullet disintegrates at a 90deg angle to the shooter, it only takes one small fragment to blind you if you are not shooting glasses.

Shooting a pistol or rifle is the act of managing a controlled and directed explosion, so you must take appropriate measures to protect the most sensitive and vital organs we have — our eyes and our ears.

Next month's column: PreFence — Part I.

John Deans is a local firearms instructor teaching LTC and handgun courses. www.DeansDefensiveShooting.com.

Page A8 | The Banner-Press | Sunday, December 4, 2016 | Brenham, Texas

SAFE DEFENSIVE LIVING

Not ready for a firearm, try the new Taser Pulse

About a year and half ago we talked about non-lethal force multipliers to help protect yourself. Since some of civilians are significantly hesitant to deploy deadly force to evil doers, alternate defensive methods are available to them to fend off the wolf.

Tools such as pepper spray and stun sticks are better than nothing, but only one non-lethal force multiplier has been proven in the law enforcement environment and now is available to everyday Americans.



JOHN DEANS

The new Taser Pulse hit the market this year with an effective take-down capability with no residual after effects. For the individual that is hesitant to carry a firearm this is a solid alternative for personal protection.

Carrying a gun is a strong position requiring the person to come to terms with the possibility of having to take to protect theirs. Some cannot cross that line and remain physically defenseless. This new technology bridges that level of force gap pro-

viding a strong means of defense. It's like Star Trek — "Set Phasers 'STUN' Scottie," but real today.

Earlier this year, a female family friend purchased the Taser Pulse to keep with her for protection. We inserted one of the \$35 cartridges and tested it on the wall with the included conductive paper target. At a distance of 20 feet she drew the Taser Pulse from her purse and shot the weapon at the target resembling the bad guy.

After turning on the Taser with a quick flip of the safety switch, an aiming laser appeared on the target verifying the sight picture was correct. As in our regular defensive shooting training she yelled "STOP!" and then pulled the trigger to stop the advancing threat.

Two small darts connected with thin copper wires shot from the Taser accurately into its intended target. The goal is to have a wide distance between the two electrified contact darts as possible to deliver the 50,000 volts over a large part of the bad guy's body.

She then followed procedure by dropping the Taser to the ground and running to escape the disabled threat. For the next 30 seconds the Taser continued to deliver the incapacitating current with audible pops of electricity. Law enforcement's Tasers only deliver 5 second continuous jolts, but this civilian Taser Pulse provides a full half minute of charge to give enough time for the victim to flee.

The procedure for that crime-de-

terrifying victim then is to call 911 immediately after escaping the criminal attack. The Taser manufacture will replace the lost Taser Pulse free of charge if used in a legally defensive action.

One downside to the Taser is that you need to deploy it before an attacker's gun is pointed at you. This is due to the high chance the bad guy's firearm would go off upon getting hit by the Taser due to muscle contractions.

The cost of this device at \$450 is similar to the typical handgun, but is ideal for civilians not ready to cross that bridge over to a firearm.

Stay Safe!

John Deans is a local firearms instructor teaching LTC and handgun courses. www.DeansDefensiveShooting.com.

Avoiding non-human threats

The source of threats we train against at Deans Defensive Shooting are humans with evil intent. To start 2017 this weekend, let's cover how to avoid threats of the non-two legged beings.

Since the 1970s I have surfed some tasty curls in Hawaii, California, Mexico and even Texas. Over the decades I have countered numerous sharks, but none got a good bite on me. I've been bumped and stalked by the waterborne predators enough to warrant my concern whenever I see a fin cutting through a swell. Wish I knew that only 1 person per year on the average in the U.S. gets killed by sharks as reported by the CDD from 2001 to 2013. That said, watch out for the vertical tail fins of sharks — porpoises and dolphins have horizontal tails.

Same death count per year goes for bears and alligators, but an attack by one of those land-based beasts would be terrifying. In Alaska years ago, my wife put bear bells on our daughters to keep from surprising a mama bear with cubs. I carried bear spray since the guide told me my .40-Cal H&K handgun would not stop a charging bear.

The gator attack this year at Disney was sad and shocking. The point there to remember is to be always aware if you are



**JOHN
DEANS**

near water in the south whether you are in Texas, Louisiana or especially Florida.

Snakes are next on our danger list with six deaths per year. During my drone flights on large ranches I wear high snake bite-proof boots in case I step on a copperhead, cottonmouth, or rattler. Look for those hidden vipers before you move that firewood and prune your

bushes. You may not die, but the pain and wound treatment is no fun.

Seven deaths a year come from spiders. Check those shoes by the door before you put your feet in them. If you do get a bite and your circulation is poor due to age, get it checked out right away.

The Indians used to bury their victims near an ant bed for a slow painful death a couple of hundred years ago. Those tiny stingy arthropods still take out nine Americans a year usually due to poor immune conditions.

Farm works get kicked or crushed by the common cow at a rate of 20 deaths a year. Remember that the next time you are working the cattle here in Washington County. Stay away and watch those quick and devastating hoof kicks.

Dog attacks take out 28 people annually. My nephew recently barely escaped four raging pit bulls chasing him on his bike in Austin County. Pepper spray works wonders here.

Fifty-two citizens die yearly from hitting deer — hence the need for deer season.

Topping the list are bees and wasps killing 58 people. I escaped that demise after hitting ground bees while shredding in 2002 because Jason Schultz had told me not to swat at them. He saved my life that day.

John Deans is a local firearms instructor teaching LTC and handgun courses, www.DeansDefensiveShooting.com.

Laundry piled up?

*Don't want to spend your entire day washing and drying load after load?
Need your comforter cleaned and don't want to pay dry cleaning prices?*

Come to us!

**Do multiple loads in the same time it takes you
to do one at home!**

**Only \$5 to wash a quilt or comforter
in our giant front load washers!**

Cleanest laundromat in town!

MARKET STREET LAUNDROMAT

~ 1509 SOUTH MARKET ~



And
Ort
Creatin