

Keeping You Safe

Homegunsafety.com

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Would You Use a Gun to Protect Yourself from a Home Invasion?

That's one (1) of two (2) \$64,000 questions. No, wait a minute. Make that \$100,000 with inflation. Well, there is no right answer. Some people will say yes and some people will say no. Everyone is entitled to his or her own opinions. The first action you should try to take is to leave your premises if at all possible. If you can't, then you might want to try to defend yourself or suffer the consequences.



If we were to ask why people who would not touch a gun, otherwise known as a firearm, reasons why they would not touch a firearm, we'd find that many people would say guns kill people and they don't want anything at all to do with them or that they are afraid of firearms. True on both counts.

Guns are Safer than Splattering Bacon Grease.

Do you know what? Cars kill people, electrocutions kill people, drug overdoses kill people, heart attacks kill people. My point is that there are many different things in life that kill people. If we were to peel the onion, per se, layer, by layer, one real reason why many people are afraid of guns is because of a lack of information. They don't realize that with proper training, firearms are very safe. As a matter of fact, you'd have a greater chance of getting hurt by splattering bacon grease on a Saturday or Sunday morning than you would by properly handling a firearm. With splattering bacon grease, you don't know where and where the bacon grease is going to splatter, so we usually take precautions to prevent getting hurt. A firearm is no different, except that you know what the outcome will be even before the outcome because you can control the outcome by safe handling of the firearm.

Common Causes for Firearms Accidents

The two (2) most common causes of firearms accidents are ignorance and carelessness. Ignorance is not knowing, or being unaware or uninformed about firearms. Carelessness is knowing what you're supposed to do, but just not doing it. Carelessness is being irresponsible.

There are firearm safety courses given to educate people on the safe handling, use and storage of firearms. When properly trained, any one is safe with firearms. Why, there are even children as young as 7 and 8 years old who have been trained to safely handle and use firearms under adult supervision. More importantly, they have been trained to respect the firearm and know about the consequences of improper handling of firearms.



What are your options?

Getting back to our topic question, Would you use a gun to protect yourself from a home invasion? Let's look at some of the alternatives.

You could call the police, but would the police get there in time and do they have a responsibility to protect you 24/7?

You could use a knife, but it might be easier for an intruder to snatch the knife away from you and use it on you. If it were a large intruder, the knife might not stop him.

You could use a baseball bat, but you'd have to be able to lift and swing the baseball bat. Again, it might be easier for an intruder to snatch the baseball bat away from you and use it on you.

You could be like an ostrich, poke your head in the sand and hope the intruder will leave you alone if you're a gambling person, but what are the odds of that happening?

You could use a firearm. If properly trained, you could hit the intruder 15-20 feet away from you if the distance existed. (You should have called the police if you had time!) If you had a firearm, you could warn the intruder by shouting at the top of your lungs "Stop, I have a gun. I'll shoot if you come any closer!"

There's a good probability that the intruder will not want to run the risk of encountering a firearm. It's like Clint Eastwood in one of his Dirty Harry Movies "Ah-ah, I know what you're thinking punk. You're thinking did he fire six shots or only five? And to tell you the truth I've forgotten myself in all this excitement. But being this is a .44 Magnum - the most powerful handgun in the world and will blow your head clean off, you've got to ask yourself a question—Do I feel lucky? Well, do ya punk?"



Do you think your intruder will feel lucky?

You may not feel comfortable using a firearm to protect you and your loved ones, but what other options do you have that you are in control of? If

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you are counting on law enforcement, although I respect them for what they do for us as a community as a whole, there have been cases releasing them from certain responsibilities protecting citizens.

Are Police Required to Protect You?

In the case of Warren v. District of Columbia, 444 A.2d 1 (D.C.App. 1981), In a carefully reasoned Memorandum Opinion, Judge Hannon based his decision in No. 79-6 on "the fundamental principle that a government and its agents are under no general duty to provide public services, such as police protection, to any particular individual citizen."



In other words, a community police department will make it's best efforts to protect you as an individual but has no obligation to do so. Although this case applies to the District of Columbia,

where our United States Capital is located, can it apply to where we live? I don't know. I'm not the legal expert, but I can tell you that the precedent is set for challenges in other state courts.

In the case of Bowers v. Devito, 686 F.2d 616 (7th Cir. 1982) There is a constitutional right not to be murdered by a state officer, for the state violates the Fourteenth Amendment when its officer, acting under color of state law, deprives a person of life without due process of law. Brazier v. Cherry, 293 F.2d 401, 404-05 (5th Cir. 1961). But there is no constitutional right to be protected by the state against being murdered by criminals or madmen. It is monstrous if the state fails to protect its residents against such predators but it does not violate the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment or, we suppose, any other provision of the Constitution.



Times are changing. We saw that with the Hurricane Katrina Incident. We're seeing that with more and more home invasions. You have a right to be able to protect yourself. Will you take that responsibility or will you leave that responsibility to someone else and hope they'll come through for you? That's the other \$64,000 question.

Do you feel lucky?

About the author: Mike Burchman is a Massachusetts State Certified Firearms Instructor, a Utah State Certified Concealed Firearms Instructor, and an NRA Certified Instructor and Range Safety Officer. If you're a Massachusetts Resident and would like more information on firearms safety courses or instructions on how to use a firearm, please contact Mike Burchman at 508-361-4554 or visit www.homegunsafety.com.