



MEMBERS UPDATE

August, 2017

**The Top 8 Most Incredible
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CONTENT



02

The Best Gun for Home Defense

When it comes to protecting your home base, the last thing you want is a “fair fight.” You want an unfair advantage, with overwhelming firepower and plenty of it. That’s exactly what this class of firearm delivers.



07

Top 5 Tactical Shotguns

If you’re looking for dependability, effectiveness, and maximum ammo capacity, you’re going to love these lightning fast tactical shotguns. Warning: You may have trouble picking a favorite.



11

Unusual Ways to Purify Water

We all know how critical water is for human survival. So why don’t most Americans know how to make untreated water safe for consumption? We’ll walk you through the basics, then get to the fun stuff.



17

14 Concealed Carry Heroes

You’ve heard the saying, “The only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun?” Well, here are 14 good guys and their incredible stories.

The Best Gun for Home Defense



When it comes to never-ending firearm debates, you can search high and low and you won't find a more divisive topic than what type of weapon reigns supreme for home defense.

Some will argue that a tactical carbine like the AR-15, with its accuracy, maneuverability, and high magazine capacity is your best bet. Others will argue 'til they're blue in the face that nothing beats a compact, semiauto pistol. While there are still some who will stand firm on their Dirty Harry .44 Magnum revolver because, well, it's just so downright intimidating and cool.

From our perspective, there's really no bad home defense firearm choice, except simply not having one at all. Any of the weapons we just mentioned will get the job done. Moreover, it's extremely important to point out that, no matter what hardware you may be carrying, it's you that must actually defend your family. No matter how powerful or accurate, your firearm isn't going to do it for you.

With that said, why not give yourself every advantage you can, while also mitigating several risks that are almost impossible to truly prepare for, no matter how hard you try? Why not select a weapon that gives you an unfair advantage? Maybe even a weapon that increases your margin of error?

Again, this is a last-ditch home defense option, not your everyday carry weapon. When, if ever, you pick this gun up in a live home-invasion scenario, you're immediately facing one of the most dangerous situations of your life. You've determined there's a threat inside your sacred space and things have escalated to a very serious level indeed. Your adrenaline levels are red-lining, your heartrate is as high as it gets, and you are frightened.

The idea that we're getting at here is that simplicity is one of your greatest allies in this type of scenario. So is vastly superior short-range firepower, a weapon that allows you to unleash an overwhelming volley of fire upon a target very quickly.

This is why we believe that the vast majority of those who lack professional training are best off with a tactical shotgun in their hands. There are several reasons for this.

The shells are big and easy to load, the pattern is much wider than any single round, and tactical shotguns have an extended magazine tube that gives them almost as many shells as a semiautomatic handgun. In other words, this isn't your grandpappy's side-by-side we're talking about here.

Close Quarters Superiority

Inside of 25 yards, there's really no other firearm available to civilians more overwhelming than a tactical shotgun. Pump action or semi-automatic, these machines can launch through as many as 10 shells in well under 3 seconds.

That's as close to impossible to evade as it gets, folks. Or as we say at the NSRA, "if it's up close, it's not even close." No other firearm can paint a target like a shotgun.

Training and familiarity with your home defense shotgun is essential to unlock the hefty advantages it can provide. But the real headline is that with relatively little training, you can get a disproportionate advantage.

In your living room, down a hallway, or in your foyer, a tactical shotgun really doesn't give a home invader a fighting chance. And that's precisely and completely a good thing.



The Spread Offense

One key piece of information often gets lost when discussing shotguns and home defense: A shotgun is not the end-all, be-all when it comes to idiot-proofing your home defense plan. It's true.

However, the tactical shotgun goes far to mitigate several user errors. For example, the ammo capacity gives you plenty of chances, the larger shells are easier to reload, and the biggie: The shot pattern makes it unlikely that you'll completely miss your target.

While it's true that expectations regarding spread patterns have gotten a bit overblown as a result of video games and Hollywood magic, there are plenty of detractors who argue that spread patterns aren't large enough to create a significant advantage.

What we hear most frequently from these folks is that shotgun patterns aren't really very wide in close-quarter scenarios. Of course, this argument gets pretty threadbare when you put it into perspective. It's true, at a distance of 10 feet, a 12-gauge shot pattern is only a few inches wide.

But that's a few inches wider than a 9mm hollow-point, now isn't it? Suffice it to say, your chances of hitting a target within 10 feet are pretty high no matter what type of firearm you have

in your hands. When you think about a tactical shotgun, with a shorter barrel length and a cylinder choke, a 5-inch pattern is anything but small, relatively speaking.

Is a lemon big or small in comparison to a marble? How about a small grapefruit? At 10 feet, coming at your chest at 1,300 feet per second, it's pretty damn big if you ask us!

To paraphrase, the anti-shotgun argument goes like this: At close range, where you don't really need a large spread pattern, the pattern is "only" several inches wider than a bullet.

Isn't "Tactical" Just a Marketing Buzz Word?

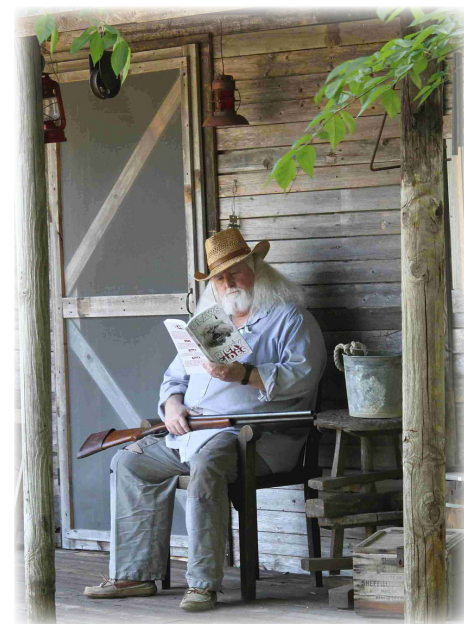
So, imagine with us if you can that there's a home defense weapon that works much like your garden variety handgun or carbine at close range where targets are fairly easy to hit.

Yet, as your target gets further away, (and your chances of missing the target increase) the damage pattern grows in size, increasing your chances of striking the target. Pretty handy, right?

Of course, you know that this gun already exists, commonly referred to as a shotgun. Now, imagine a compact version, with a wider pattern, and a much larger magazine. These are the features that make the term "tactical," in this instance, more than a buzz word.

We're not going to pull any punches here; your standard bird hunting shotgun is a workable home defense weapon, but it's far from ideal. The reasons for this are simple.

First and foremost, most bird shotguns have a barrel length of around 28 inches. For confirmation, just try carrying your trusty Wingmaster around your house under normal everyday circumstances. Every time you turn a corner, enter a staircase, or move through a doorway you must take utmost care



not to whack your barrel on the sheetrock. It's not exactly the definition of stealthy or nimble.

Other downsides to using a bird hunting shotgun are 1.) Hunting shotguns typically have a 3-round capacity, and 2.) The chokes used in hunting are designed to carry further distances in a more condensed pattern.

A possible solution, depending on the specific gun, is that you can remove the bird hunting plug (required by federal regulations) from your magazine to increase ammo capacity, or screw in a cylinder bore choke tube. If you were to do these customizations, and perhaps others, you'd have a below average tactical shotgun. but then you would have to convert it back when you go hunting.



To Rack the Slide, Or Not Rack the Slide...

As most tactical shotguns are pump-action, there's a very interesting philosophical debate that naturally springs from this mechanical click-click. We're not going to try to fully unpack this debate for the purposes of this article, but we will just introduce the popular conundrum.

It goes something like this: If you hear a burglar in your home, with a pump-action shotgun in your hands, will you rack the slide (the international signal for "you're screwed, buddy") or keep a shell in the chamber to avoid doing this?

Everyone has their own personal defense philosophy regarding issuing warnings and the risks that come from not simply shooting without prior warning. The racking sound of a shotgun, however, is a clear opportunity to warn a home invader that it's time to bug out.

In concept, at least, this may turn many deadly home defense scenarios into "no-shoot" scenarios, simply by using the built-in intimidation factor.



The Bigger Concept

We've already gone over all reasons that we recommend obtaining an actual "tactical shotgun." But whether you spring for a tactical shotgun or repurpose an old hunter, there's another reason also that's equally as important.

Simply put, a dedicated home defense shotgun is the overriding key concept. This is a weapon that's kept close at hand and ready to work at all times.

It doesn't go out to the duck blind. It doesn't get put away unloaded or caked in mud. It doesn't leave your home unless it's going with you to the gun range and then right back home again.

This gun has a single function: To be ready in your time of need should it ever come.

Shell Selection: What's the Best Shell?

On its face, this question highlights a major advantage that shotguns hold in the home defense spectrum. No other type of firearm provides the same level of versatility in terms of ammunition.

You can shoot 00 buckshot or super fine birdshot. You can steamroll 'em or you can pepper them with rock salt; the choice is yours. Heck, you can even load your gun full of slugs, though we don't recommend this for self-defense.

The point is that you can tailor your ammunition choice to fit your own specific home defense needs. With handguns and carbines, your choice is between a full metal jacket, expanding, or fragmenting round. With a shotgun, you can go with maximum impact power or wider pattern, depending on what loads you choose.

This may surprise you, but we don't preach variety in our shell recommendations for home protection. Inside your home, particularly if you have kids, we recommend going with birdshot (#7 or #8) hands down.

We know everyone likes to say the magic phrase "double aught buck" in regards to tactical shotguns. Maybe it's just so synonymous with feeling safe and protected that it gives folks the warm fuzzies. But the simple fact is that over-penetration is a very serious consideration in home defense. Deadly serious.

If you must take a shot at a threat inside your home, there's a strong chance you're not fully able to consider who or what is on the other side of a wall or walls. A well-placed shot that passes through a threat is not likely to penetrate your walls with lethal force, if you are using birdshot.

If you are launching 00 buckshot, it's almost guaranteed to pass through two sheets of drywall and continue with lethal force.

Likewise, if you do take an ill-advised shot at someone's fleeing your property, birdshot is not likely to penetrate into a neighbor's home.

Combat shotgun and home protection shotgun strategies are very different indeed, and thus we

don't see a compelling reason to draw much of a parallel. Yes, in a combat shotgun situation, buck shot is the default ammo choice. But you definitely don't want to turn your home into a war zone.

Dedicated Defense Option

In closing, we want to leave you with one key takeaway above all else. The less tactical shooting experience and training you have under your belt, the more advantageous a tactical shotgun becomes. But this weapon is by no means reserved or designated for home defense newbies.

A tactical shotgun, loaded with the proper shells, delivers an overwhelming level of firepower with a greater margin for user error. No matter how much training you've undergone, there's absolutely no reason to afford a home invader any semblance of a fair fight.

With a tactical shotgun in your hands, you hold a very real strategic advantage over almost any home invader in the history of burglars. You will certainly have more shells than anyone carrying a revolver. And if you select a model at the high end of the magazine capacity spectrum, you'll have more shells in your magazine than many bad hombres carrying a semiauto handgun.





TOP 5 FAIL-SAFE TACTICAL SHOTGUNS

Let's start with the good news first; there have never been so many good choices in the tactical shotgun department at your local gun store. The downside is, of course, sorting through this crowded field to get a shotgun that's both reliable and fits your needs to a "T."

If money is simply not a concern for you, well, congratulations. But we've made sure to highlight selections that get you the most bang for your buckshot. The criteria we've used is combination of value, reliability, user reviews, and, of course, ammo capacity.

Yes, magazine capacity is a big deal, but given the number of options on the market, it helps us cross some shotties off the list.

REMINGTON 870 EXPRESS TACTICAL

Look in the back of any cop car, anywhere in America, and you'll likely see a beat-up Remington 870 12 gauge. The fact is, this is probably the most popular pump shotgun in the history of pump shotguns. This is partly because it's been around for 60 years and partly because it's just a super reliable weapon.



The pump action is good, jams are few, and the receiver is milled from a solid block of steel. This is a prime example of American-made quality that hasn't slid or even, get this, become out of reach in terms of pricing.

Given the tactical treatment, the 870 Express has a 6-round (2.75-inch shells) magazine tube, plus room for one in the chamber, of course. It's decked out in the typical all-black treatment with an 18.5" barrel and a cylinder bore choke for maximum pattern size at shorter ranges.

Given the combination of reputation and value the 870 provides, it's pretty hard to beat this classic Remington.

Retail: \$325

MOSSBERG 500 PUMP 12-GAUGE

Having almost as many fans as the 870 and perhaps an even better reputation, the Mossberg 500 will continue to be at the top of lists like this one for as long as they roll off the assembly line in Eagle Pass, Texas.

The 500 Tactical comes in about 8 different versions with a couple variable options for each. Simply put, Mossberg has been tuned into tactical/home defense shotguns for a while now, and it shows in their catalog.



For the purpose of home defense, we recommend going with the 8-round model, because more is better, right? In a pinch, wouldn't it be nice to know you have as many shells as an adversary carrying a .45ACP?

You may have to pay a little extra or search a little harder to find exactly the 500 you want, due to availability and so forth.

Side Note: If price is an issue for you, there's no reason not to look at Mossberg's Maverick lineup, also made in Eagle Pass. Maverick by Mossberg offers a lot of the same exact components at a significant discount. In fact, we can't remember ever hearing someone regret buying a Maverick.

Retail: \$400

MOSSBERG 930 TACTICAL SHOTGUN JM PRO SERIES

Now when most of us think of defensive shotguns, we think pump action. There's a good reason for that. Until recently, the vast majority of home-defense shotguns on the market have been almost exclusively pump-action.

Nowadays, gas-operated shotguns are all the rage in tactical and competition circles. One of the best examples out there, hands down, is the extremely capable, lightning-fast, and very reasonably priced Mossberg 930 Tactical, especially the JM Pro Series.



For starters, the JM Pro Series has a 9-round magazine capacity. That's 10 shots overall. Yes, folks, this gun carries more rounds than a 1911 and can cycle through them faster.



The JM Pro Series was designed by world champion shooter Jerry Miculek for 3-gun competition shooting, with plenty of features that improve the speed and accuracy in 3-gun scenarios, but also in tactical situations.

For example, the loading gate is beveled for quicker reload times. Many of the mechanisms have been given a corrosion resistant nickel-boron coating to keep this gun in tip-top shape for the long haul. The magazine spring is stainless steel. The composite stock on this shotgun does exactly what it needs to do, the receiver is tapped out for a tactical rail if

you so choose, but the oversized bolt handle is what really makes this gun turn heads.

Retail: \$675

WINCHESTER DEFENDER

As you may or may not know, Winchester Repeating Arms has been little more than a marketing label for over a decade, if not decades. Several of their best designs have been more or less preserved throughout the company's tumultuous history. Unfortunately, the Model 1300 is not one of them.

Beloved by many tactical shooters, the Winchester 1300 (produced until 2006 in New Haven, Connecticut) is among the most reliable and fastest cycling pump shotguns ever mass produced. Many home defense variants were produced, AKA the 1300 Defender, and are still fairly easy to find on the resale market. If you can find a good deal on one, grab it.



If you're shopping for a new gun, you're going to be looking at the SXP series. This gun packs a lot of goodies in a very reasonably priced package and by all counts has a best-in-class smooth action.

As shown, the SXP Defender has fiber optics sights, coyote brown receiver/stock/fore-end combo, and an 18" barrel. The 5+1 round capacity puts it just below its American-made counterparts in the firepower category. Yes, folks, SXP shotguns are imported from Turkey.

Winchester does have some proprietary technology in this gun, such as its Invector-Plus chokes (cylinder bore) and Super X inertia-assisted slide action, which make this very good looking, high value shotgun pretty attractive at the gun store.

Retail: \$285

H&R PARDNER PROTECTOR

In case you hadn't noticed yet, none of the shotguns on our list are within spitting distance of the thousand-dollar mark. That's not at all because there aren't several very fine shotguns in the 4-figure range. The Benelli M4, used by the Marines, comes to mind.

The simple fact is, there's absolutely no need to spend \$1,999 to get a great tactical shotgun. In fact, for less than half that you can get the Mossberg 930 with pretty much every tactical feature you could ask for.



If your decision comes to value, plain and simple, it's going to be very hard to beat the H&R Pardner Protector. It's probably fair to call this tactical shotgun a clone of Remington's 870 Express.

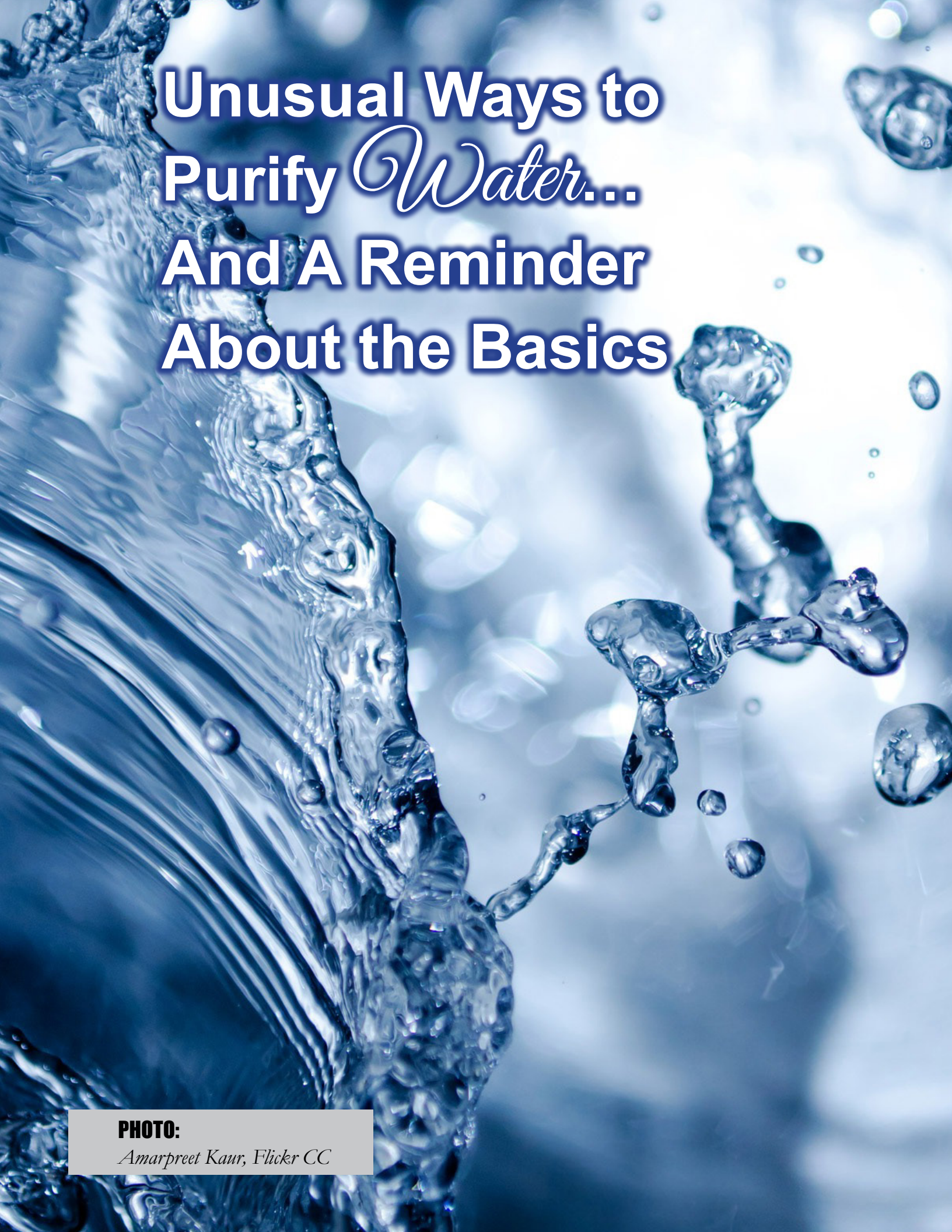
Like the Express, this pump-action has dual action guide bars that keep the action smooth, durable, and trouble free. With a 5+1 capacity, it's right there with the SXP in terms of fire power. The 18.5" cylinder bore barrel checks all the boxes for close-quarters home defense.

As you might expect, the frills are virtually non-existent on a shotgun that retails around \$200. Although H&R 1871 is an American company, this weapon is made in China, hence the very competitive price.

The question that comes up most often: Is this weapon trustworthy? If you have any doubts, just go online and read the overwhelmingly positive reviews.

The fact is, a pump shotgun is a fairly simple machine at its core, and H&R doesn't do much to hide the fact that this gun is heavily inspired by the most reliable forerunners. So, as to the Pardner's reliability, it'll get the job done, and dirt cheap.

Retail: \$210



**Unusual Ways to
Purify *Water*...
And A Reminder
About the Basics**

PHOTO:

Amarpreet Kaur, Flickr CC

Clean water supplies may quickly run out when an emergency strikes. This is, of course, a devastating possibility because without water, you'll die. In fact, the average person becomes so dehydrated after three days without fresh water that they begin dying from thirst.

There have been stories of people making it as long as 10 days without H₂O, but these are rare instances indeed. Therefore, you must always assume that three days is all the time you'll have, if you're lucky.

Another problem you may encounter during an emergency can be summed up with an old saying: "Water, water everywhere, but not a drop to drink." There are currently 783 million people worldwide who live with this reality every single day. As a result, an astounding 50 percent of global hospitalizations are caused by a water-related disease.

Right now, you're probably sitting comfortably in your house, surrounded by nice belongings and enjoying easy access to fresh water and other perks of indoor plumbing. But what if this were all to change in the blink of an eye?



The sad situation that many people face in Third World Nations could easily come to the U.S. and other parts of the Western World. All it would take is one horrific natural disaster or a terrorist attack, and your water would become undrinkable without purification. Do you know what to do when this happens?

Is Your Water Contaminated?

The first thing you need to ascertain is whether or not your water is safe to drink. But how do you do this without taking a big risk? If methods of communication are still available, be sure to start with the following:

- Check the local news for any boil water advisories.
- Contact your local water company.
- Go to the EPA's website and look for their Safe Water Drinking Information System (<https://www.epa.gov/waterdata/drinking-water-tools>).
- Call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791.
- Look at national news reports if the emergency is impacting a big portion of the country.

All of these techniques are very helpful, but only if phone lines, TV signals, radio signals and/or the Internet are still working. What happens if they've all gone down and you're completely on your own?

The absolute safest method to take is simply purifying your water just in case. But if your purification supplies are low or you have another reason not to do this (including having no purification supplies at all – but DON'T let this happen to you!), you can take a few steps to help determine the current drinkability of your water.

- **The Smell Test** – Pour some water into a glass and smell it. If you notice a hint of an earthy smell or mustiness, rotten eggs, oil, gas or detergent, you have a problem. Other things you may notice during the smell test include a strong bleach or chlorine smell. These things aren't good for you either, but they do indicate that purification has taken place.

- **The Visual Inspection** – Take a glass of water and visually inspect it very closely. What do you see? Issues to look for include cloudiness, foam, sediment and a milky, yellow or reddish-brown appearance. If you see any of these signs, your water has some form of contamination. It's also wise to

let some water run into your sink or bathtub and just sit for a while. Do you notice any oiliness on top of the water? That's a big sign of contamination.

- **The Taste Test** – It's dangerous to taste water that could be contaminated, so if you do this, get only the smallest possible amount in your mouth and be prepared to spit it out. Any odd tastes that seem metallic, bitter or sharply chemical are an issue. You'll also want to pay close attention for any abrasiveness or grittiness.

Despite doing all of this, you could still ingest contaminated water without having any ideas that there's an issue. This is because some contaminants leave behind no easily discernable clues. Your water will look, smell and taste relatively normal, which will lull you into a false sense of security. Don't let yourself get sick this way; keep water purification methods on hand at all times.



Common Purification Methods

We're going to give you details on some unusual water purification methods as promised, but first, let's take a few minutes to go over the basics. After all, these methods are common for a reason; they work. In fact, if you can utilize them instead of the more unusual methods, you may have faster, better results.

PHOTO:

*Above:
Photo by Sam Cox*

Boiling

Boiling water is one of the most efficient ways to remove bacteria, parasites and other pathogens. Please note that this doesn't work for chemicals, and in some cases, boiling can make chemicals even more harmful.

Be sure to leave your water on a heat source at a full boil for a minimum of five minutes. Ten minutes is a better option as it will provide you with additional security.

Any source of fire or heat will help you bring water to a boil. One quick note about using heated rocks in the woods, though, is that quartz and river rocks are prone to exploding if they get heated up too much.



Bleach

No one wants their water to smell like bleach, and too much of this sanitizer can be a bad thing. However, if you're faced with the choice between drinking suspect water and using bleach to sanitize it, always choose bleach. This purification method is ideal for eliminating bacteria and other viruses that may be lurking in your drinking water.

Don't start pouring bleach into your cup, though. There's a formula you need to use to make the water safe.



- Clear or warm water – Use two drops of bleach per quart of water.
- Murky or cold water – Use four drops of bleach per quart of water.

After the bleach has been added to a container of water, put the cap on, seal it tightly and then shake it for two to three minutes. Next, unscrew the lid, but don't remove it. Turn the bottle upside down for a few seconds, and allow a small amount of water to come out. This will ensure that your bottle's lid and threads have been cleaned.

Your next step is to reseal the lid, take the bottle to a dark spot (shade works well) and leave it alone for 30 minutes. When you open the bottle, take a good smell of the water. Do you notice chlorine? If yes, you're free to drink the water (assuming the smell isn't overpowering). If no, add another drop or two of bleach to the water and start the process all over again. Repeat until your water smells chlorinated.

Iodine



If used correctly, iodine can purify your water by destroying dangerous pathogens. Please note, though, that it does leave behind an odd flavor. Also, anyone with an iodine allergy should steer clear of this purification method.

Fill a bottle with water and take a close look at it. Is it cloudy? This requires 10 drops of iodine. If it's completely clear, you can put in two drops. For partly cloudy water, use five to six drops. Once this is done, let the water sit for a minimum of 30

minutes. This will kill all living pathogens in the water.

Unfortunately, it won't be helpful in cases of radiation or fertilizer contamination.

Important note: NEVER exceed 10 drops per container of water. Ingesting too much iodine could kill you.

Unusual Methods of Purifying Water

Now that we've gotten a refresher on the three most common purification methods, it's time to look at some ideas you might not think of during an emergency. A couple of these may seem common to you if you're a survivalist, but many people wouldn't consider them or know how to use them. We'll also put in a couple of methods that we're confident even the most skilled prepper might not be aware of!

Sedimentation

Water treatment plants use sedimentation catch basins to ensure that all of the harmful sediments are removed from your water. You can do something similar at home or in the woods.

To begin, fill a jar, bowl or other container with water. Wait at least two hours to let all of the harmful particulates sink to the bottom of the bin. Any lighter particles that are still floating on the surface should be skimmed off.

From here, slowly pour the water into another container. If you can place that container underneath a colander, you'll get even better results. Stop when you get close to the bottom of the original container in order to prevent the largest particles from entering the new container.

Be aware that removing particles doesn't mean that you've removed pathogens and bacteria. You'll still need to purify the water further with methods such as boiling.



Pool Shock

Even if you don't have a pool, it's still a good idea to keep some pool shock on hand. Also known as calcium hypochlorite, a 1-pound container of pool shock (we recommend the granular form) will enable you to treat approximately 10,000 gallons of water. Pool shock is especially notable because it kills fungus, viruses, spores, bacteria and yeast.

There are three steps to take to purify water with pool shock.

1. Make a Chlorine Solution – Take one heaping teaspoon of high-test calcium hypochlorite and add it to two gallons of water. Let the pool shock dissolve before moving forward. Whatever you do, **DON'T DRINK** this mixture.
2. Disinfect Water – Now that you have a premade chlorine solution, you can begin disinfecting your drinking water. Take one part of the solution for every 100 parts of water and add it to the water.
3. Waiting Time – Give your disinfected water at least 30 minutes to sit before you drink it. Again, never drink directly from the chlorine solution.



UV Light Purifying Devices

Ultraviolet water purification is yet another effective way to treat water that contains bacteria and other harmful pathogens. UV light purifying devices come in several styles, including hand-crank and battery-powered versions.

Either way, you'll be able to start eliminating pathogens almost immediately. Be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions for the best results.

Straw Filter

Straw filters are becoming increasingly more common, but they're not yet as well-known as options such as boiling and bleach. This is actually quite a shame because every person should have at least one of these at home, one in their bug out kit and another one in their vehicle. After all, you never know exactly where you'll be when disaster strikes. Also, make sure you always have one with you when you're going into the woods.



These filtering straws do a great job of filtering out bacteria. However, it's possible that some viruses will still slip through. If you've boiled water or put bleach in it and you want to make doubly sure it's safe, consider using a straw filter.

The nicest thing about this filtration method is that the straws are lightweight, easy to use, relatively inexpensive and can be used to extract clean drinking water directly from a water source.

Solar Water Disinfection

Solar water disinfection, also known as SODIS, relies on the energy of the sun to eliminate bacteria. This simple, inexpensive method can also remove harmful viruses from your water supply. However, it does take a long time to work.

Fill a bottle with water. Next, put it in an area where it will receive a lot of sunlight and leave it there for at least 24 hours. If you're trying to do this on an overcast day, give the bottle 48 hours instead. Through the sun's energy, the bacteria and viruses will be killed. However, if it's been overcast or rainy while you're doing this form of water disinfection, there may still be parasites and other contaminants left behind.

You might be wondering how UV light can clean the water in your bottle when it definitely doesn't treat other contaminated sources. After all, if it was a foolproof method, no bodies of water would ever get contaminated, right?

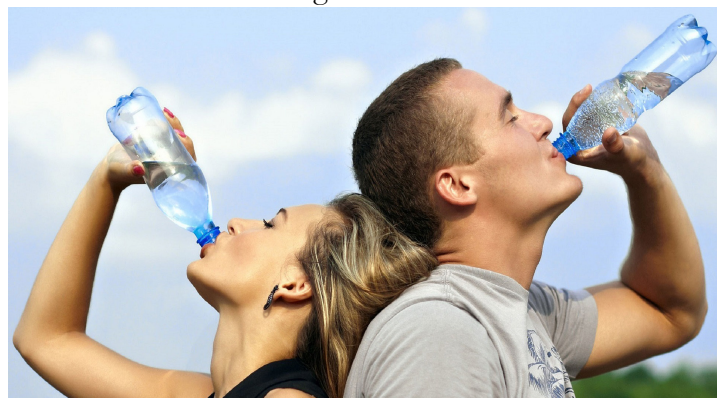
This is a fair question, but it fails to consider how deep lakes and rivers can be. Sunlight is unable to penetrate these water sources, and it's also difficult to sanitize something that isn't in one small container. Fortunately, you can take the water from one of these rivers or lakes and use UV rays to your advantage.

What's the Best Method to Use?

Now that you've learned about these eight purification techniques, you're probably wondering which is best. The truth is that they all have pros and cons. For example, bleach is going to do a good job of disinfecting your water, but it's going to smell (and probably taste) like chlorine as a result.

In an emergency situation, doing any of the methods will be much better than taking no action at all. If you're really concerned, you can layer two or three of these methods together.

For example, boil your water, add pool shock and then drink it through a water straw. This will take a lot more time, but if you have the supplies on hand, it will give you some much-needed peace of mind. Otherwise, do your best with what you have on hand and remember: When in doubt, always sanitize your water!



AMERICAN HEROES: CITIZENS WHO STOPPED A CRIME WITH THEIR CONCEALED CARRY WEAPON

PHOTO:

Ibro Palic, Flickr CC

We know that there are countless instances of responsible gun owners using their conceal carry handguns and trainings to deter or even stop violent crimes. Unfortunately, thwarted burglaries and intimidated criminals don't get much attention in the media. They don't get much attention at all, which in a way is a testament to how effective simple deterrence can be.

However, even when deterrence fails, and these licensed firearms are called into action, they too seem to get short shrift in our media. Reality is usually too complex for a sound-byte or a viral meme.

We've all heard the arguments from anti-gun people, but the truth is that there are dozens of instances in which responsible gun owners stopped a criminal in action by using their concealed carry weapon. In fact, some of these individuals clearly saved lives, and we'd like to take some time to recognize them as the American heroes that they are!

Unfortunately, some of these examples won't include the individual's name because it was never published in order to protect their identity. Still, we can celebrate their accomplishments and learn from their successes.

1. NORTH CAROLINA NIGHTCLUB HERO

At approximately 3:30 a.m. on June 27, 2016, a man with a criminal record opened fire outside a night club. Police reported that the catalyst for the man's decision to fire randomly into a crowd of people was an argument he had with another club-goer.

What Jody Ray Thompson couldn't have known, though, was that at least one of the people he

tried to shoot was armed with a concealed carry weapon. Thompson managed to shoot three people before the hero took action by shooting the perpetrator in the leg.

Fortunately, none of the people who were shot sustained any serious injuries. If the unnamed man with a CCW hadn't been there, though, it's highly likely that the results of that night would have been very different.



2. JEANNE ASSAM: TOOK OUT A WOULD-BE MASS MURDERER IN CHURCH

Former police officer Jeanne Assam became an American hero in 2007 when she stopped a gunman who had come to church with an astounding 1,000 rounds of ammunition. Sadly, two people were killed by Matthew Murray in the church parking lot before Assam took him down. The police would later find out that Murray was also responsible for killing two other people approximately 12 hours earlier.

Assam shot Murray multiple times, which knocked him down and made him unable to continue his apparent plans for a mass murder spree. Rather than deal with the police and incarceration, the gunman then turned his weapon on himself.



3. UBER DRIVER STOPS MASSACRE IN CHICAGO

Chicago has a ridiculously high crime rate, and the number of shooting deaths would have been even higher in 2015 if it wasn't for the quick thinking of an Uber driver. The 22-year-old perpetrator,

Everardo Custodio, opened fire into a crowd of people in Logan Square.



Seeing this, the Uber driver quickly pulled out his concealed carry weapon and fired at Custodio six times. Several of those shots hit their intended target, but the driver was able to stay away from a kill shot. As a result, Custodio was treated for his injuries and taken into custody.

The Uber driver's heroic actions made it possible for every person on that block to walk away unscathed. If he hadn't been there, it's a virtual certainty that many innocent bystanders would have been killed.

4. LEE SILVERMAN: STOPPED A HOSPITAL SHOOTING

In 2014, a hospital in Darby, Pennsylvania, became the scene of a potential massacre when psychiatric patient Richard Plotts killed his caseworker and wounded psychiatrist Lee Silverman. In a move that would save lives but endanger his career, Dr. Silverman took action by shooting back.



Plotts was wounded and stopped shooting. Police believe that the killer would have murdered Dr. Silverman and shot his way through the hospital with his remaining 39 rounds if the psychiatrist hadn't taken such quick action.

Plotts himself also later publicly thanked Dr. Silverman for shooting him, and thereby preventing him from killing anyone else.

There was a lot of media controversy surrounding this incident because a psychiatrist was armed on hospital grounds. After a review, though, Dr. Silverman was allowed to keep his job, and he's still practicing in Darby.

When you consider how emotionally disturbed some psychiatric clients and patients are, it actually makes perfect sense for people in Dr. Silverman's position to be able to defend themselves and protect others.

Thankfully, the doctor wasn't penalized for saving lives.

5. BARBERSHOP PATRONS SURVIVE THANKS TO HERO GUN OWNER

A 40-year-old man got into an argument in a Philadelphia barbershop back in 2015, and this led to the perpetrator pulling out a gun. Barbers and customers had to duck and run out of the way as the unnamed man shot wildly at everyone he saw.



At the same time, a man with a concealed carry weapon was walking past the barber shop and heard all of the commotion. Selflessly and heroically, the legal gun owner opened the door of the barber shop and shot the gunman in the chest. This was enough to stop the madness, and the would-be killer died of his injuries.

This is an especially notable case because the man with a CCW purposefully put himself in harm's way to save others. Police Captain Frank Llewellyn said, "I guess he saved a lot of people in there."

One important thing to learn from this situation, though, is that the hero did make a mistake when he ran away after shooting the gunman. Shortly thereafter, though, he rectified this problem by turning himself into the police. Although heroes are not usually charged in these cases, it is necessary to stay at the scene if it's safe to do so.

6. AARON GUYTON: STOPPED A GUNMAN WITHOUT A SINGLE SHOT

A distraught man in South Carolina attempted to storm a church with a shotgun in 2012. After the man, Jesse Gates, kicked the door of the church open, he was incapacitated by the group effort of Aaron Guyton and three other people. Guyton, who has a concealed carry weapon, pulled his gun out and pointed it at Gates. Meanwhile, the other three people intervened and removed the shotgun from Gates' hands.



This is an example of what can happen when someone with a CCW takes action before innocent lives are lost. Jesse Gates was clearly acting in an aggressive manner, and his actions indicated that he was planning to kill people. Instead, he was disarmed and no one was injured.

7. NEVADA MAN PROTECTS HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE

This story highlights how depraved some people can be, and it also makes it clear that proper training can make all the difference in the world during a life and death situation. Two men, Jamal Hill and Calvin Lavant, broke into an apartment that was filled with party guests and robbed everyone. Next, they separated the men and women and made everyone lie down on the ground.



At this point, a robbery would have come to an end. However, Lavant and Hill had other things in mind and began loudly discussing how they were going to rape all of the women and kill everyone. Sean Barner, a Marine trained student of Georgia State, was acting in the capacity of a civilian that evening, and he knew he had to take action.

While Lavant was distracted preparing to rape one of the women, Barner was able to get his gun out of his nearby book bag. The hero shot Hill first and then proceeded to take on Lavant. The perpetrator shot at Barner before he could get a round off, but he quickly returned fire. Lavant was fatally hit by a gunshot and ran off to die of his injuries.



Unfortunately, one of the women was shot and injured during the firefight, but we're sure she preferred that to being raped and then killed. All in all, Barner did an amazing job of protecting the apartment full of partygoers. Ironically, if he had been officially acting in the capacity of a Marine that night, he wouldn't have been allowed to legally carry a weapon.

9. MARK KTYTOR STOPPED AN ANGRY DRINKER

Mark Ktytor, seen in a nearby image from his MySpace profile, was credited with stopping a shooting rampage in 2012. The Pennsylvania man was at a local bar when 25-year-old William J. Allabaugh shot two men, killing one, as a result of being angry over a bar ejection.

After Allabaugh had angry words with the bar's owner, the perpetrator turned back toward the

owner and pointed a gun at him and Ktytor. That's when the armed Ktytor pulled out his concealed carry weapon and shot the gunman multiple times. This ended the bloodshed and left Allabaugh with critical injuries.

With as angry as Allabaugh was, it's very easy to speculate that he would have emptied his clip into the bar owner and Ktytor. He may have also shot more innocent bystanders. Allabaugh is a U.S. Air Force veteran, so he definitely had the necessary firearms training to be able to kill more people.

10. James Strand Stops a Gun-Toting Teenager

In 1998, 14-year-old Andrew Wurst opened fire during a middle school dance. Wurst killed his science teacher and wounded several students before leaving the dance hall. With his gun still well-poised for shooting, Wurst appeared ready to continue his shooting spree elsewhere.



Fortunately, dance hall owner James Strand intervened.

Strand was able to point a gun directly at Wurst, which led to the teenager giving up. Although it's unknown what would have happened if Strand hadn't taken action, it seems highly likely that Wurst would have shot more people if he hadn't been stopped.

11. JOEL MYRICK: MASS MURDERING 16-YEAR-OLD STOPPED BY ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

An incident that would later come to be known as the Pearl High School shooting was stopped by a quick-thinking assistant principal who kept a gun nearby. Luke Woodham was 16 at the time, and he began his murder spree by bludgeoning his mother to death. Next, Woodham killed two students, and injured seven more, at Pearl High School.



A short while later, Pearl High School Assistant Principal Joel Myrick encountered Woodham in the parking lot and forced the perpetrator out of his mother's car at gunpoint. Woodham, who was reportedly on his way to the junior high to kill more students, was taken into custody due to Myrick's

brave actions. If Myrick hadn't been there, it's probable that many more people would have been injured or killed.

12. LAW STUDENT TRACY BRIDGES STOPS A COLLEGE MASSACRE

The Appalachian School of Law was terrorized in 2002 by Peter Odighizuwa. The 43-year-old gunman was a former student who had recently been dismissed due to poor academic performance. Sadly, three people died and three others were injured because Tracy Bridges had to leave his concealed carry weapon in his vehicle due to the school's gun free zone law.



The good news is that after Bridges retrieved his gun, he and two other students were able to tackle and subdue Odighizuwa. Their heroic and selfless actions may have prevented several more students and faculty members from being shot by the upset man.

13. DONALD J. MOORE SAVED SEVERAL AT&T EMPLOYEES

In 2010, a disturbed man wrote a list with six names on it. This was his kill list, and he headed to an AT&T store in New York Mills with the intention of crossing everyone off of his list. Before Moore could kill anyone with his .357 Magnum revolver, Donald J. Moore pulled out his concealed carry weapon.

The 79-year-old would-be murderer wounded one AT&T employee before he was shot by Moore. This stopped the shooting in its tracks without any innocent lives being lost. The perpetrator later died from his wounds.

14. NICK MELI STOPPED A CHRISTMAS MALL SHOOTING

Shoppers at Clackamas Town Center in Oregon owed Nick Meli a debt of gratitude, along with their lives, after the hero took action that stopped a mass shooting. Jacob Tyler Roberts, a 22-year-old with a stolen AR-15, entered the mall with the apparent intention of shooting as many random people as possible. Police were never able to discern any type of link between Roberts and the mall, so it was classified as a random act of violence.

After killing two shoppers and injuring another, Roberts found himself staring down the wrong end of Nick Meli's Glock 22. Meli kept the gunman in his sights, although he didn't shoot for fear of hitting a nearby shopper.



Apparently disturbed by being caught, Roberts became the third fatality of the day when he killed himself.

Police officers discovered that Roberts still had 128 rounds, so this shooting had the potential to turn into a bloodbath. Thankfully, Meli took action before that could happen.

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THESE INCIDENTS?

The most important thing to take away from the 14 amazing stories of heroism you've just read is that each of these people needed to not only have their gun with them but also know how to properly use it in order to save lives.



Additionally, it was necessary for them to have the presence of mind to remain calm enough to actually be effective at stopping the perpetrators. Finally, they had to have enough courage to be willing to put themselves at risk.

The truth is that not everyone has what it takes to stop a gunman. Even if you spend several hours per week practicing with your concealed carry weapon, you might freeze up during an active shooter situation. Remember that one of the best things you can do is take a breath before you try to take action.

This one second of pause may seem like too much to spend during an emergency, but it can help you clear your mind enough to enable you to save the day. If you're still unable to help stop the gunman for any reason, be sure to stay out of the way as much as possible in case someone else with a concealed weapon is nearby.

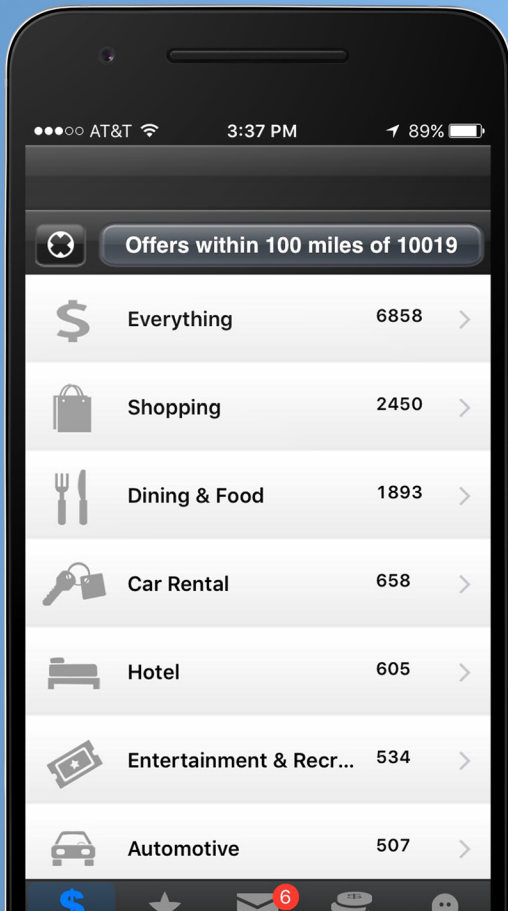
Ultimately, shooting practice and mental training will give you the best odds of becoming a hero instead of waiting for someone to save you. Make sure that you're also intimately familiar with every aspect of your gun and holster so that a split second of fumbling doesn't turn you into a victim.



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