

# Situational Awareness at home



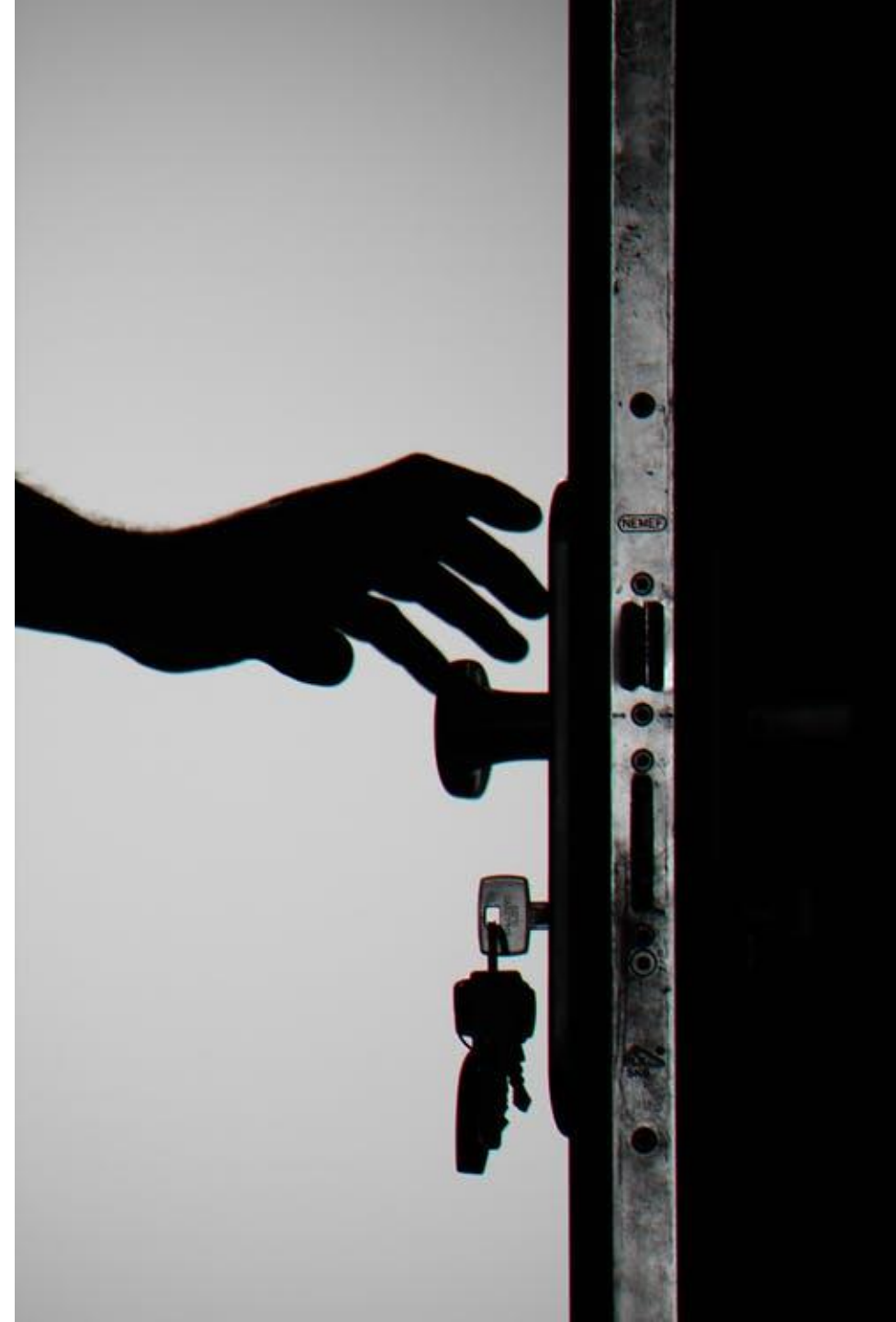
Without being paralyzed by Fear

# Situational Awareness is made up of many factors

Situational Awareness is the conscious effort required to pay attention to gut feelings and to surrounding events even while you are busy and distracted. It promotes conflict avoidance. Getting away from a dangerous situation is a great way to stay safe.

**Develop a safety plan in advance.** Know your exits, your neighbors, and your resources.

For those out there who think that bad things will *never* happen to you, I beg you to reconsider. Believing that you, your friends, or your family are untouchable just leaves you more vulnerable and unprepared. God helps those who help themselves.



# Components of Situational Awareness

- **Surveillance** Are views outside unobstructed?
- **Paranoia** Are you a danger to yourself with blocked exits?
- **Sustainable Security** Are passive devices (i.e. locks) fully utilized?
- **Mindset** Are you clueless, careless or cautious?
- **Intuition** Can you guess who, when, and where it happens?
- **Tools & Resources** Keeping phones, cameras, alarms, and a loaded gun?
- **Self Confidence** Can you use your tools quickly and effectively?
- **Abilities** Know your limitations: deaf, blind, lame, bedridden?
- **Backups** Know your neighbors, and do relatives call you daily?

## Statistics: (Provided by the FBI, Spring 2020)

- Day burglars are professionals
- Night burglars are dangerous ones, violent.
- 85% of burglars case the home first.
- 94% are on drugs
- 38% of invasions involve violent assaults
- 60% of them involve rapes, sometimes multiple
- 50% portray servicemen: water, gas, phone, power company's "costumes"
- 33% enter thru an unlocked door or window (including hotel rooms)
- 95% of burglars go straight to the bedroom first





# Examine Your Home:

**Windows:** limit how far you can raise or open the windows to about 3". Drive nails in the frame to limit the opening. The intruder will not typically try to break a window, because it can be heard by neighbors.

**Doors:** You must have good deadbolts and a safety chain on all doors. If doors are too old they can be kicked in. Replace them with steel doors.

**Obstructions, Exterior:** Rose and holly bushes are great landscape safety items under a window.

**Keys:** NEVER keep a spare key under a door mat, in a "rock," or on a window sill. Hide it well.

**Alarms:** Use an alarm system set for glass break, door and window opening. USE IT when you are at home, sleeping, and away. ALL THREE.

**Garage entry:** Have alarms on all locked windows and doors. Repair all wood rot on framework. Have a slide latch on the inside garage door track to lock it from being opened from the outside.

# “Harden” Your Home:

- **View Outside:** Make your view from every window unobstructed by tree limbs or tall bushes. Mount side view mirrors outside at each window to view obstructed doors. Solid doors MUST have peep hole viewers to the outside.
- **Lighting Outside:** Install motion activated lighting at each door, high enough to prevent tampering.
- **Lighting Inside:** Put table lamps and a TV or radio on random remote control switches. (Use economy CF light bulbs to keep the power bill down.)
- **Doggie door:** Never put the doggie door flap in a solid exterior door. They should only go in a screen door. They can very easily be breached by an intruder.





# Get Technology



## Cameras:

- Put a baby monitor in your bedroom, with the camera in your living room or kitchen. If you are unsure about sounds you hear at night, you can see if someone has broken in.
- Also, new doorbell cameras available on the market can show you on your cellphone who is at the door before you answer it.
- ***Always have a gun in your hand to answer your door to a stranger, and never open the door past the safety chain.***

## Telephone:

- Homeowners: have someone hide your hardline phone connection box outside somewhere unobvious, but still accessible to repairmen, to keep the line from being cut. (Under a wood deck or step, for example)
- Use a wireless phone inside that you can carry around the house in a pocket while home. When you need to call 911, you shouldn't need to run to the wall mounted phone in the kitchen, putting yourself in harms' way.
- If you carry a cell phone regularly, keep it charged to use, and always at hand.





# Examine Your Habits

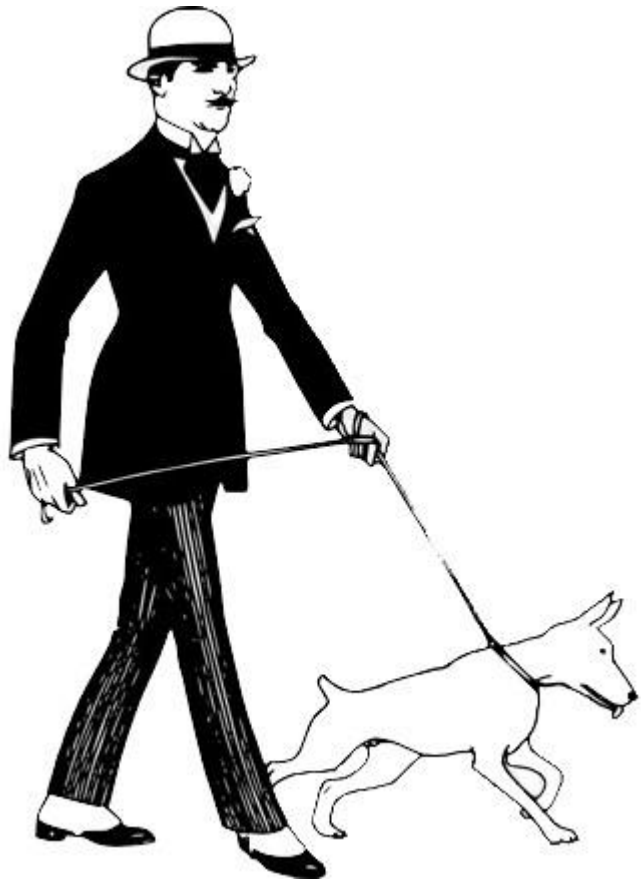
## Leaving things outside:

- Leaving the garbage can outside and not in the garage, or out front where it can be rummaged through for bank statements, health reports, and other personal information. Keep it under your control and observation. Shred all personal paperwork before disposing.
- Never let mail sit in your mailbox, or let newspapers sit on your sidewalk.
- Keep your lawn mowed, bushes trimmed, and snow shoveled.
- Don't leave clothes on a clothesline, or outside overnight.
- Never leave anything in your car exposed to viewing by passers-by. It's a good way to get it stolen, especially a garage door opener.

## Meal Preparation:

- **Don't** use the BBQ grill out back and leave the front door open. **Ever.**





# Examine Your Habits

## **Bedtime / Sleep “rituals”:**

- Watching TV, reading a book, taking a shower always at a certain time daily, sets a lighting pattern through your windows that can be predictable. Stagger the times so it leaves a potential intruder guessing. Use a timer for lighting, and leave your TV on a little later some nights. Keep all shades down at night.

## **Predictable movements:**

- Leaving the house for any errand, shopping, church, school, a walk, a visit, walking the dog, or any routine always done at a certain time of day or evening. Mix it up! Someone may be watching your movements.

# Examine Your Signals



- Dog Barking: Is it an aggressive bark?
- Doorbell, knocking: DO NOT open the door if you don't know the person. Talk through the door.
- Children playing: Do they run and scatter when a certain car drives by?
- Car horn honking/alarm: know whose car, and why.
- Phone ringing: know tele-sales calls from being "cased."
- Hand prints on window glass: BAD. Call the police to check the prints.
- Motion lights turned on: is it the neighborhood cat, or a burglar?

# Examine Your Resources

**In the kitchen:** knives, heavy pots and pans, hot water, raw eggs, canned goods, a bag of flour. Use the fire extinguisher, then hit them with the cylinder.

**In the bathroom:** break glass or mirror, use a towel to hold a piece as a knife.

**In the TV room:** throw books, knick-knacks, fireplace poker, sound the alarm system

**In the bedroom:** don't hide in a closet, go out a window instead

**In your car or garage:** open the garage door and drive out if you can, keeping distance between you to quickly escape.

**In the basement:** hide, grab a heavy tool to swing

**Your voice:** scream your head off!

**The phone:** call 911 and keep the line open.

**Your legs:** RUN!    **Last Resort:** use the gun.



# Know Your Limitations

Even Superman succumbs to kryptonite. Everyone has limitations to their physical ability to run from conflict or stand and fight.

**That's why guns are called "equalizers."**

If you are wheelchair bound or an amputee, you may be surprised how well you can fight when you are angry enough. Especially if you have a loaded gun with you.

Poor vision? Hearing Impaired? Always wear your glasses and hearing aides while at home.







# You can't fight an addict.

**FACT: 94% of all burglars are on drugs.** They steal to fuel their habit. If you didn't guess, then know that a drug-fueled home invader is the hardest person in the world to fight, because they feel no pain and have superhuman powers of strength.

You could sooner win a fight with a grizzly bear. Your adrenaline will be no match for their insanity. Understand that murder may be part of their plan for a gang initiation, and there will likely be more than one of them to face. The point is, you must plan ahead for what to do during a violent home invasion. You and your entire family.

It's why you should always keep a flashlight on your nightstand. And have a loaded gun handy for immediate use at night. Have an alarm system, and make it hard for them to get to you by blocking doors and hallways with obstacles. **NOTHING THEY WOULD STEAL IS WORTH A STOLEN LIFE.**

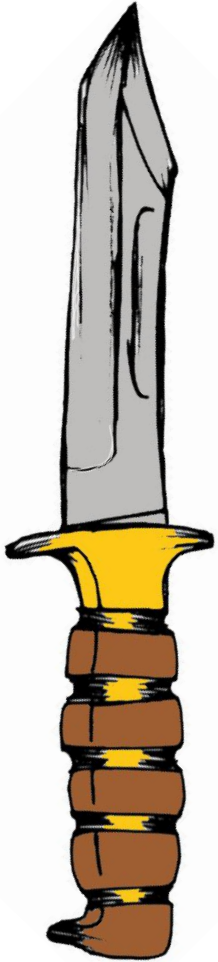
Have a plan for exactly where to go and what to do in the event of a break-in. Back up the plan with preparation. Even if you have to crawl out an upstairs window to a roof. Getting away is far safer than engaging the enemy.

The best plans are simple, but you still need to have one. So, please figure yours out, if you haven't done so yet, and clearly believe a **gun** should be part of the plan.





# 6 THINGS YOU SHOULD *NEVER* DO DURING A HOME INVASION



1. Don't Be Passive: This is especially important towards the beginning of the conflict, as it can dictate how the would-be aggressor will proceed.
2. Don't Be Naïve: Are you Pro-active? Or a soft, squishy meat bag?
3. Don't Be the Bully: Taunting or name-calling is a recipe for disaster.
4. Don't Overreach: Be defensive, not offensive. Self-defense laws protect you when your life is in danger; everything else is vigilantism.
5. Don't Underestimate: Criminals are not suicidal or stupid, they may, in fact, be murderers. Keep your distance. Err to the side of caution.
6. Don't try to counsel them: They're on drugs, so don't expect any miracles.

**ONE ROBBERY HAPPENS EVERY 2 MINUTES. DON'T LET CRIMINALS STEAL YOUR PEACE OF MIND.**

# State of Mind

- There are five levels of awareness: "**tuned out**," "**relaxed awareness**," "**focused awareness**," "**high alert**" and "**comatose**."
- A person's subconscious can often notice subtle signs of danger that the conscious mind has difficulty quantifying or articulating. It's usually called a GUT feeling.
- **Comatose**: you are petrified. It is this panic-induced paralysis a person can go into denial, believing that "this can't be happening to me," and you instantly become a VICTIM.
- Living life under constant "**high alert**" can lead to irrational fears and paranoia. This is when you are most likely to make a mistake. It's time to move to a safer place to live.
- **Focused Awareness** should be anytime you're outside or pre-occupied.



# It's the Little Things

It's the little things you notice that can signal something incredibly wrong. Like the Boston Bomber capture in April 2013: a homeowner notices from his window, that a tarp covering his boat in his yard, one corner was loose. Liking things neat and tidy, he left the safety of his home to walk outside to tie it back down. Except that when he got there, he noticed a smear of blood on the boat hull. Quietly leaving the boat and returning to his home, he called 911, and the rest is history. The bomber was hiding inside that boat, wounded and bleeding.

Are you aware of the little things around you that seem out of place?

Sights AND sounds?



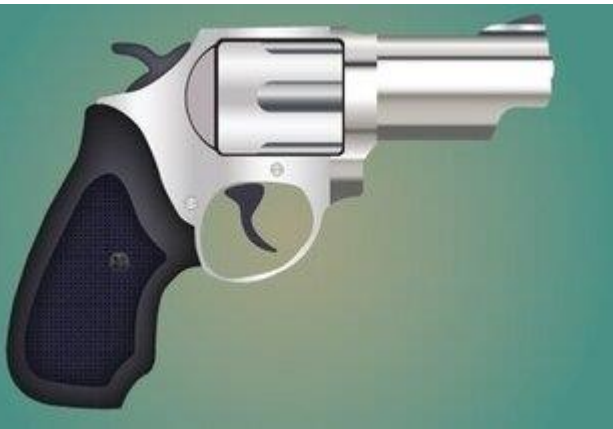
# Outside.....

- The neighbor's dog barking oddly or aggressively
- A window screen or storm window down or ajar
- A fence gate left open
- A bush or flowers under a window, broken or crushed
- Your garbage can overturned or raided
- don't leave anything outside your house that's valuable or can be used to break into your house. (shovels, rakes, ladders, etc.)
- Have a driveway alarm. (If anyone comes down your driveway, it sounds a loud chime inside your house.)
- Leave a dog bowl with water near the front and back door, *even if you don't have a dog.*



# And Inside.....

- Pets are acting nervous or on alert
- Your intuition tells you something is very wrong
- Hearing anything like rattling, glass breaking, or other creepy noise
- The doorbell rings, but you don't see anyone through the peep hole
- You try to call 911 but the phone line is dead
  - You want to leave through a “safe” door to run to your neighbor’s home. But if you know they aren’t home, you stay in your house, but now it’s ....
  - *Time to get the gun..... and use it.*



# THE CONFRONTATION

- If confronted by the intruders, say this: **“I have a gun, I’m calling police, get out of my house!”** If they are under the influence of drugs, which there is a 94% chance that they are, they will be dangerous and continue to come after you. Do not hesitate, then, to shoot them.
- Unless illegal in your location, keep the gun pre-loaded in the safe or wherever you are hiding it.
- Don’t forget to call 911! Say only, **“There’s a home invasion in progress, and I have a gun. There has been a shooting, and there are #? wounded.”** Do not admit to shooting them, let the police figure it out when they arrive.
- Tell the police only that **“I was in fear for my safety.”**

**911**



## Final things to remember:



- IF YOUR GUN HAS AN EXTERNAL SAFETY, MAKE SURE IT IS **OFF** And a round is loaded.
- CALL 911!
- **ALWAYS** KEEP A FLASHLIGHT WITH FRESH BATTERIES WITH EVERY GUN. YOU MIGHT USE PLAIN MASKING TAPE TO KEEP THEM TOGETHER, WHICH IS EASY TO RIP APART.
- IF YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO GET OUT, **GET EVERYONE OUT!** Even pets! Nothing the thugs might steal is worth your life or your loved ones'.

# What can happen next?

Situational Awareness is a basic building block of security. Everyone must commit themselves to identifying potential threats and dangerous situations everywhere they go. Especially at home and in parking lots, the most frequent areas for criminal activity. YES, YOU CAN control the outcome. Apathy, denial and complacency can be deadly. Trust your instincts!

Like many stories in the news, one recently happened (spring of 2020) in a northern suburb of Houston, TX. The condo occupant, a 52 yr. old disabled woman, shot and killed an intruder and injured his accomplice, who was quickly found and arrested.

Yes, it can happen, and does often. But you only stand a chance to survive if you are prepared to use **all** your resources, which should include a gun.

**Good Luck!**

Marc

17643 SH 204 E, Reklaw TX 75784

