



**IF YOU HAVE A
FIRSTHAND "ARMED
CITIZEN" EXPERIENCE,
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Studies indicate that firearms are used more than 2 million times a year for personal protection, and that the presence of a firearm, without a shot being fired, prevents crime in many instances. Shooting usually can be justified only where crime constitutes an immediate, imminent threat to life, limb, or, in some cases, property. Anyone is free to quote or reproduce these accounts.

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A homeowner in Georgia, Vt., used a muzzleloading rifle to defend himself against several home intruders just before midnight on Jan. 30. The three suspects reportedly were forcing entry through a locked door. The homeowner shot one of the alleged intruders, a 39-year-old man, critically wounding him, then shut the door and called police. The other would-be home invaders fled before police arrived, but officers found the wounded man in a neighbor's yard and transported him to the hospital. The investigation was still ongoing. (mychamplainvalley.com, Colchester, Vt., 1/31/24)

Dispatchers in Fayetteville, N.C., received a call from a distraught woman the morning of Dec. 20, 2023, who said she had used her Smith & Wesson 9 mm handgun to shoot a 30-year-old man forcing his way into the back porch window of her house. "Somebody just broke into my house," the woman told the dispatcher, "And I had to shoot him." Police arrived on scene to find the 30-year-old suspect wounded, but conscious, and rushed him to a local hospital, where he was pronounced dead. (fayobserver.com, Hope Mills, N.C.; 12/28/23)

In Chicago, Ill., on the afternoon of Dec. 23, 2023, four armed people allegedly attempted to rob a 68-year-old man. This senior, however, was a concealed-carry license holder, and shot one of them; the other three suspects fled. The wounded suspect was transported to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Robberies in the area of this incident were reportedly up 57% compared to the year prior and up 118% compared to 2019. (cwbchicago.com, Chicago, Ill., 12/23/23)

In Houston, Texas, a woman was leaving an apartment complex the morning of Jan. 6 when two armed people allegedly pulled her out of her pickup truck and held guns to her head. A friend of hers heard the commotion and came out of his apartment. Seeing the situation, he shot one of the assailants, killing him; the other would-be robber fled. (abc13.com, Houston, Texas, 1/7/24)

A woman in Oklahoma City, Okla., allowed a 39-year-old man, who coached youth baseball in the area for several years, to stay with her and her 12-year-old daughter. But, after falling asleep the night of Jan. 13, she woke up to find the man raping her daughter. She stopped the assault by holding the man at gunpoint until police arrived. The investigation revealed that the man was HIV-positive, had assaulted the girl numerous times—including on her birthday—and

had not used any protection. According to reports, he was to be charged with lewd molestation, rape by instrumentation, first-degree rape, exposing others to AIDS and pattern of criminal offenses. (kansascity.com, Kansas City, Mo., 1/22/24)

On Jan. 21, a woman in Fruita, Colo., discovered an intruder in her home. To protect the victim, reports don't provide many details on the incident, but do indicate that the woman was able to defend herself with her firearm, causing the man to flee. Fruita police reminded area residents to always keep their homes and cars locked and to "take all precautions necessary to protect yourself and your property, regardless of how safe you think your neighborhood is." (kjct8.com, Grand Junction, Colo., 1/22/24)

Three armed men in Houston, Texas, reportedly exited a white SUV and rushed toward a man as he was leaving his car to go into his home the night of Jan. 28. A person inside the home heard the commotion, however, looked outside, and saw his family member being held at gunpoint. The person inside told someone to call 911 and fired his gun at the assailants to end their attack. Two of the suspects fled in the vehicle and the third on foot. A police dog quickly located the suspect who had not gotten into the vehicle; he was transported to the hospital with at least one gunshot wound and stabilized. Police were still searching for the other suspects at the time of reporting. (houstonchronicle.com, Houston, Texas, 1/28/24)

On Feb. 11 in East Greenwich, R.I., a man called police to report that a man wielding a knife had followed him into his garage and demanded his car. The homeowner, however, was an armed citizen, and the suspect ran off after he drew his firearm. He was later found allegedly using a rock to break into a nearby home through the sliding-glass door. Police quickly arrested the 30-year-old suspect, who faces multiple charges. (wmur.com, Manchester, N.H., 2/11/24) 🌀