



**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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**L**ike a scene out of a scary movie, a brave mother and her three children hid in a closet that had been designated as the family's "safe room" as a knife-wielding man broke into their Carroll County, Miss., home Jan. 22. According to reports, the 44-year-old man attempted to kick down the front door but was unsuccessful, so he drove his pickup truck into the dining room. Meanwhile, the woman's husband notified county deputies of the developing situation from his work, providing a description of the vehicle (reports are unclear on how he knew the situation remotely). When police arrived, they discovered that the armed intruder had already left the scene—but not before the mother shot him in the arm when he, still wielding the knife, discovered them in the closet. It was also reported that other deputies responding to the scene found a vehicle matching the description given by the husband. (wlbt.com, Carroll County, Miss., 1/23/24)

**A**n armed homeowner in Marysville, Wash., arrived home, only to have to fight it out with three armed suspects minutes later. Early in the morning on Sunday, Feb. 4, a stolen vehicle loaded with three armed individuals pulled up to the house, confronting the homeowner just after he arrived. A gunfight broke out, and the homeowner escaped unscathed, while the three suspects fled on foot. One man was arrested nearby and was found to be suffering from a gunshot wound. Police were still searching for the other two suspects. (komonews.com, Marysville, Wash., 2/4/24)

**A**bystander in Fort Worth, Texas, jumped into action, shooting and killing a dog after it and two other dogs attacked and bit a person and began going after other individuals in the area, according to local police. Officers arrived on the scene after the shooting around 11 a.m. on Feb. 7, after being called by the person who fired at one of the attacking dogs. The person bitten by the animal was not seriously injured, and Animal Control responded to the scene to enforce ordinances related to the other two animals. Police say the bystander who shot and killed the attacking dog will not be charged. (star-telegram.com, Fort Worth, Texas, 2/7/24)

**A** man was waiting at a Philadelphia, Pa., auto repair shop with his 12-year-old son on Feb. 6 when he heard several gunshots. People scattered in various directions and the man lost track of his son; when he found him, the boy was bleeding from the head. The man saw the assailant, so he drew his own gun and fired. Reports indicate the target of the attack was a 43-year-old mechanic, who suffered a bullet wound in his back; the boy who was caught in the crossfire fortunately suffered only a graze wound and was able to be quickly treated and released. Investigators recovered a gun but had not apprehended the suspect at the time of reporting. (6abc.com, Philadelphia, Pa., 2/7/24)

**O**n Feb. 13 around 5 p.m., an armed citizen in Las Cruces, N.M., saw a police officer approaching a homeless man trespassing on private property. The homeless man immediately attacked the officer with a large kitchen knife. Witnessing the unprovoked attack, the armed citizen drew and fired on the homeless man, killing him, then used the officer's radio to call for help. The officer was rushed to a nearby hospital, but died of his wounds, leaving behind his wife and two young children. The assailant was reported to have had a long history of mental illness and violent crime, including charges of kidnapping, aggravated battery with great bodily harm and violating parole. No charges are expected to be filed against the armed citizen who defended the officer. (nypost.com, New York, N.Y., 2/13/24)

**A** homeowner in Houma, La., heard unusual noises downstairs around 5 a.m. on Feb. 20. As he started down the stairs to investigate, he was confronted by a man in the home; the armed citizen fired at the man, striking him in the forehead, but the suspect was able to flee. Investigators reviewed video and other evidence at the scene and were able to locate the alleged intruder at his own home, but as they approached that residence, a woman armed with a handgun came out. Both the suspected home intruder and the armed woman were apprehended without incident; the male suspect was out on parole and his wounds turned out to be superficial. Both suspects are facing burglary and other charges. (fox8live.com, New Orleans, La., 2/20/24)

**D**uring the afternoon of Feb. 19, a homeowner in Denison, Texas, called police to report that an unknown man had forced his way into the home, brandishing a hammer. The homeowner said he attempted to get the man to leave, but the alleged intruder struck him with the hammer, at which point the homeowner shot him. The suspect was flown to the hospital in critical but stable condition. The case remained under investigation. (kxii.com, Sherman, Texas, 2/20/24) 