



SAGA Snippets

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Think Like a Crook

by Sheriff Jim Wilson
8 March 2025

Years ago, I had a friend who was about the best deer hunter I've ever known. He nearly always got a deer on his hunting trips; it was nearly always a good buck. When I asked him for advice, he told me that you have to think like a deer. Where do they find the best cover? Where do they find the best food? Where are the paths that they like to travel when going from one place to another? "Think like a deer" was his advice.

Now, when I say that you should think like a crook, I obviously don't mean you ought to turn outlaw. But, I would suggest that you examine your habits and your surroundings from the standpoint of how a criminal would benefit from what you do and where you are doing it.

Take your daily commute for instance. Does it take you through a rough part of town? Is there an alternate route, maybe taking a few more minutes, that would be safer? And even if your route is a good one, what if some group decides to hold a demonstration protesting this or that; do you have another way to go and will you take it? The time to think about that is now, not when you are face to face with the problem.

Consider your shopping habits. Where you choose to park is important. That well-lit area, nearer to the store is always a good choice. And suppose that you come out and see

strangers hanging around your vehicle; do you go back inside and ask for store security?

Of course, there are those who would say they are going to go where they want to go and do what they want to do and heaven help the crook who tries to mess with them. In police work we called this graveyard courage. When trouble starts, too many things can happen and many of them are bad. The best fight is truly the one that you are able to avoid.

So we study what criminals do and try to use that information to make ourselves a harder target. When we look at mistakes that others have made, we can more clearly see our own weaknesses and mistakes.

It really doesn't hurt to take a bit of time and think like a crook. You can see weaknesses in your home security and weaknesses in your daily habits. More importantly, you have the leisure time to figure out ways to correct those weaknesses. The results are presenting an appearance and habits that tell the criminal that trying to make you a victim is probably going to be a big mistake.

https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/think-like-a-crook/?utm_source=newsletter

SAGA Snippets March 2025

Special points of interest:

- *Think Like a Crook*
- *Advertise in SAGA Snippets*
- *Focus on SAGA's 40 Year Insignia*
- *SAGA Corporate Membership List and SAGA Personal Membership*
- *Femininity, Fighting Back and Firearms*
- *Wildland Magazine March 2025*
- *When I'm Good Enough, I'll Carry*
- *NATSHOOT Day at Rooikraal*
- *Everyday Carry Essentials*

Advertise in Snippets

Exciting News!!

Advertising space in SAGA Snippets will be available to SAGA Corporate Members from the April 2025 edition.

SA Tactical Institute's advert below is the first of what we hope will be many more!

We are offering a Launch Special at just R500 per advert for the first three months (April to June 2025) on a "first come, first served basis".

From July to December 2025, the price per advert will be R700, and from January to March 2026 the price per advert will be R900. All prices exclude design costs. If you need help with advert design, for an additional R400, we have an experienced graphic artist who supports this initiative and will assist.

Advert dimensions are: 15.5cm wide x 5cm high. Artwork is needed as a Pdf or Jpg.

Take advantage of this great opportunity to advertise your business, club or association to a huge audience of like-minded firearm owners. Snippets is sent out in the last week of each month, apart from December when it gets sent out by 16 December.

All prices exclude VAT.
Only four adverts per Snippets will be placed.

To book contact Gaye at the office on 031-562-9951 or saga@saga.org.za

Edition	Booking	Design for Artwork	Final Artwork	Payment
April	10-Apr-25	10-Apr-25	17-Apr-25	24-Apr-25
May	05-May-25	09-May-25	16-May-25	23-May-25
June	02-Jun-25	06-Jun-25	13-Jun-25	20-Jun-25
July	04-Jul-25	09-Jul-25	15-Jul-25	24-Jul-25
August	01-Aug-25	08-Aug-25	15-Aug-25	22-Aug-25
September	05-Sep-25	12-Sep-25	19-Sep-25	23-Sep-25
October	03-Oct-25	08-Oct-25	15-Oct-25	23-Oct-25
November	03-Nov-25	14-Nov-25	17-Nov-25	21-Nov-25
December	24-Nov-25	01-Dec-25	05-Dec-25	10-Dec-25

EXPO
PRIZE
SALE
DEMO
GEAR
EXPO
PRIZE
SALE



FRI 25 APRIL - MON 28 APRIL 2025
Gallagher, South Africa - Hall 2 (214)

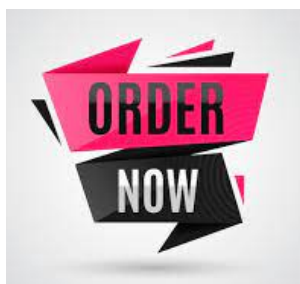


SA TACTICAL INSTITUTE



SAGA Members visit to enter our Lucky Draw

Focus on SAGA's 40 Year Insignia



Softshell Jacket

This quality softshell jacket is a Barron brand and is available in black with the simplified SAGA 40 Year logo embroidered on the front left chest.

The jacket has elasticated binding on the sleeve opening, front shaped panels with welt pockets, bar-tacks at pockets for added durability, inverted nylon full zip opening and an inner storm flap.

Comfortable and easy-to-wear, these jackets not only look good, but will wash well too. Available in sizes from small to 5XL.

These jackets need to be ordered - contact the office for more information.

Price: R660



Double Lock Folding Knife

This folder by Coast has an extremely comfortable nylon-handled grip, a 9.2cm long stainless steel blade with an ambidextrous opener which allows one-handed opening, a lanyard hole and a 3-position clip. The Double Lock is a patented safety switch mechanism that works in conjunction with a primary liner lock to prevent disengagement.

Lazer engraved with the simplified SAGA 40 Year logo, this strong folding knife is robust and will give years of good service.

Price: R380



PVC Patch with Velcro Backing

PVC patches are the modern equivalent to embroidered patches. Made of durable plastic they are flexible, lightweight, and weatherproof. The new SAGA PVC patch measures 6x4.2cm (length x width), and will attach to anything with Velcro from jackets, caps, backpacks and shooting bags.

Price: R90

Order on our website: <https://shop.saga.org.za/>





SAGA Corporate Membership

Current 2025 Corporate Members are:

ASSOCIATION

CLAY TARGET SHOOTING ASSOC
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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RESPONSIBLE
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DALTON RIFLE & GUN CLUB
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FALSE BAY SPORT SHOOTING CLUB
GEORGE SPORT SHOOTING CLUB
HILLDALE SHOOTING CLUB
IMPALA SHOOTING CLUB
KWAGGA JAG & AVONTUURKLUB
LION MOUNTAIN RANGERS
MODDERFONTEIN SHOOTING CLUB
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NYATHI ANTI POACHING UNIT
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ARMS KING
ART OF AMMUNITION
BOOMSTICKS
CHS GUNS & AMMUNITION CC
CITY GUNS CC
ELITE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION
FALSE BAY F T A (PTY)LTD
GUNS & BOWS CC
HILLCREST GUN SHOP
JABAMA SAFARIS
KINGS GUN SHOP
MILSPEC EQUIPMENT CC
MULTI-PLATFORM DIMENSION SHOOTING

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

HARLYN NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
HILLCREST PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

TRAINER

ADVANCE TACTICAL
EXECUTIVE DECISIONS
SA TACTICAL INSTITUTE

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SECURITY

A.O.G SECURITY
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MULTI DIMENSIONAL WARRIORS
PANGOLIN SECURITY PRODUCTS
SECURITY RESPONSE GROUP
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SYSDEL CC
TARGET TRUCK SALVAGE (PTY) LTD
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TURN TECH
WHYLO (PTY) LTD
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Please support our Corporate Members whenever you can!

Find out more about becoming a Corporate Member by contacting the office:

TEL 031-562-9951
WHATSAPP 066-003-9226
EMAIL saga@saga.org.za

SAGA Personal Membership

SAGA annual individual Membership fees are :

Adult R300
Pensioner/Junior R180
Family: 1x Adult @R300 plus any number of family members @ R100 each

Join via our website at www.saga.org.za

By being a member you keep us in 'business' and we are able to continue working for fair and just firearm rights for responsible firearm owners in South Africa.

Do you know someone who supports the right to own a firearm for lawful purposes? **Get them to join SAGA today.**

The SAGA office is now available on WhatsApp on our cell-phone number **066 003 9226**.



Femininity, Fighting Back and Firearms

By Nicole Linden
March 2025

The rate of violence against women and girls in South Africa is among the highest in the world and with crimes against woman escalating exponentially, we need to debunk the notion that we can solely rely on protection from a third party. We need to acknowledge that we are responsible for our own safety. We need to hold ourselves accountable and we need to acknowledge that we are capable and ultimately our own first responders. It's time for women to empower themselves and to shift the mindset from potential victim to resilient survivor - to be a woman, is to be a guardian & protector.

As a woman it is easy to understand the reluctance of taking that first step towards getting trained and armed. Its daunting, it runs against the "norm". Society conditions us to believe that woman are less dominant and need to be protected. Traditionally our primary role has been homemaker and mother. Many of us trust and rely on others for protection. We are generally the smaller and less physical sex however, being situated in a country with some of the highest gender-based violence – we need to change that mindset. The fact that we may have the luxury of third-party protection is great, until it's not. Until that relied-upon protector is not there. Until your security company or emergency response is delayed, then you are on your own.

The only person you can rely on in that moment is YOU, This is all the more reason to be empowered through preparedness, so your response can surprise and overwhelm a would-be criminal. Criminals pray on the young or old and assume that femininity makes women easy targets.

The average woman, especially stay at home mothers, spend most of the day apart from their partners. They do the school runs, the shopping, doctors' visits, take the children to extra murals and run the household while their spouses are at work. Who protects us during these times? An armed attack occurs so quickly that nine times out of ten, you will

not have time to call your spouse or even think to press your alarm panic button - if you have one. Even if you do, the average home invasion or hijacking takes minutes. In most cases by the time emergency response arrives its over or too late.

How and if you walk away after an attack now depends on YOU. During these times the only person we can rely on, the only person who we can guarantee will be available and on the scene is YOU. You alone are your first responder and your children's protector and guardian. Being prepared, capable and armed is empowering.

I grew up having nothing to do with firearms. They never interested me. Even as I got older and became aware of the crime levels we experience in South Africa, firearm ownership was not a road I even considered travelling. We had security companies and the police for that, then I married and had a husband for that. My mindset change only happened when I became a mother, my protective motherly instincts made me realize that it is up to me, and I am responsible. Until that point, both psychologically and physically, I had not equipped myself with the tools and ability to protect us. However, the reality is if we are targeted it would be up to me to ensure our protection – them or us!

That was my turning point, choosing the mindset of a fighter rather than a damsel in distress, even though it was not something that came naturally to me and I suspect not to most women. Having been a victim of crime in my early adult years, this mindset is something I wish I had achieved so much sooner. However, it is never too late - it wasn't too late for me, and it is not too late for you. You should see the age ranges at women's shooting events or presentations.

While South Africa, in recent years, has seen an increase in female firearm ownership, it is a far cry from the numbers we should be seeing. So why are woman not taking the first steps to empowering themselves?

First, we need a mindset or paradigm shift. We need to change from being stuck in

Continued...Femininity, Fighting Back and Firearms

"flight or freeze mode" to a "fight mode" because sometimes that will be your only option.

Second, we need to be aware of our surroundings and in the moment. Noticing things, people, in our environments, that we are usually oblivious to. Most of us go around all day in auto pilot or on our phones. Situational awareness alone can often help us to avoid a dangerous situation or to avoid surprise and be prepared for it.

Third, women need to be encouraged and supported in taking these first difficult steps. We all need to realise the importance of women firearm owners being self-reliant, and embracing practical training.

South Africa has an abundance of accredited training centres where one can begin the process to firearm ownership. We also have some of the best instructors anywhere in the world with the real-world experience that life in South Africa teaches. Find the best option that works for you and focus on the end goal, while enjoying the journey.

The work you put in will be worth the result: being equipped with the tools and training to defend yourself at the end of it all. It can also develop into a fun and exciting sport as well, a whole new world to be shared with your significant other, partner, friend, spouse and family.

Wildland Magazine - March 2025

As part of SAGA's collaboration with Wildland here is the link to your free copy of Wildland magazine, March 2025.

Click on the link in the covering email, or copy and paste the link below into your web browser:

<https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/70000950/wildland-maart-2025>



When I'm Good Enough, I'll Carry

<https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/when-i-m-good-enough-i-ll-carry/>

by Tess Branson
27 January 2025

The road to deciding to make concealed carry a constant in a person's lifestyle is, well, complicated. There are so many factors to consider, from obtaining quality gear that will work with your body and clothing, to navigating lifestyle, work and non-permissible and permissible environments to understanding the legalities and coming to peace with the possibility of making a lethal decision. Each of those aspects is worth a deep dive, but so is the question of determining skills for carry.

When potential conceal carriers say, "When I'm good enough, I'll carry," what does that mean? What is "good enough" and how can we know when we're good enough to carry?

Adequate Holster Draw Skills

Consider this: "31.1 percent of gun owners, or approximately 25.3 million adult Americans, have used a gun in self-defense. In most cases (81.9 percent) the gun is not fired." Read that last sentence again. That is a huge statistic to consider. If you know how to draw from a holster, the action of drawing might just be enough to save you from the threat you're facing, even if you don't fire a shot.

If you just read that last paragraph and decided I was crazy for suggesting that not shooting might still be an option, even in a situation where you do feel that your life is in jeopardy, consider this: "31.8 percent of gun owners reported that the mere presence of a gun has deterred criminal conduct, and 40.2 percent of these individuals indicated that this has happened on more than one occasion. Extrapolated to the population at large, this suggests that approximately 25.9 million gun owners have been involved in an incident in which the presence of a firearm deterred crime on some 44.9 million occasions. This translates to a rate of approximately 1.5 million incidents per year for which the presence of a firearm deterred crime." In

other words, simply having that firearm in hand was enough to stop the threat.

Having a holster that you know how to use safely is an important step. After all, in polite society, people don't simply walk around with a gun in their hands in public like they're in a video game. But having a holster - and knowing how to draw from that holster, are two very different aspects. Although many people purchase holsters, unfortunately most people never actually practice drawing from a holster. They holster their firearm, put their gun in place, and then expect that they will be able to successfully access that firearm under duress. We've seen time and time again in critical events across the country that speed of access does matter when lives are at stake, but this is still not a skill that most people practice. Practicing to get to the gun in a safe and speedy manner isn't just for gamers and competitors - it's an essential skill for those of us who want to be able to go home to our loved ones each day.

Although holster draw is an essential skill to develop, there's often a challenge in accessing practice. Many ranges don't allow drawing from concealment, and some don't even allow drawing unconcealed. So how to practice a skill when the range won't let you? Dry fire is the answer. With distractions put away, your ammunition in another room, your gun checked and double checked for clear, and aimed in as safe a direction as possible, you can practice drawing from holster over and over again until you're consistent in your movements, all without spending a penny on ammunition.

Once you feel comfortable with your draw, change your clothing and practice again. You probably don't wear the same clothing 365 days a year, and you don't get to decide when something bad happens, unfortunately.

Accuracy And Speed In Good Balance

The next skill that you want to work on goes hand in hand with holster skills. That's a good balance of accuracy and speed.

Continued...When I'm Good Enough, I'll Carry

At any public gun range, you can find people gleefully throwing rounds down range, content to just hit paper while letting that ammo fly as fast as possible. Looking down a few lanes from those people, you can find others, serious faces scrunched up in concentration, slowly putting holes in the same spot repeatedly, only looking up when the people happily blasting away a few lanes away from them throw their concentration. But, if you're lucky, you might find a few people working on a combination of accuracy and speed. Ideally, having a good balance of speed and accuracy in your shooting skills will set you up for more success should you have to use a firearm for your own defense.

According to Karl Rehn and John Daub in their book "Strategies and Standards for Defensive Handgun Training", the minimum proficiency for a concealed carrier is:

- Getting multiple hits on target
- Rounds should land in a small area, such as a 5- to 8-inch circle
- Distance is close, between 1 to 5 yards
- Time should be quick, 3 seconds or less

So how do we achieve this essential balance of speed and accuracy? Let me introduce you to my friend, Mr. Shot Timer. Many people never actually time their shooting process, but a timer, whether a physical timer, your friend using a stopwatch or a free app on your phone, is an invaluable tool for assessing whether you have a balance of the two skills. It also encourages you to face the pressure and adrenaline rush of being under time constraints, something that can help you figure out when and why your performance takes a dive. If that sounds undesirable or intimidating, consider this: you don't truly know how to succeed until you know what your failure points are. Learning where you're in need of work will ultimately help you to improve your skills.

Working under a timer also allows people to have a way of measuring progress. I work under a timer almost every time I go to the range, and I know that smooth transitions and

reloads are skills I need to work on as a result of that timer. I can also see when I get better and more consistent, which is harder to determine when there isn't anything to measure the process. And while the shot timer is valuable for speed assessment, actually measuring groups of shots to see if your accuracy improves helps as well.

Measuring your group sizes, pushing speed and measuring again, can help shooters to better assess what performance will be under pressure. This matters because each shot carries weight in real life. Having accuracy will ensure that you hit what you mean to hit, and having speed will ensure that you are able to go home at the end of the day.

Consistency Of Performance

Good enough to carry starts with consistency of performance. Trainer, three-time gunfight survivor and SWAT instructor Paul Ford has observed (based on his experiences and analyzing incidents involving other officers) that in a gunfight you will do about "70 percent of your worst day at the range". If you are on top of your game during one range trip, but are struggling the next, and there doesn't seem to be any rhyme or reason for that, consistency is an issue.

Being consistent means that you can repeat your performance without a lot of variance from time to time. If you go to the range and one time hit your targets with beautiful 2-inch groups, but next time can't seem to make an 8-inch group work, you're struggling with consistency. If your grip changes and your performance falls apart, you're also struggling with consistency.

When inconsistency happens on the range, many people look for a quick solution, but the answer for inconsistent performance isn't to buy a new gun or new accessories, as tempting as it might be. The best, most accurate gun isn't going to cut it without practice. 26.3 percent of gun owners are "public carriers," which translates to approximately 20.7 million individuals who carry handguns in public. But of those 26.3 percent, only a small

Continued...When I'm Good Enough, I'll Carry

percentage of gun owners consistently get to the range to practice and hone their skills.

Taking the time to actually practice, in live fire and dry fire, is important to build consistent skills that won't be inadequate when your performance drops under stress in real world situations.

Strong Decision-Making Skills

A final skill to hone when considering if you're "good enough" to carry isn't actually a shooting skill, but a life skill. This is the ability to make intelligent decisions under pressure. This is so very important when considering the intense impact of a hasty decision in self-defense.

Under pressure, you may have to make very fast decisions in order to assess a dangerous situation, weighing leaving vs. staying, words vs. actions, lethal vs. less-lethal. If you haven't practiced your decision-making skills, it's easy to freeze or panic under pressure, and the results could be catastrophic in a life or death situation.

If you're fortunate enough to have the opportunity to draw and do live fire at a live range, it's very helpful to add decision making skills to your practice.

Do you know how to draw and decide? Sometimes to shoot, sometimes to draw to low ready, prepared to shoot if necessary? It's worth the time to add decision making to your holster draws since real life will require thinking under immense pressure. If you practice the decision-making process, there's a much better chance you'll be able to think under actual real life stress.

If you don't have the option to draw at your range, that doesn't mean you can't practice decision making at the range. Bring a friend with you who can set up your target, designate shoot or no shoot symbols, and get to work. I like to use stickers on my targets. This could be as simple as red or green stickers added to targets to designate threats or non threats.

Outside of the range, mentally running through scenarios at the places you frequent most often can help with decision making as well. Thinking about the possibilities and what you might do can ease the analysis paralysis that could be life ending in a dangerous situation.

Conclusion:

It's important to note that while holster skills, speed and accuracy, consistency of performance and decision-making skills are all important components of being "good enough to carry," nowhere in this article is there a recommendation to have a certain gun, certain optic or any new and shiny option that's out on the market right now to obtain that skill.

Nothing you can buy, with the exception of quality training, will make you a better and more prepared concealed carrier. Nor is there any super special training trick that can make you magically ready for anything. Nothing can replace the simple practice of working on skills and then maintaining those skills. On that note, I'll see you at the range.

NATSHOOT Day at Rooikraal

By Pieter Bredenkamp

A huge thank you to NHSA, our sponsors for the day. Pioneer Creek Rangers and SAGA had the opportunity to showcase our sport at the recent Natshoot day held at Rooikraal Shooting Range in Heidelberg.

It was an honour and a pleasure to share our love and enthusiasm for Cowboy Action Shooting with the public, who also had the opportunity to try out the sport, ask questions and have fun. Some of those who participated didn't even know that Cowboy Action Shooting existed in South Africa!

Pioneer Creek Rangers came out in full force. We set up a range, complete with storyline typical to the 2024 Nationals held in Bloemfontein.

Pioneer Creek Rangers are based in Pretoria. For more information contact Chairperson, Pieter Bredenkamp, on 082 600 7368.

For more about Cowboy Action Shooting contact Western Shooters SA (WSSA) www.westernshooters.co.za



Everyday Carry Essentials

Extracted from: https://www.shootingillustrated.com/content/everyday-carry-essentials/?utm_source=newsletter

by Chris Cypert
14 March 2025

"Everyday carry," or EDC for short, is among the most popular and controversial topics among armed citizens. People love talking about gear. They love arguing about gear. In this case, regarding EDC, the broad question is, "What should I carry on me every day when I leave the house?" The reason this topic is surrounded by so much debate is largely because of this false idea of "right" and "wrong" EDC and the very human impulse to either do what everybody else is doing, or to think everybody else should be doing what you're doing.

In much the same way that drivers view everyone going faster than them as a maniac and everyone going slower as an idiot, the natural perception when thinking about EDC gear is, "Everybody carrying less than me isn't taking it seriously and is going to get killed in the streets. Everybody carrying more than me is a paranoid Tactical Timmy living out a commando fantasy." People typically think this irrespective of how much they carry.

The Smart Approach to EDC

The truth is, the best approach to EDC is not a copy-and-paste checklist of popular items, or to simply mimic the EDC gear of your favorite firearms instructor or social media influencer. The smartest approach to selecting your EDC gear is centered on a personal risk assessment of what problems you're likely to need to solve, and your personal contextual limitations. Today I will share my personal defensive everyday carry and the reasons behind my choices.

Carry Gun/Holster Combo

With both my guns (Glock G48 and Ruger LCR .327 Magnum), I typically carry in an appendix-inside-the-waistband (AIWB) holster, or in AIWB concealment rig, which allows me incredible versatility to carry in workout shorts,

tuck in dress shirts and other concealment options difficult with traditional holsters.

Recommendation: Fulfill whatever requirements exist in your jurisdiction to lawfully carry a handgun, gain proficiency with handling, shooting and carrying a handgun, and then carry a handgun whenever possible.

What kind of handgun? One that is reliable with your carry ammo, is large enough for you to shoot well, but small enough to conceal in most attire so you'll actually carry it on a regular basis.

What kind of ammo? Preferably choose ammunition that meets the FBI ammo-testing protocol.

What kind of holster? A holster purposefully manufactured for your handgun that conceals the gun adequately, completely covers the trigger guard, remains open when the holster is empty (otherwise holstering gets risky when you practice) and retains the gun during vigorous movement.

Got a Light?

On the other end of the "excitement" spectrum is my EDC handheld light. It's true that our cell phones invariably have a light on them, but those lights are what are called "task lights." In other words, they're good for helping you find the remote control under your couch but lack the "throw" (ability to cast an intense beam of light over long distances) that we'd prefer out of a handheld light.

Quality handheld lights can help us to see better in low light scenarios, giving us more information to make better decisions (i.e. "Who is that? What is that in their hand?"), as well as create photonic barriers to deny information about ourselves when dealing with suspicious people. Handheld lights have the additional benefit of demonstrating our awareness of our surroundings to those who might be sizing us up to decide whether or not we'd make a good target for their nefarious activity.

Continued...Everyday Carry Essentials

Recommendation: Carry a quality high-lumen, high-candela handheld light. Used properly, handhelds can help you identify people, objects and activities in low-light environments, (a really important part of the process of armed self-defense), provide a photonic barrier and dissuade bad actors from selecting you as a target. The best part is you can carry a typical handheld pocket flashlight anywhere, so it is one extremely useful tool you can always have with you.

Between a Harsh Word and a Gun

In the wise words of lawman Chuck Haggard, "It's nice to have something between a harsh word and a gun." Thus, a less-than-lethal defensive tool is a good idea. Regarding tools widely available to private citizens, OC/pepper spray is hard to beat. It is inexpensive, easy to use and generally effective at dissuading attackers. I always carry a pocket clip canister of pepper spray when I leave the house.

Most of my life I considered pepper spray a tool exclusively for women, and as a large man I chose to rely on my striking and grappling skills. However, in my late 30s I had a job that required me to work in a large city that had a problem with aggressive drug addicts accosting citizens, and it occurred to me I neither wanted to punch any of those people in the mouth, nor roll around with them on the ground. Thus, I concluded that in the event I was dealing with an aggressive person attacking me ^{who} didn't meet the threshold of a lethal threat, having the ability to spray them in the face with pepper spray and make my exit was a good option to have.

Recommendation: Purchase a quality pocket sized pepper spray, as well as an identical inert trainer from the same company that will allow you to practice using it correctly and hitting your target. Then carry it as an option to deal with threats that require force, but not lethal force.

Saving My Own Skin

It would be a serious disappointment to win a gunfight against an armed criminal attacker, but then bleed out waiting on first responders to arrive at the scene. Therefore, I carry medical gear on my person every day. I wear jeans or trousers most of the time, and typically carry an ankle medical kit from Wilderness Tactical that contains a tourniquet, chest seal, hemostatic gauze, and a pressure dressing. Even when I'm wearing workout shorts, I try to at least throw a tourniquet in a pocket, as they take up little space and when you need one you really need one. I've also carried a "trauma wallet" that fit some first aid basics into a pouch you could put in the back pocket opposite of your wallet.

Recommendation: Take a "Stop The Bleed" class or similar training and learn the basics of trauma first aid, then carry lifesaving equipment. I've had to use my EDC medical gear more than anything else I carry except for my flashlight, and it isn't just good for gunfights, but for everyday accidents and mishaps as well.

Conclusion

Ultimately, there's never going to be a one-size-fits-all EDC list that works for everyone. An individual's daily attire, physical size, risk environment, and numerous other factors will inform what each person's EDC should look like. I actually carry more than what is listed here (I'm blessed with a large frame and the freedom to wear clothes with large pockets daily), but wanted to focus this article on items that I think every person should consider adding to their EDC to be better prepared for life's unpredictability. Ultimately, think through the problems you think you might one day need to solve, and tailor your EDC gear to your needs. After all, you will be the one relying on it.