



*The Essentials Of Home Defense*

# 3 EASY STEPS

To Keep Your Home & Family Safe

# THE ESSENTIALS OF HOME DEFENSE



## HELLO, MY NAME IS TIM SCHMIDT.

*I'm the president and founder of the United States Concealed Carry Association, but, more importantly I'm a husband and a father. I have a ton of vital information to share with you today, so let's dive right in. We're here to talk about one thing: how to make you and your loved ones safer than ever before.*

More specifically, I'm going to reveal the Essentials of Home Defense and how you can immediately put them to use to turn your home into a *fortified castle* and keep your loved ones safe from harm.

Now before we begin, I need to address something blatantly obvious. When I look around at the state of crime in the U.S., it's easy to feel discouraged. Even though crime has been decreasing across the country, the FBI still reports that a burglary occurs every 14 seconds and that a violent crime occurs every 22 seconds.

Frankly, those numbers are scary—especially when you start hearing about the brutal home invasions that are happening to families across the U.S. every day. However, my intention isn't to

scare you into never setting foot outside of your home again. Far from it!

You see, to you and me these numbers aren't really all that important. Here's what I mean: From a preparedness perspective, I don't care if a violent crime occurs once every 22 seconds or once every 22 days. Frankly, I don't have life insurance because I think I'm going to die tomorrow. And chances are, my wife won't have to use that life insurance anytime soon (*knock on wood*). Likewise, I don't expect to be involved in a self-defense situation tomorrow, but I am going to prepare myself to the best of my ability to ensure that IF something were to ever happen, I'll be 100% ready for it.

Make sense?

Here's the thing:

I live in a really safe neighborhood. I have a home security system. I'm even friends with a lot of local police officers. But when it comes to protecting my family, all of that counts for almost nothing.

Here's why:

Not one of those things is going to protect my three kids if someone makes it into my house with malicious intent. Sure, a security system or a "safe neighborhood"

can deter the bad guys from entering in the first place. But they (along with the police) don't do anything for us if the bad guys do make it in. The ONLY person responsible for the protection of my loved ones is ME.

Likewise, when my wife and I take our kids over to their grandparent's house, we expect Grandma and Grandpa to keep them safe. And believe me—I've seen my dad shoot and I've talked to him plenty of times about his home defense plan—

you'd have to be a fool to break into that man's house. (Not that anyone would think about it, because he's mastered Step #1.)

So listen:

Whether you're brand new to all this "home defense stuff" or you've had a solid home defense plan in place for over 30 years, I guarantee that this report and the USCCA are going to help you take your preparedness and your family's safety to the next level.

YOU SEE, IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW PROBABLE IT IS THAT WE'LL GET ATTACKED. IF THE CHANCE EXISTS, IT'S **MY RESPONSIBILITY** TO MAKE SURE THAT I'M PREPARED...



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## STEP #1

### FORTIFY YOUR HOME FORTIFY YOUR HOME TO DISCOURAGE EVEN THE MOST DETERMINED OF CRIMINALS...

The best crime is the one that doesn't happen, and that's why Step #1 is all about making your home look unappealing to potential invaders.

Fortifying your home is actually pretty simple. The first principle is taking active measures to make your home LESS of a target. Believe it or not, this is the most effective method of avoiding the terrible consequences of a home invasion.

The first step is to understand the goals of a home invasion. Just as you'd expect, the home invader is looking for valuables—things he can take from you to use for his own gain, which usually involves quickly selling or exchanging them for drug money. It has been found that nearly 89% of home invasions are directly related to drug

use. Therefore, as common sense dictates, the more attractive and valuable a house seems, the more lucrative of a target it is for a home invader. This means your first goal must be to make your home completely uninviting to the criminal mind. And one of the most uninviting and unappealing visuals that a home invader can have is that of a perfectly maintained house.

#### **MAKING YOUR HOME UNATTRACTIVE TO CRIMINALS**

Focus on the things on the exterior of your home that attract the attention of the criminal, and work to improve those areas. For example, keep your grass cut short. Keep your bushes and hedges trimmed and away from windows.

Keep screens in good shape, with no fading, tears, or holes. Clear cobwebs away from windows, especially basement windows. Make sure the painting around the windows seems fresh and is without fading or chips. Check the status of all lights on the exterior of your home. If there is a light bulb, it should work.

#### **HIDE THOSE VALUABLES...**

The next step is to ensure that valuables are kept out of sight; the reason why is obvious. However, time and time again I'll see friends who have left jewelry, laptops, and other valuables that are easy to carry off in plain sight.

When I say plain sight, I mean this: If you can look in your windows and see

# HOW DO HOME INVADERS CHOOSE THEIR TARGETS?

47% BY OBSERVING A POTENTIAL TARGET

31% BY GETTING A TIP FROM A FRIEND

18% THROUGH KNOWING THE OCCUPANTS

4% ARE COMPLETELY RANDOM ACTS

your valuables, they're in plain sight. Don't make the mistake of thinking that desperate criminals won't walk right up to your windows and take a look!

By simply keeping your valuables out of sight, maintaining a less vulnerable home exterior, and doing simple things like replacing broken window locks, you're making your house look like more trouble than most criminals want to deal with.

## HOW DO HOME INVADERS CHOOSE THEIR TARGETS?

Take a look at the statistics above that break down how a criminal chooses his target.

By far the most frequent reason a home invader chooses one house over another is from his own personal observation. Very rarely does a criminal choose a house based on a whim. That's good news for you.

You can help prevent your home from being targeted by simply being aware of what the home invader looks for. Remember, the best crime is the one that doesn't happen. Use the handy checklist below for quick and easy ways to fortify your home and protect everything and everyone inside.



## HOME SECURITY CHECKLIST

Simple Steps That Will Have The Most Impact

- IMPROVE THE EXTERIOR OF YOUR HOME
  - Grass Cut and Bushes Trimmed
  - Exterior Lights Working
  - Windows Clean and Secure

- HIDE YOUR VALUABLES
  - Keep jewelry, laptops, and other valuables out of plain sight

- PRACTICE GOOD SITUATIONAL AWARENESS
  - Observe your surroundings when entering or exiting your home

- CONSIDER INVESTING IN:
  - Locking Metal Screen Door
  - Security Alarm System
  - Additional Exterior Lighting
  - High-Security Door Locks
  - High-Security Casement Windows

- PUT TOGETHER A PLAN FOR YOUR FAMILY
  - Take into consideration what each family member will do in several different situations

ADD ON YOUR OWN CHECKLIST ITEMS:

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## STEP #2

### READY YOUR FAMILY

PRACTICE WITH YOUR FAMILY TO HELP ENSURE THEIR SAFETY WITH A HOME INVASION EMERGENCY PLAN...

The next step of home defense focuses on creating a solid plan of action in the event of a home invasion. This concept goes by many names, and we're going to refer to it simply as a "home invasion emergency plan."

There's an old saying in the self-defense world: You fight like you train. Rarely has anything more true been said than this. We aren't born ready for battle. When we're in our moment of truth, the only thing we'll have to fall back on is our training.

When human beings are attacked, their natural instinct is to throw their arms up in front of their faces, or in front of the stomach or groin, depending on where the attack is directed. Nobody's instinct is to draw his or her weapon or punch somebody in that perfectly vulnerable place. All these things must be learned—and then, they must be practiced.

In addition to this absolute truth, we have another gaping vulnerability to patch up when it comes to defending our homes and families. That vulnerability is the fact that if somebody attempts to invade our homes, we can never focus completely on fighting them away. That is because the people in our homes—our families—are our complete responsibility. And if we focus solely on stopping the violent criminals inside our homes, we will be putting our families in danger, thus defeating the purpose of fighting with the home invaders in the first place.

A home invasion emergency plan solves this problem. It enables our family to avoid becoming bystanders, and lets them get to safety while we use our weapons and abilities to both cover their exit and stop the threats we face.

The bottom line is this: You absolutely cannot rely on "doing the right thing at the right moment" under pressure. If you do not practice—if you do not rehearse—you WILL freeze up and quite possibly fail those who depend on you for safety. This is why the second step of home defense centers on creating and rehearsing your home invasion emergency plan.

What is a home invasion emergency plan? To put it simply, the home invasion emergency plan is a protocol that your loved ones will follow in the event that your home becomes the target of a home invasion.

A home invasion emergency plan could be as simple as reinforcing the direction again and again to your children that "if you are ever in your bedrooms when you hear shouting and fighting, lock your doors and hide under your beds. And if

you are ever out in the living room when this happens, run into mommy and daddy's bedroom, lock the door, and hide under our bed.”

Or, your emergency plan could be more detailed. It all depends on your needs. When forming your emergency plan, you should consider all the different places your family could be when the home invasion occurs.

Take a look at the statistics below.

### THE SURPRISING TRUTH ABOUT WHEN HOME INVASIONS OCCUR

Those numbers show us that most home invasions happen during the day. Think of different potential scenarios, and imagine what the best courses of action would be for your family should a home invasion occur at any point.

TIMING OF HOME BURGLARIES (INCLUDING INVASIONS)

**65%** occurred during the **DAYTIME**  
occurred at **NIGHT 35%**

Understanding the numbers also makes it very apparent that just keeping a home defense weapon near where you sleep will only help in 35% of the home invasions that happen every day around this country. Most people picture a home invasion in the dead of night, so they don't spend the necessary time visualizing all of the possible home invasions that could occur when they aren't in bed.

### TALKING TO YOUR LOVED ONES ABOUT HOME DEFENSE

You face a slight challenge when communicating with your family about a home invasion emergency plan for a couple reasons. First, it is possible to scare your family and cause an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty within your home. This goes completely against your desire to keep

“WHEN YOU REGULARLY GO OVER YOUR HOME INVASION PLAN WITH THEM, YOUR FAMILY WILL BE SAFER AND MORE PREPARED.”

your family safe and secure—so you must work to avoid that. The best way to avoid scaring your family is to take a very serious but confident attitude when bringing up the subject. You can give the emergency plan topic the attention it deserves, while avoiding scaring your family, by scheduling a specific family meeting dedicated solely to home security and safety.

For example, you can begin the family meeting by showing your family what the smoke detectors sound like, explaining the fire escape routes, and pointing out fire extinguishers. Then, you can talk about what your family would need to do during the event of a tornado or some other natural disaster. And finally, you can then ease into explaining what they all should do in the event of a home invasion.

Creating a sense of comfort and participation with your loved ones will make this more beneficial in the end.

### WHY A HOME DEFENSE EMERGENCY PLAN IS SO IMPORTANT

Creating a home invasion emergency plan is important. It is also critical that you regularly rehearse and talk to your family about your plan.

Here's why:

You're counting on your loved ones to react properly in the moment of truth—they will freeze or do the wrong thing if you don't help them learn what they need to do.

When you regularly go over your home invasion plan with them, your family will be safer

and feel more prepared. They'll feel like they're part of the team.

That way, if an intruder or group of invaders does make it into your home, you can be confident your family knows how to react to keep themselves safe so that you can focus on stopping the threat before it has a chance to harm you or the ones you love.

Next, let's take a look at Step #3, which is all about turning the tables and stopping the attackers in their tracks.





THEY'RE NOT  
LIKE YOU OR ME

You must understand that the people who would invade your house do not think the way you or I do.

## STEP #3

### PREPARE YOURSELF PREPARE YOURSELF TO TURN THE TABLES ON A VIOLENT ATTACKER...

That brings us to the third step of the Essentials of Home Defense: understanding how to effectively fight one or more home invaders from within your home. There are multiple parts to this step, so we will start from the top.

First things first: You must understand who it is that you may find yourself up against in the event of a home invasion. You have to understand the minds of these types of criminals. Now this may be hard to grasp, imagine, or accept, but you must understand that the people who would invade your house do not think the way you or I do.

They feel no empathy. Your suffering and the suffering of your family is of no concern to them. To see an innocent person begging does not cause these people

any guilt, sorrow, or shame. They don't have pity. They don't have remorse. Your life, and the lives of those you love, are not important to them. Your lives are without value! You hear of people killing other people for five or ten dollars, and you think, "What a waste. That stupid criminal didn't know he was only going to get ten bucks from that guy, or else he wouldn't have shot." Listen—that is not how these people's minds work. To them, the human life has no value, and so to kill somebody for \$10 is perfectly reasonable.

And I'm telling you now: These people will not hesitate to kill you and your entire family—even if it means something as small as a couple more days outside of jail where they have access to drugs and other vices.

#### THE INHUMANE ENEMY WE FACE

Therefore, you must accept right now these two things: First, you must accept that there is no reasoning with these types of people. You cannot trust them or their word. If they say that they won't hurt you if you obey them, they probably don't mean it. Or, they may mean it right then, but their drug-addled brains are apt to change completely from one minute to the next. So the moral here is that compliance does not work—you cannot expect to obey these people and get a guarantee that your life and your family's lives will be spared.

Second, you must accept that the only way to reason with these people is through force. That's right: To these people, who have resorted to using violence to take what they feel they are entitled to,

words have no meaning. The only thing that will cause them to think twice is for you to fight back. I understand that this sounds brutal, but police understand this already. If we are to have any chance of success against sadistic criminals, we must understand that the only way to truly protect our families is to stop these people in their tracks. If they choose to turn and run away when we show force, good! Let them go! But if they learn that you are willing to use deadly force to stop them, and they keep coming, then they are telling you that they think they can kill you before you kill them.

That is the enemy we are facing.

### ESSENTIAL HOME DEFENSE SKILLS

That said, there are a few essential skills that you absolutely must learn in order to protect your family from within your home using force. A few of these are listed below:

- Selecting the right weapon to use inside your home...
- Understanding what kinds of ammunition will over-penetrate and put your loved ones' lives in danger, and which kinds are underpowered and will not stop the threat...
- Learning how to effectively defend a house that you suspect has been intruded...
- Learning how to fight hand-to-hand in close quarters—even though your opponent may be much larger than you, stronger than you, and possibly high on drugs...
- Having the ability to navigate your home in low-light conditions while holding your weapon in a way that will not let it be taken from you...

These things take time to learn. And if you haven't mastered them yet, that's just fine. In terms of preparedness, the fact that you're reading this puts you ahead of a vast majority of the population.

By fortifying your home, readying your family with an emergency plan, and preparing yourself to turn the tables on a violent home invader, you'll have a significant advantage over those who seek to do you harm.

And when you have access to the right training and the right experts, learning these important things becomes very easy.

The USCCA and *Concealed Carry Magazine* have hundreds of contributing authors who are experts in self-defense. Our blog, [www.USConcealedCarry.com/Blog](http://www.USConcealedCarry.com/Blog), is full of articles and videos that will help you take your ability to fight off attackers and protect your loved ones to the next level. Additionally, we also welcome our female readers to visit our Women's Community, [www.USConcealedCarry.com/WomensCommunity](http://www.USConcealedCarry.com/WomensCommunity),

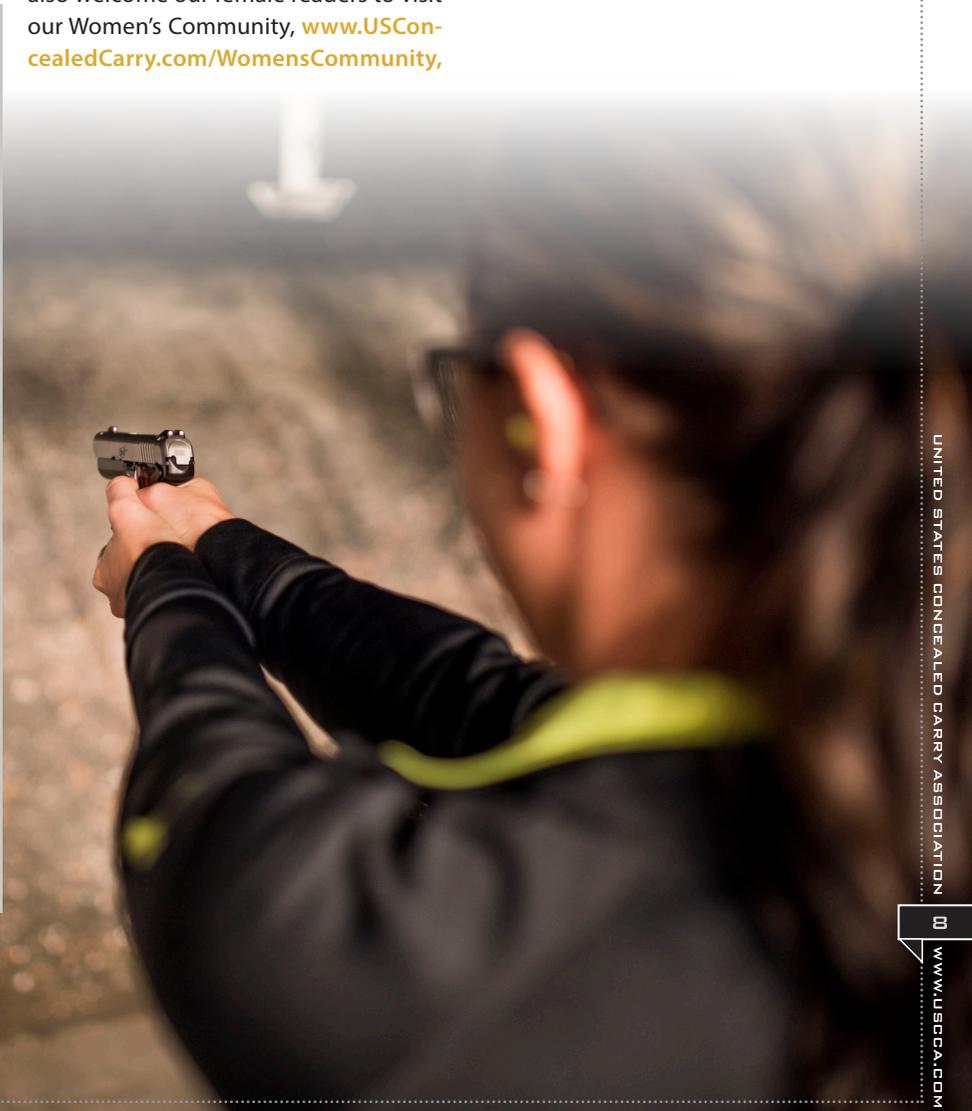
for honest and open discussion about protecting what matters most.

Now, because people are always asking me what I think is the best gun for home defense, I'll tell you:

The best gun is the one you're most comfortable with. The best gun is the one that you're trained to use. It won't do you any good to have a shotgun for home defense if you only practice with a handgun.

Likewise, a handgun won't do you much good if you don't practice with it. Therefore, I highly recommend going to a range that allows you to try out multiple guns and finding the one that works best for you and your lifestyle.

And when you find that gun, get trained. Practice with it in respect to the ways you may be forced to use it to protect your loved ones. We have several articles and videos about training available at [www.USConcealedCarry.com/Blog](http://www.USConcealedCarry.com/Blog).





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