

DEFENDING THE CASTLE

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PFC is conducting its **Home Invasion Defense** training course on June 11, 2016. In concert with this event, we offer this primer on developing or improving your own home defense plan. In no particular order, here are the top ten tips for “defending your castle.”

1. **KNOW THE LAW** – Becoming intimately acquainted with, and thoroughly understanding, the laws surrounding the issues of self-defense, the defense of others, and defense of property in the jurisdiction in which your domicile is located is paramount to the foundation of a sound home defense plan. Avail yourself of supporting resources. Nevada, for example, has its Nevada Revised Statutes (state law). Supporting these is the Nevada Administrative Code, which provides definitions of terms and procedure for implementing the various laws. In addition, familiarize yourself with local and county ordinances and case law relevant to the various situations and experiences you may find yourself in or subject to. Stay current!
2. **SELF ASSESS** – Be acutely aware of, and brutally honest, in evaluating your capabilities and limitations (physical, emotional, psychological, experiential, etc.) in regards to the development and execution of your home defensive plans. Capitalize on your strengths and strengthen your weaknesses. Elicit the assistance of competent and qualified others, as needed. Expand your horizons; attend training classes and seminars relevant to the subject.
3. **HAVE A PLAN** – Your options, based upon a variety of factors, are essentially limited to three; A. Be a VICTIM, do nothing to protect yourself or others. B. RUN, protect yourself (and potentially others) by executing your evacuation plan. C. DEFEND, Hard-point in a “safe room.” Be prepared to exercise all options available/practical/legal to defend and protect yourself and others. Expect your plan to fail or manifest into an unviable option. Then, should this occur, it will not come as a surprise and you will be prepared mentally and emotionally to roll right into your alternate plans (as many as time and resources allow). Keep your plans simple and realistic. Vet your plan – it should be a living practice and changes should be made when prudent and feasible to do so. Drill – rehearse your plan over and over and over. The pursuit of excellence is just that, a pursuit. Excellence is perfection; and perfection is not attainable – but that should be your goal.
4. **“KNOW” YOUR AREA OF OPERATION** – Be intimately aware of the footprint of your property and floor plan of your home. Perform a vulnerability assessment of the interior and exterior of your home. Ask yourself which doors, windows, and features present in the structure are the weakest and most easily breached? Which areas on the house exterior provide the perpetrator with the most covert access to a breach point? Which room, or rooms, within the structure lend themselves to “hard-pointing?” What avenues present within the home promote rapid ingress into, or egress from, various rooms or areas of the house? How easily do the floor plan and features of the home promote safe and rapid movement within the house under various lighting conditions? How might these conditions change in the event of fire or explosion? Use the answers to these, and similar questions, to assist in the development of your plan.
5. **LAYER DEFENSES** – Put as much space and as many obstacles as possible between you and the invader/s. Make it as difficult as possible for him/them to find you and access your safe-haven. To the

greatest extent, render it so difficult for them to make direct contact with you that they themselves experience a high level of discomfort, anxiety, and vulnerability. Make them regret violating your space and instill within them a desire to seek-out a softer target.

6. **READ THE LIGHT** – Most intrusions, but not all, take place during hours of darkness. Learn the Principles of Low-Light Combat and associated flashlight techniques. Learn to navigate your home quickly, quietly, and efficiently using the ambient light that is available (which may change throughout the course of the night). View each and every square foot of your home (vertically, horizontally, and overhead) from the adversary’s perspective. “Dark holes have guns.” Locate the “dark” holes in your home and use them to your advantage. Reading the “terrain” will assist you in determining which areas of the house will support your defensive and/or evacuation plans.

7. **“QUICK RESPONSE ASSETS”** – The Cavalry (law enforcement) isn’t just over the hill, and response times to a 911 call may be dangerously long. Consider utilizing mature, experienced, and well-trained neighbors (if you have them and they are willing) to respond and assist. Dependent, their level of assistance may run from being a good witness to interdicting and interrupting the intruder’s activities.

8. **LOGISTICS** – Ensure your equipment is available in sufficient quantity, is serviceable, and operational, and strategically located to support your plan. Your Kit (firearms, spare ammunition, cell phones/batteries/chargers, flashlights/spare batteries, medical supplies etc.) needs to be “packaged” and in-place at all times so it is available when, and where, you need it. The response time you have to react may be limited to but “nano-seconds.” One of the best solutions for keeping your kit properly packaged and ready to go, whenever and wherever, is the Ballistic Off-Body Bag (BOBB) available through PFC Loadout. Having a well-packed BOBB at your bedside provides peace of mind that all your essentials are close at hand if you must respond.

9. **POST-INCIDENT RESOLUTION** – The police, upon arrival, will need time to properly assess the situation (as they find it), evaluate the facts (as they perceive them), and respond. Initially, that means you should potentially expect to be treated like a “bad-guy” instead of the victim. Be polite and co-operative. Should you attend our Home Invasion Defense course, detailed information and guidance will be provided on this topic.

10. **TRAINING VS. PRACTICE** – Attendance in our upcoming Home Invasion Defense course, or any course for that matter, will NOT make you a highly skilled practitioner of the skill sets to which you were exposed. Instructors are responsible for providing you the training. YOU are responsible for properly practicing these skill sets to the point of proficiency. The level of skill you bring to the table will be in direct proportion to the amount of time and effort you dedicate to your practice. Take serious things seriously.

If you’re interested in learning about tools, tactics, and principles for defending your loved ones at home, join us on June 11th! Register online today.