



Written by [Patrick Krey](#) on January 9, 2017

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## **Exercising the Right**

### **Caught on Tape**

ABC News reported on December 1 about a harrowing incident in Sunrise, Florida, that was all caught on a 911 recording. Sunrise police received a call from a homeowner after a car had pulled into his driveway and men he didn't know exited the vehicle and began walking toward his house. The homeowner suspected foul play and retrieved a shotgun for self-defense. The resident's instincts proved to be correct, as three men broke a glass door to enter the house. The police released the recording of the 911 call to the media, and the victim can be heard whispering to the 911 dispatcher, "They're in my house right now!" The homeowner later told investigators that he feared for his life because he kept firearms around the house, and he was worried that the suspects would arm themselves with one of his weapons if they were not already armed. The homeowner fired two shots the suspects. The second shot hit one of the suspects, who the homeowner said appeared to reach for something, so he fired again. The other suspects fled the scene, and the homeowner can be heard telling the dispatcher, "I killed one, I think."

Law enforcement soon arrived on the scene. The wounded suspect was pronounced dead at a hospital. The other two suspects were later apprehended by authorities and taken into custody. One of the two surviving suspects confessed to committing the burglary but said he was just the driver. Both will likely be charged with murder, as Florida has a felony murder statute where "anyone committing a felony can face a murder-related charge if a death occurs during the crime." The Sunrise Police Department stated that the homeowner will not face any charges related to the shooting.

### **One Way or Another**

The CBS affiliate WJAX in Jacksonville, Florida, reported on November 27 about a store clerk with a concealed carry permit who was able to save his own life by using his firearm. The store clerk at a Prime Stop Food Store immediately suspected something was amiss when he saw a man enter his store wearing sunglasses in the middle of the night. Sure enough, the man wearing sunglasses quickly pulled out a handgun and demanded money. Fortunately, the clerk was armed and grabbed his own gun, which he fired at the suspect. The suspect collapsed to the floor with fatal injuries. Clay County deputies said that when authorities arrived, they discovered his lifeless body on the floor. Investigators reviewed the store's security cameras to confirm what had happened. The sister of the deceased suspect said she was not surprised at her brother's untimely demise since he had struggled with drug addiction for years. "In all honesty, if he didn't die this way, he would have ended up dying — he would have ended up killing himself on drugs," the sister told WJAX.

The suspect's mother echoed similar sentiments and said the family doesn't blame the clerk for what happened. "We have no ill will against the person that felt they had to retaliate because he had the gun."

### **The Intruder's Own Gun**

WUSA9 reported on December 2 about a home invasion in Culpeper, Virginia, where a suspect was killed with his own weapon. The incident began when a homeowner heard someone knocking on his door. The man answered the door and found a woman claiming she had car trouble and needed



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assistance. The homeowner could tell something was not right with the woman, so he refused to assist her and told her to leave his property. After a half-hour passed, the homeowner again heard knocking at his door. The man opened the door and saw the woman whom he had previously dismissed standing there with a male stranger. The male accomplice physically attacked the homeowner and began pistol-whipping him. The homeowner was strong enough to fight back and wrestle the gun away from the armed attacker.

Once the homeowner had control of the gun, he turned it on the burglars and shot the male intruder in the stomach. The female intruder quickly ran from the scene. The male suspect ultimately succumbed to his injuries. Authorities later arrested the female suspect and charged her with attempted robbery, burglary with a deadly weapon, and two counts of use of a firearm in the commission of a felony. Investigators believe the burglars targeted the house at random.

## **17-Year-Old Stops Burglar**

The *Post Register* reported out of Idaho Falls, Idaho, on October 28 about a teenage boy in rural Rigby whose hunting experience proved useful during a home burglary. Seventeen-year-old Brian Packard and his father, Bob Packard, were home together when an armed intruder broke in to their house. The son heard strange noises and asked his father about them. The father didn't know what the sound was, so he took a stroll around their property to determine the source of the noise. He spotted a stranger attempting to crawl out of a window of the house. The intruder saw Bob and retreated back into the house. The father quickly rejoined his son to alert him to the danger. The father and son walked down the hallway toward the bedroom where the father had witnessed the intruder re-enter the house. The son grabbed his shotgun out of the cabinet where they keep their hunting firearms. The father and son entered the room, and the suspect immediately began firing at them.

The father told the *Post Register*, "As soon as he saw us step into the room, that's when he started shooting at us.... And the bullets were flying past us. I can't believe we didn't get hit."

The intruder fired about four or five shots before the son fired one shot, hitting the suspect in the stomach. The injured assailant tried to flee, but collapsed in the front yard. Authorities were called to the scene, and the suspect was taken for medical treatment.

Bob told the *Post Register* that he taught his son how to hunt at an early age. The father beamed with pride over his son's heroic actions. "He knows about guns.... If he grabs a gun and loads it, he's ready to shoot. I couldn't be prouder of him."

The son was much more subdued about what had occurred: "I never really thought I'd be in that situation.... I'm just glad I went hunting a couple days before that, and left my gun cabinet unlocked."

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