



Exercising the Right

Career Criminal Sneaks In Through the Doggie Door

The *Troy Daily News* out of Troy, Ohio, reported on May 30 about a repeat offender who finally met his match. The incident occurred in West Milton when the suspect, 38-year-old David Fenner, allegedly entered a house through the doggie door. Police were called to the home by the homeowner shortly after 5:00 a.m., after he had shot Fenner.

The homeowner, who had recently been burglarized, was prepared this time. He told police that he confronted Fenner in his home, and the two began struggling before the homeowner fired his handgun at Fenner. Fenner was shot in one hand and both legs.

Police found the injured suspect at the scene and immediately radioed for an ambulance. Miami County Sheriff Dave Duchak told the *Troy Daily News* that the homeowner's quick thinking and fast action were responsible for the burglary being averted. "All the credit goes to the homeowner for being vigilant and protecting his family.... However, I would not want anyone to have to go through what this family did." Fenner was sent for treatment to a nearby medical facility and is expected to be arrested by Miami County deputies after his release from the hospital. Sheriff Duchak also explained that Fenner had a long criminal past, with charges similar to what he is currently facing. Along with arrests going back to the '90s for burglary and a conviction that resulted in a six-year prison sentence, Fenner has been arrested for narcotics possession, assault, resisting arrest, and theft. "He is a career criminal and just needs to be put away forever," Duchak said. Fenner is a suspect in a series of burglaries and thefts occurring in the area since March.

Son to the Rescue

KHOU.com out of Houston reported on May 29 about a home invasion that ended when a son came to the rescue of his parents. Investigators for the Harris County Sheriff's Office told KHOU.com that they believe the suspect had already burglarized one house in northeast Harris County that night before targeting another home in the area that was occupied by a family. The suspect allegedly invaded the house, armed with a shotgun and a pistol, and shoved the parents to the floor. Police say that the attacker then began violently beating the father in the head with the stock of his shotgun. Authorities believe the suspect stole the shotgun from the house that he had burglarized earlier that night. As the bloody assault was occurring, the man's son was able to retrieve a firearm and shoot the suspect. Police were already in the area investigating the earlier burglary when they got the call. The wounded suspect was taken for treatment but was soon pronounced dead. The father was treated for a severe head injury but is expected to make a full recovery.

Bringing a Taser to a Gun Fight

CBS 5 reported out of Kingman, Arizona, about an intruder who used a Taser on his burglary victim. On Saturday, May 27, the unidentified suspect entered a house around 7:30 p.m. and grabbed some items in the house, making enough noise in the process to alert the homeowner, who investigated the noise.

The intruder Tased the homeowner multiple times, yet the homeowner was able to fire his gun at the intruder, mortally wounding him. Police were called to the scene, where they discovered the deceased



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suspect's body. Authorities are still investigating, but it is not expected that the homeowner will face any charges.

Self-defense and the Law

The *Methow Valley News* reported on May 25 about a public safety course given by the Okanogan County Sheriff's Office in Washington State. The four-hour class was entitled "Self-Defense and the Law" and was given by the local sheriff's office, together with the county prosecutor. One-hundred-thirty-five people showed up for the course, which was instructed by Okanogan County Sheriff's Deputy Michael Blake. Deputy Blake had a lot of advice for the students on the topic of armed self-defense. "You're there to stop them. And then you stop — don't keep shooting. Your ultimate goal is to be safe, not to hurt the person," Blake told the class. Blake stressed the importance of situational awareness and knowing your surroundings and who is around you so you don't accidentally injure a loved one. "With a firearm comes a moral responsibility, because the consequences are so extreme," said Blake.

Okanogan County Prosecutor Karl Sloan repeatedly warned the class that deadly force is only used when it's reasonable under the circumstances. "You can't use deadly force on a nonviolent trespasser — it's not worth shooting to prevent someone from stealing a stereo," Sloan said.

Washington State Supreme Court Justice Steven González also spoke to the class about what the courtroom is like for people who have been involved in these types of shootings. "It's a very different lens — you need to be cognizant that your actions will be scrutinized by people who weren't there and who have all the time to scrutinize," González told the audience.

"Courts have all the time in the world to pick it apart, and you just have that one moment," Blake added.

Methow Valley resident and student Robin Wheeler said her biggest takeaways from the course were "that all guns are always loaded, all the time.... Don't shoot at anything you're not willing to destroy. And be aware of anything around your target — and behind it."

The county began offering classes similar to this over a decade ago even though offering these types of classes for free is unusual. Some of the classes even include hands-on practice with firearms. Okanogan County Sheriff Frank Rogers said that the sheriff's office felt there was a need for this type of instruction, and the interest the classes generated has continued to grow, which Rogers views as a positive. "We wanted to do citizen classes.... If people want to own a gun, we wanted to teach them how to use it, and about the law," Rogers told the *Methow Valley News*.

— Patrick Krey



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