



## **Exercising the Right**

### **No One Ever Said Criminals Were Smart**

Chron.com out of Houston reported on April 17 about a firearm store in the Memorial area that has been targeted by criminals on multiple occasions. The store, Full Armor Gun Range, has a long history of burglary attempts, with a recent one taking place last January. After that incident, the store owners decided to have a security guard stay overnight and keep watch over the store, but it wouldn't be long before criminals again tried to burglarize the store. In an incident on April 16, burglars driving a U-Haul truck crashed into the store in an effort to break in. The suspects quickly fled the scene when they were unable to gain access.

Police were just beginning to investigate that U-Haul attack when criminals once again targeted the store. The security guard working overnight at the store witnessed a car quickly drive up and three men hurry out. The three men then began trying to break in to the store through the main entrance. Before they were able to bust the door open, the security guard opened fire on the burglary suspects. From the initial reporting, it wasn't clear if the suspects returned fire, but the security guard appeared to be a good shot, as his bullets apparently hit the suspects. The injured burglars ran back to their vehicle and drove off, but they didn't get far before they crashed their car. The security guard quickly dialed 911 to report what had occurred, and the responding officers discovered the crashed vehicle, as well as its three occupants suffering from gunshot wounds.

Houston Police Department Lieutenant Larry Crowson questioned why these criminals seemed to keep trying to break in to the store at night when the owners locked all the guns up in a nearly impenetrable safe. "They take all the guns and put them in a very large vault at night. That would be almost impossible for people to break in, so I do not know what these guys think they are doing breaking the front door open. Once they got inside, they could not get in the safe anyway," Lt. Crowson told ABC13.

### **Off-duty Cop Defends Elderly Parents From Intruder**

In another story out of Houston, MySanAntonio.com reported on April 16 about a home intruder who unknowingly picked the house of an off-duty policeman. The officer works for the Houston Police Department and lives in a house in south Houston with his elderly parents and an elderly aunt. The off-duty cop was awakened shortly after midnight by the sounds of someone pounding on his front door. The officer grabbed his service weapon and went to investigate. He moved to the door but did not recognize the man pounding on the door. He ordered the stranger to leave. The cop even identified himself as a police officer, but the intruder refused to comply. The intruder then broke the glass window in the door and tried forcing his way into the house. The cop was left with no good option at that point other than to use deadly force to defend both himself and the elderly occupants of his home. The officer fired multiple shots at the suspect, hitting him in the chest. The cop immediately called 911, and the injured suspect was transported to a nearby medical facility, where he was treated for his gunshot wounds. He is expected to survive. The suspect should soon be charged with burglary of a habitation.

### **Hatchet-wielding Robber Shot by Female Victim**

WSBT.com reported on April 15 about a wild man who attacked a woman with a hatchet in Tuscon, Arizona. The terrifying ordeal unfolded when a woman walked to her car around 8:40 p.m. As she was



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about to enter her vehicle, a stranger appeared out of nowhere and demanded her car keys. The woman turned to see a wild-eyed man standing there with a hatchet in his hand. Fortunately, the woman was armed for self-defense and grabbed her handgun, which she pointed at the suspect. She yelled for the suspect to leave her alone, but the man refused to back down. When the man raised the hatchet over his head in an attempt to hack at the woman, she shot him. The man collapsed to the ground, where the woman held him at gunpoint until police arrived on the scene. The injured suspect was taken to a nearby hospital for treatment. Charges will be filed once he is released.

This frightening story reminds us all about how firearms allow people to defend themselves who might otherwise fall victim to a deadly predator. In this case, the man likely was physically stronger than the woman, and he would certainly have done her grave harm with his hatchet. The female victim likely would have suffered a grisly fate had she not been armed and prepared to defend herself.

## **What You Can't See Can Kill You**

A deadly shooting in Florida recently showed why a concealed handgun can be a citizen's best weapon and a criminal's worst nightmare. The Orange County Sheriff's Office told WFTV.com on April 23 that a 49-year-old man had to use deadly force to defend himself against a carjacker. The crime occurred around midnight near the Millenia area of Orlando when the suspect ran up to the victim's car at an intersection. The victim was pulling into a New Texas Fried Chicken restaurant when the would-be carjacker opened his car door and began assaulting the driver. The whole crime happened relatively quickly, and the suspect violently beat on the driver in an attempt to pull him from the car. The victim reached down and grabbed a handgun that he had concealed on his body. He was able to get the gun out and fire a few shots at the criminal. The wounded suspect staggered back in pain before collapsing in the parking lot of the restaurant. The stunned driver called the police, who soon arrived on the scene and discovered the body of the suspect in the parking lot. The suspect was soon pronounced dead at the scene from the gunshot wounds. The investigation is ongoing, but police say that the driver of the car had a concealed-carry permit.

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