

“Concerns When We Pull Out a Firearm for Self-Defense in Public!”

When we choose to pull our firearm in public to defend ourselves/family or another innocent person/s we place ourselves in grave danger not only from the perpetrators but also from other lawful carriers of firearms and the responding police officers. A sad fact about society is, That they look at the man with the gun in civilian type clothing as the **Bad Guy!** That is one of the big reasons the police wear a uniform. That uniform visually shows us that they are one of the good guys. Never forget that many in society have never fired a firearm and all they know about them is what they have seen on the TV/movies/media. We who study the gun know all about that. Society as a whole doesn't and some who carry firearm don't know it either. If you have a long gun the danger is multiplied. Society just remembers mass shootings and that a rifle was used if they see you with one in public.

Also never forget that we are people also and that seeing someone kneeled at the front of a vehicle with a firearm pointed over the hood or a like situation could be a good guy like you, a police officer off duty or in plain clothes helping to stop a bad guy, or a bad guy bent on doing others harm. We just don't know! Most of society will see that person with the gun and think one thing: Bad Guy! That is how society looks at the man with the gun. You could be that man with the gun trying to help or defending yourself.

If you are engaged with a bad guy you won't be looking around because you will be concentrating on the perpetrator. Firearms going off and people panicking will make hearing anything difficult, including a police officer screaming at you to drop the weapon! Our training tells us to keep both eyes open and looking for more than one perpetrator but when someone is shooting at you and trying to kill you that is the immediate task at hand and other things don't matter at that instant. If we remember after the perpetrator is neutralized we may scan the area. Think about what happens when you have a handgun or long gun and you move your head to scan the area. The firearm swings right along with your head in most instances.

Think about what you were looking at when engaged with the perpetrator. Most of us will be looking at the gun as that is what will hurt us. That other good guy with a gun or a responding police officer will be looking at the same thing: The GUN in your hand/s. When you scan the area and that firearm is following along with your head movement the other good guy or police officer is going to see a gun swinging in their direction. Think about what you would do if someone you were not sure was a good guy or bad guy that was just involved in a shootout was swinging a firearm towards you.

Think also about this, and try it yourself in a safe environment. Have your firearm out and pointed where the bad guy is and then think about a police officer off to your left or right 90 degrees and screaming at you and you turn your head 90 degrees to look at them. Now do it again by turning your head but keep your eyes on the firearm you are holding. You will see it moves towards where your head is turning. That is what the good guy or police officer will see. They will see the gun moving towards them.

You must always be aware of what can happen before, during and after a defensive use of your firearm. Your main goal every day is to get home safely to the family tonight. If that doesn't happen nothing else really matters! Knowing what can happen and being aware of it can help you make it home tonight. Gary Slider