



*****THE 7 MISTAKES ARMED CITIZENS MAKE****

A quick-reference guide for responsible gun owners

****1. Poor Awareness Before the Threat****

Most self-defense failures begin long before the gun is drawn.

****Fix:**** Build simple habits — look around before exiting your car, scan parking lots, avoid walking distracted. Be aware of what you are seeing to the point that you can remember.

****2. Hesitating When Action Is Needed****

Freezing is a natural human response under stress.

****Fix:**** Practice simple decision-making drills: move, talk, or leave. Any action is better than paralysis. Don't be a deer who is "stuck in the headlights." They get hit, and so will you.

**3. Drawing Too Soon (or Too Late)**

Bad timing creates both legal and tactical problems.

****Fix:**** Train when **not** to draw. Good judgment is more important than speed.

**4. Standing Still Under Stress**

Most people lock up and stop moving when startled.

****Fix:**** Step to the side, create distance, or get behind something solid. Movement buys time.

**5. Failing to Use Cover**

People instinctively focus on the threat instead of their surroundings.

****Fix:**** Identify cover in everyday places — cars, pillars, corners, store displays.

**6. Not Giving Clear Verbal Commands**

Silence creates confusion and increases risk.

****Fix:**** Practice simple phrases:

- "Stop!"

- "Back up"

- "Don't come any closer!"



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****7. Not Assessing After the First Shot****

Many armed citizens stop thinking once the gun fires.

****Fix:**** Train the habit: ****scan, breathe, check your surroundings, and call 911.****

****KEY TAKEAWAYS****

- Most mistakes happen ****before**** the gun is drawn
- Simple habits prevent most disasters
- Good judgment beats technical skill
- Training builds confidence and reduces hesitation

****READ THE FULL ARTICLE****

****[Armed Citizens: The 7 Errors That Lead to Disaster](#)****

****ABOUT THIS HANDOUT****

This free guide is designed to help responsible gun owners build safer habits and avoid common errors under stress. It is not a substitute for professional training.

****LEARN MORE****

Training information and class schedule:

****[CCWTrainingAcademy.com](https://www.CCWTrainingAcademy.com)****

****LEGAL DISCLAIMER****

This handout is for educational purposes only. This is not legal advice. If you need legal advice, seek an attorney. This is not tactical nor firearms training. If you need tactical or firearms training hire a credentialed instructor. Firearms are inherently dangerous. Serious injury and death may result. Legal and civil consequences may result in misuse or poor judgment.