

HANDGUNS & SELF-DEFENSE®

by Dan Pemble, Kissimmee, Florida



It is an unfortunate fact of life that throughout the world there will always be a “criminal element” lurking about in our societies who are looking to victimize elderly and weaker-appearing individuals. Therein lies the reason that many are insecure and afraid that they will actually be the targets of an offender who may accost them with a firearm, knife, or other lethal weapon; thus, they have elected to exercise their rights to purchase a handgun for self-protection. Recently-enacted Florida laws allow carrying a concealed weapon without a special permit. Of course the reality is, the majority of those in possession of handguns who feel some sense of confidence in their ability to protect themselves if/when accosted, lack the training to do so. Please read on.

It should be no secret that there is a vast difference between one’s ability to spend time at a shooting range while carefully concentrating on hitting “bullseyes” on paper targets versus the realities of “combative shooting”, as in self-defense! Of course when target shooting, the shooter has all the time in the world to sight-in the target before gently squeezing (not jerking!) the firearm’s trigger. Given enough time and practice on a shooting range, a gun owner can get quite accurate in grouping many shots in a small area around a target’s bullseyes. These same shooters, even though they may have become near experts in shooting targets on a range, because of several reasons may indeed not fare so well in a combative/self-defense situation. Some of these reasons which are not necessarily all inclusive are:

- Different handguns with different calibers and types of bullets may have more or less “stopping power” than others
- Without regard to the “stopping power” of a given handgun or bullets, as gross as it may sound, to effectively stop an attack, the offender must be struck in the head or in the upper torso by whatever type of bullets that are being fired

- Under stress, a person firing any caliber and type of handgun at an intruder in self-defense has no time to aim and may completely miss the target even at close range and therefore fail to thwart the attack
- Lack of training to gain the advantage & ability to fire handguns in a combative situation

Self-defense trainers for those who carry concealed firearms recommend that if/when you are accosted, to enhance the chances of stopping an attacker, you should discharge your firearm multiple times in rapid succession while targeting the offender's critical body parts!



Will you be ready to stop this guy?