

**ADVANCED
TACTICS**

**SAFE
ROOM**



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From The Editor

The safe room.

If your home is your castle, your safe room is the last line of home defense.

It's the place you retreat to when you have no other options.

It's the place from which you stage your last ditch effort to preserve your family from harm.

Or it's your first line of defense, where your loved ones retreat when things get dangerous.



Which is it? Or is it both? And how do you prepare a safe room anyway?

That's what this report was written to teach you. We reached out to one of our most esteemed subject matter experts, Massad Ayoob, who provided us with the information you find here.

The thing about a safe room is that, while it can save your life and the lives of your family, a safe room that is just a plan on a drawing board or an idea in your head can't do anything for you in a real-life emergency.

You've got to take steps to plan and execute a safe room NOW, before you need it.

It's my hope that this report will get you started.

As always, train hard, stay safe, and prepare now.

Yours in Survival,

Jeff Anderson

About The Expert

This report was prepared with the input of Massad Ayoob.

Massad has been handgun editor of GUNS magazine and law enforcement editor of AMERICAN HANDGUNNER since the 1970s, and has published thousands of articles in gun magazines, martial arts publications, and law enforcement journals. He is the author of more than a dozen books on firearms, self-defense, and related topics, including "In the Gravest Extreme," widely considered to be the authoritative text on the topic of the use of lethal force.



The winner of the Outstanding American Handgunner of the Year Award in 1998, Massad has won several state and regional handgun shooting championships. Ayoob is one of approximately ten Five Gun Masters among the 10,000-member International Defensive Pistol Association, and was the first to earn that title.

Massad served 19 years as chair of the Firearms Committee of the American Society of Law Enforcement Trainers, and several years as a member of the Advisory Board of the International Law Enforcement Educators and Trainers Association. In addition to teaching for those groups, he has also taught for the International Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors and the International Homicide Investigators seminars.

Massad has received judicial recognition as an expert witness for the courts in weapons and shooting cases since 1979, and has been a fully sworn and empowered, part time police officer for 36 years. Ayoob founded the Lethal Force Institute in 1981 and served as its director until 2009, and now trains through Massad Ayoob Group. He has appeared on CLE-TV delivering continuing legal education for attorneys, through the American Law Institute and American Bar Association, and has been retained to train attorneys to handle deadly force cases through the Armed Citizens Legal Defense Network. Ayoob served for two years as co-vice chair of the Forensic Evidence Committee of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He also appears in each episode of Personal Defense TV (Sportsman's Channel).

To learn more about Massad and his training, visit him online at...

www.MassadAyoobGroup.com

The Safe Room Concept

Understand from the outset that the safe room is geared basically for a home invasion.

The family is at home, there is reason to believe security has been breached, you hear someone kicking down the door... something like that.

The rationale of the safe room is that everyone gathers in that one spot.

It is your fall-back area, your rally point, the of last-ditch, last-chance security inside the “castle” that is your home.

The safe room does not have to be like in the Jodie Foster movie — a bunker or a steel-walled vault.

Typically it will be the master bedroom, but that’s negotiable.

It’s going to depend a lot on how the house is laid out.

Is your house a one-story home, or the tactically much more defensible two-story home?

You want to basically ensconce in that room with communications, with cover, with all your family there, and, if you have made that choice, with a substantial firearm that you’re skilled in using.

You want one member of the family to get on the phone with 911, explain the situation, describe you and stay on the line.

As soon as you are on with the 911 operator, you want to give your address and repeat it.

The dedicated 911 with the address from the hard line call that comes up on the dispatcher’s computer screen does not always work, and does not exist in every single rural community.

The other possibility is you’ll do what you’ve planned to do, and if you’ve had to grab a cell phone, perhaps the intruders have already cut the phone lines.

This has been known to happen.

No cell phone will give the location to police dispatch.

So you give the address.

You want to make the statement, "There is an intruder in my home."

NEVER say, "I want to report a burglary," particularly in a high-crime, high-activity area.

That's seen as an after the fact thing and it's actually a pretty low priority call.

The home intruder or the home invader, by contrast, will elevate the blood pressure of every police officer in a 30 mile area, and they are going to race each other to be the first ones to get there.

Meanwhile, you and anyone else in the house should retreat to that safe room.

The rationale of everyone withdrawing into one room is that it gives you a much more solid position in terms of defensive tactics.

If you've gone looking for the bad guy and you find him, as you duck away from him when his gun comes up, he moves, and you track him, tunnel vision kicks in for at about two-thirds of people involved in gunfights.

You'll be focused on him, and it will be virtually impossible for you to maintain a visual mental track of what's behind him as you move and he moves.

There are damn few homes in the United States that have bulletproof walls.

We don't want the bullets going through the walls, and we especially don't want them traveling toward family members.

By ensconcing all of our people in one room, we know that whoever we face is the intruder, and we know that we've already plotted out the position we're going to be in when we challenge him as he approaches that safe room.

This gives us a much safer field of fire and much safer situation for the good guys.

If you're in, let's say, a condo or an apartment building, where there's always the possibility that even the shots you fire at the intruder may go through the wall and enter someone else's apartment, if you already picked the point at which you're going to engage, you can scope things out and make sure of your backstop.

One way to protect bystanders and people in adjacent dwellings is to put some big heavy bookshelves at our predetermined backstop.

If our shots miss, that will contain the projectiles.

The concept, if you can execute it, makes things much simpler and more manageable from the home defender's point of view.

Now, typically, if you take a guy at gunpoint, he realizes he's caught in the hallway with no cover, and if he advances, he's going to die.

He's generally going to turn and run and end the altercation there.

Choke Points and Fatal Funnels

Last year, out in the midwest, a young single mom was at home when two men kicked down the door.

She grabbed a gun and she grabbed her baby.

She put herself in the living room, hiding behind a sofa, that gave her a field of fire toward the door.

She leveled her shotgun at that door.

When the guys started kicking, she warned them she was going to shoot.

As they came in, armed, she opened fire, killing one. The other fled.

Her tactics were very successful, and she was not charged criminally or sued civilly.

It was a classified justifiable homicide under defense of self and family.

She showed a brilliant use of “choke points” in the defense of her home.

When you set up a safe room, that’s what you’re doing. You’re setting up a choke point, a “fatal funnel.”

The military terminology would involve “defilade” and “enfilade.”

Defilade is essentially the military term for cover.

You have something between you and the opponent that hopefully can stop the projectiles from his weapon.

Ideally, if you’re already in the safe room when he enters, you also have true concealment.

You know where he has to come, but he does not know where you are.

If you’ve picked a spot where he has no cover, essentially he is *enfiladed*.

He is in that choke point, that fatal funnel, and now he has already lost the engagement.

If he's on the stairwell, if he's in the hall with no door to duck through, if he's already through the door and anything he could hide behind is already behind him, he can't hide from you.

The action/reaction paradigm now favors you.

If you have to shoot, you have an excellent chance of surviving and of keeping your family safe.

Is the Safe Room a Trap?

One objection to the safe room is that it puts you in a location from which there is only one exit, typically.

You might think that using a safe room traps you and removes your ability to flee if things get worse.

To use a safe room properly, however, you do not simply want to be hiding in the room behind locked doors.

You want whoever is the alpha protector, the one skilled with a weapon, to be in the doorway to cover it in such a way that they can scan the approach to the safe room (the hallway, typically) and interdict an attacker before that attacker can reach the safe room itself.

That's the ideal approach.

There was a case a few months ago of a young teenage girl who was home alone, called her mother desperately and said, "There's a man who's broken into the house. I'm hiding in the bedroom."

She had hidden in her mom's bedroom.

The mother said, "Grab the Glock 40 and lock yourself in the closet."

So she did so, and when the guy tried to get through the closet door, she shot him through the door and put a bullet through his chest.

Wounded, he fled, and he was subsequently arrested and charged.

So rather than safe room as sort of spider hole, a place to entomb yourself and hope they don't find you, you are instead using it to protect your loved ones while giving you a tactically superior position from which to fight.

Let's say you're a young couple with school age kids, and let's say you're still sexually active, and as a result you've put the kids' bedrooms deliberately across the house from yours.

In that situation, to get together where you're all in one place and there won't be a crossfire, the best plan might be for you and your significant other to run from your bedroom to theirs and use theirs as the safe room.

If you have an infant in the nursery, if you have a 90-year-old bedridden grandmother, if they're not going to be able to get to the safe room elsewhere in the house, then perhaps *their* room should be the safe room.

You and any other adult defenders in the home, preferably armed, move to that location and then establish your line of defense where you can protect the home's dependents.

You're not just holing up in there and hoping.

Locating Your Safe Room

Unless you've got a house on a hillside or you leave ladders outside, you can expect that an intrusion is going to be on the first floor of a two-story house.

It's simply much more accessible to the intruder.

If you can take a position that commands the stairway, and if all the sleeping areas, all the bedrooms are upstairs, and if you have an intrusion that occurs during typical sleep time, if you can move to a position that commands the stairway, ideally from above and behind the steps, you are in the ideal position of control, even ambush — and the other guy has nowhere to go, nowhere to hide, no cover at all.

Ideally you want to be behind something like a strategically placed heavy bookshelf, so that you do have cover that will stop bullets.

You put your weapon on the intruder when you challenge him.

One recommended challenge command is, "Don't move," with a sharp, commanding voice.

However, if he's an intruder in a ski mask coming up the stairs holding a pistol, I would not be taking time to issue a challenge.

There's simply too much chance that he'll quickly react, turn, and fire.

If I see a lethal weapon in the hand of a felonious intruder, that tells me that we're already in a highly lethal situation, and I would simply open fire.

If I do not see a weapon, I would give the challenge command.

Remember when issuing your challenge that you're out to give them the Hamlet soliloquy.

At your first syllable he's going to be startled.

Very often the startled response is for the intruder to freeze.

If that happens, that's great.

That's icing on the cake.

Every now and then, though, you'll get a bad guy who's really hyper with good reaction time, and he will instantly turn on you when you try to challenge him.

There's something in human nature that says if you started to say something, finish saying it before you act.

That's why it's best to use short syllables with a pause in between, such as "Don't [pause] move."

If he turns, that pause between "don't" and "move" kind of closes off the pipeline and prevents that natural tendency for you to finish what you were saying before you act.

It also gives you much faster reaction time if you do have to shoot, such as if he spins on you and comes up with a gun.

Absorbing Bullets In Your Home

When it comes to locating your safe room, we all have to look at the architecture we have, as well as who is sleeping where.

This is essentially scoping out the battleground and determining beforehand where the ideal place is to be with a gun when an intruder makes his presence known.

Pay attention to where the natural points of cover are, and where in your home you can expect bullets to stay put rather than passing on through.

As we've said several times, heavy bookshelves full of books are a good "bullet absorber."

So are cast-iron fireplaces and major kitchen appliances like freezers and ovens.

Sadly, though, you just don't find much natural cover in most American homes.

That's why strategically placing your bookshelves is so important.

A .45 auto bullet, 230 grain, that would go through as much as 30 inches of muscle tissue-simulating ballistic gelatin, will generally stop after about six inches of hard-backed book material.

By themselves, bullets will travel through most interior walls of a home, and through many exterior walls.

Your best option is to anticipate where the intrusion is most likely to be.

Where are YOU likely to be when this happens?

Typically these things occur in the deep-sleep hours.

The single most likely place for you to be is in your bed when a home invasion occurs.

Consider your plans in that context.

Ask yourself, where can I move from here that gives me the best command of an area where the intruder would have to come?

Where would I be in the best position to protect my kids and their bedrooms?

If the bedrooms are spread out, it's going to be more difficult to apply the safe room concept.

You may have to take the greatest risk of moving forward to an interdiction where those you love are behind you, and now absolutely out of danger of your gunfire if you do have to engage.

Developing Your Chosen Safe Room

When choosing your safe room, you want something pretty solid, with multiple points of access and egress (if possible).

That means the bathroom generally is not ideal.

The bathtub, while it may be pretty solid, is not situated at a height where you can get behind it and have it stop bullets from a man who is standing.

Typical bathrooms in modern homes will have windows up high for privacy, which means if you have to get a kid out that window, or you need to escape because you perceive yourself about to lose the fight, it's going to be that much harder to do that.

There's not much you can put in a bathroom that will stop bullets.

Now, if each kid's bedroom, on the other hand, has a heavy bookshelf full of books, and so does the master bedroom, that gives you a chance.

If you put a bookshelf right outside the door of the master bedroom, that gives you room to take a step out.

You've got something pretty bulletproof between you and any gunfire that might come your way.

This allows you to scan the hallway and the living area in front of you, giving you a much better buffer zone and reactionary gap before the opponent is right on top of you.

There is, however, no hard and fast rule, because American architecture offers an infinite number of possible layouts.

As far as size of the room, you want to get something pretty solid in the room, something people can duck behind.

If the master bedroom is big enough, put your gun safe in that bedroom rather than in the basement.

It's big, it's heavy, and it's steel, and will give you a piece of cover large enough for someone like you or your wife to crouch or even stand behind.

Now, when it comes to securing the safe room, if you can afford it, a metal security door with good solid locks is an excellent idea.

Frankly, throughout the house, a good solid door with a good solid lock makes sense for every member of the family.

Obviously, your specific needs will determine whether that is a possibility.

If you have a child who has behavioral problems, for example, you may not want to give that child the ability to lock himself away from you.

Another thing to consider is intercoms.

There was a time when only rich people could afford these.

Now any home can be equipped with intercoms relatively inexpensively.

These give you several advantages.

If family values allow it, in terms of privacy, you can get an intercom system that would allow you in the master bedroom to monitor sound in any room in the house, which can be a godsend for you in determining if there really is somebody here, what room are they in, what direction are they moving, are they talking and, if so, what they are saying.

If that is not compatible with family privacy values, the cheapest intercom system lets you alert the kids on the other side of the house to go to lockdown.

Tell them, "There's an intruder. This is not a drill. Get out of bed. Lock your doors. Get behind the bookshelf and stay there until mother or I call for you by name."

The intercom system also allows you to say, from a position of safety without giving your position away (because your voice is coming from a microphone in that particular room), "Intruder, the police are on route. If you approach the sleeping area, you will be killed."

That by itself could end an intrusion in a lot of situations.

Securing The Home

A lot of people approach a problem like this with gadgets on the brain.

There must be some device I can buy that makes me more safe, they think.

Well, there are a few things you could consider buying to make your safe room more safe.

If you can still find those old New York City style metal bar locks that doorstop a door, that's a good item.

Every barrier you can put in place to an intruder is a positive.

Home defense isn't just the gun or just the alarm.

It's a holistic system.

You need to have good solid doors, good solid windows, locks on both.

People tell you never to have a spring bolt lock by itself.

You need a dead bolt.

A spring bolt lock is the one that locks automatically.

It's got the little spring loaded wedge shaped tongue on it that goes into the mortise when you close the door.

The problem with those as a primary lock is they're very easy to get loid.

Loiding means you take a piece of plastic like a driver's license, shimmy it through the door, and it pushes that little spring loaded wedge out of the way and allows very quick entry by the intruder.

That's why none of us in the business would recommend you use that as primary.

The deadbolt, by contrast, requires a physical turn from the inside to close it, but once it's closed it takes a chisel or heavy tools to break through it.

It's a good idea to have both a spring bolt and a dead bolt.

The reason I say that is if you have a kid being chased up the stairs, very often the intrusion will begin when someone follows a member of the household into the house, hoping to rush them as they open the door and gain access that way.

If your kid barely has time to slam the door in the intruder's face, the spring bolt will hold it against them long enough for them to turn the deadbolt.

So that's why I recommend both spring bolt and deadbolt for locks on any of the primary entry point doors.

Bars and extra door chains don't hurt, either.

You do, however, have to make sure those bars can be quickly released from inside, so that family members are not trapped in the home in the event of a fire.

Door chains have a place too.

They may seem flimsy, but they do buy time.

A peephole is better because it lets you look out the door without actually opening it.

A closed-circuit TV is even better yet, and in today's webcam age, any home can now be equipped with wireless monitoring cameras.

That's technology you had to be rich to afford 30 years ago.

With tablets everywhere these days, there are applications you can get that let you use your tablet to monitor a wireless webcam anywhere inside or outside of your home.

You don't even have to be home to watch the camera if you have an internet connection and the webcam is also on the Internet.

Body Armor For Your Safe Room

We've talked about placing something you can use for solid cover in your safe room.

You also want redundant communication in there, both a landline and a cell phone if you can manage it.

A lot of home invaders and burglars are smart enough to access the landline and cut it, but they can't do that with a wireless phone unless they are also carrying a jammer.

It also makes sense to have body armor.

Ideally, you could keep two vests on hand, one for you and one for your spouse.

It takes only seconds to throw them on.

You won't always have those seconds, but if you do, it makes a tremendous difference.

This isn't paranoia.

Do you already own more guns than you can comfortably carry?

Well, investing in body armor is like that.

You may not need it, but it's nice to have the option, especially if an armed intruder breaks into your home.

Body armor is perfectly legal for anyone who's not a felon to own.

Indeed, it's perfectly legal for anyone who's not a felon to *wear*.

There are some states that prohibit its possession by felons and there are some states that will have enhanced penalties for committing a crime of violence while wearing it.

The rationale of that is if he was wearing the vest, he entered the crime with a high expectation of being in a gunfight and therefore is a particular danger to society.

For the person who is that good within the law, it's no problem at all.

Now, when shopping for a ballistic vest, make sure you get a minimum of Level 2, with Level 3A being better.

Level 2 defeats .357 Magnum, .45 caliber, most 9mm handguns, and buckshot from a shotgun.

Level 3A can defeat those as well as the hottest magnum loads and .357 Sig, which is a very potent cartridge.

This isn't a military flack vest we're talking about.

This is a Kevlar vest or some equivalent modern fiber.

They feel stiff when you pick them up, but after they break in, it's like wearing a heavy sweatshirt under a regular shirt.

Sure, they are a little warmer, but not nearly as hot as having a bullet go through your body.

Basically all the civilian needs is something that's good quality, rated for the predictable threat.

Do not, however, trust used body armor.

The fibers can be compromised by so many things.

If someone inadvertently dry cleans a ballistic vest, that vest will be compromised.

Bleach can also compromise the body armor.

Buy a new vest and follow the instructions to the letter for keeping it clean.

Remember, too, that a "bulletproof vest" is merely "bullet resistant."

Most rifle bullets will penetrate them.

Keep in mind also that a bulletproof vest over the back of a sturdy chair still offers some ballistic protection, but only for a little while.

Essentially after the first couple of shots, what would have been a torso-sized panel has turned into a ball about the size of a soccer ball that's been pushed halfway between the spokes of the chair.

One thing you can consider also is purchasing a ballistic shield.

Police have used them, the so-called raid shields, for many years.

It will be a Lexan viewing port.

The more sophisticated ones will have a pushbutton switch that activates a blinding light that goes forward towards your opponent.

But basically you carry it like a medieval swordsman would carry a shield, except it's much bigger.

These can be pricey, but there's no law against you having it.

Historically the armor makers have made it a policy to sell only to police equipment dealers or police departments.

So it may take you some looking around to find a police equipment dealer who knows you, trusts you and realizes you're a card carrying good guy that's comfortable selling it to you.

But that said it would certainly be worth having in the closet.

Illumination

You need illumination in your safe room so that you can use it to properly identify your target.

There have been plenty of horrible incidents in which a home defender shot a friend or family member simply because the defender didn't realize that person was not an intruder.

You need enough portable light so that you can make absolutely sure the person in the sights of your handgun is the bad guy.

Consider, however, having a light that is SEPARATE from your handgun, not mounted directly to it.

I treat the flashlight mounted defense gun or police gun the way I would treat a telescopic sighted hunting rifle.

You and I both know how furious we would be if we were out in the hunting field, and we look across the valley and here's some guy pointing a rifle at us because he's scoping the area with his telescopic sight, because he's either too lazy or too damn cheap to buy a set of binoculars to do that job properly.

That is exactly what we're doing when we search with a light that's mounted on the gun.

Everything we are looking at, we're pointing a loaded gun at.

If it turned out to be our teenage son who came home late and is letting himself in, or maybe even snuck out to be with his girlfriend and we didn't even know he was gone, I'll trust you to have the discipline that you're not going to suddenly be startled and flinch and shoot him, that you'd have the discipline to have kept your finger away from the trigger.

But even in that best case resolution, that kid is going to remember until you die and he's standing over your casket at the funeral the night you pointed that loaded gun at him.

That's why I tell people, continuing the analogy of the light mounted gun and the telescopic sighted hunting rifle, no responsible hunter is going to use the scope on his rifle to scan for game.

But when you believe you've seen the animal, as that rifle comes to your

shoulder and you look at it through the scope and the four power magnification, maybe the eight power magnification, maybe at dusk it's one more safety check.

It's one more opportunity to make sure that's a legal buck, not a doe standing among the branches.

It's one more opportunity to make sure it is a deer and not some dumb guy wearing the wrong color during hunting season.

The flashlight on the gun, when you level down on the person you believe to be the intruder, the flashlight on that gun is the final verification that this is a shoot target, not someone who has inadvertently done something incredibly stupid that they do not deserve to die for.

One thing all of us should do is tell those friends of ours, or relatives, or members of the extended family that have those keys, "You've got to remember this is an armed household. When you come by, shout out and identify yourself. Ring the doorbell first, even if you don't think I'm home."

This can avoid tragedy later.

Nobody intends to make a mistake.

The more work we put into preventing such a scenario in the first place, the better off we will be.

Using The Safe Room In A Home Invasion Plan

It's hard to know what your first line of defense will be in any specific home invasion case.

We don't know because the intrusion may come when you're in the living room watching TV.

It may come when you're walking out of the house and the guy who's been waiting for you jumps out of the bushes as you insert the key in the door.

(That's a pretty common tactic.)

Or it could happen at 3:00 in the morning when you and the whole family are asleep.

So in essence, there is no certainty.

The bad guy gets to make the first move.

He's the actor.

We are the reactor.

Action always beats reaction.

That's why we have to ask ourselves beforehand to put ourselves in any situation that we might have in the house.

If I'm attacked here, what will I do?

If there's an intrusion there at this time of night, what will I do?

Put that plan and that computer between your ears and have it ready to go when the stimulus comes.

Many home designs purposely separate the master bedroom from other bedrooms in the house.

If my children are on the other side of the home, as you described, and there is a break in, what considerations do I need to take into account when I'm making my plans?

One fallback should be that you command your kids to “go to lockdown,” either by shouting or using an intercom.

If the plan is going to be that you and your significant other are going to be heading to their room, let them know on the intercom, “We’re coming your way. This is not a drill.”

Now, here is the worst case scenario.

There’s an intruder in the home.

We’re in our safe room.

He’s on the other side of the door.

It would rarely be advisable to shoot through a door.

What if, however, the intruder breaches the safe room?

You have to position yourself beforehand so that if they do break through, you can be reasonably safe.

Putting up a mattress and hiding behind it isn’t much protection because most bullets will go right through it, for example.

If you have that bookshelf or that gun safe in your room, however, that can provide cover while you engage the threat once he’s past the barrier of the doorway.

Fleeing The Safe Room

Essentially, you shouldn't leave the safe room until the police have arrived.

It's a good idea to have in the safe room a house key attached to a chemical light stick.

Tell the dispatcher, "I'm throwing a glow stick attached to my house key onto the lawn on the West side of the house."

Cops are used to working toward compass points.

That will greatly expedite the process of officers entering the home.

When you hear entry being made, if you are still on the line with the 911 operator, you simply ask the dispatcher, "There's someone at the front door. Is that your officers?"

If they tell you yes it is, you put down the pistol, or holster it if you have a holster on, and step away from it.

For you to be standing there with a gun in your hand when the police make entry, there's a huge chance you'll be mistaken for the burglar and justifiably shot.

That also will prevent you from mistakenly shooting a police officer.

Bear in mind also that the first responding officers may not be in uniform.

A home invasion is an extremely high priority call.

It's a threat to the life of the citizens.

Every cop within earshot of the broadcast is going to be heading there.

That may include a police officer, or even an off-duty cop who has a scanner in his vehicle.

If they're in radio contact, they'll be letting dispatch know when they're making entry.

So you're staying online with dispatch and alerting them when you hear someone coming through the front door and asking them, "Is that your officers," will prevent a mistaken identity shooting on either side of the fight.

The dispatcher can also verify that the people entering the home are in fact the police and not MORE home invaders who have come to help the ones already in the house.

Role-Playing Home Defense

Most of us did fire drills when we were in school.

You need to do intruder drills with your kids for the exact same reason.

The physical experience will burn into their minds that, if a crisis happens, this is the plan that we will follow.

See how quickly they can get to the safe room.

See how quickly you can put on body armor if that is involved.

See how quickly your kids can respond when you shout to them or tell them over the intercom that they need to “go to lockdown” and get behind something solid.

There’s another aspect to consider, too.

If you do not have firearms in the home, you need to drill getting into a safe room and hiding there behind secured doors, because without a gun, you have no really effective way to interdict intruders.

A sword or a baseball bat just isn’t going to cut it, if you’ll pardon the pun, except as an extreme last-ditch weapon of desperation.

Stay on the line with the police, lock the bedroom door, and be in a position where if that door is kicked in, you could instantly swing that bat or that sword to the head of whoever’s kicking down that door.

You have to be really critically sure that it’s not the police officers that you have summoned who have made entry that are now coming through that door.

I realize that there’s a pretty big gap between a big kitchen knife and having an actual firearm, but a knife is certainly better than nothing, and there have been a number of justified self-defense knifings over the years.

That said, though, it puts you in very close physical contact with the attacker.

It is much more dangerous and it doesn’t have anywhere near the deterrent value of the gun.

Parting Thoughts

Take this seriously.

Take it as seriously as you do fire protection.

We all hope that our house never catches fire, but we have fire insurance and we have smoke detectors.

Well, all of us hope we will never have a home invasion.

But we all need to know what we'll do if that horrible thing happens.

If you fail to plan, you will suffer and even die when the moment of truth comes.

Hope is not an option, and wishful thinking is not a plan.

Take steps now to safeguard your home and family.

As always, train hard, stay safe... and prepare now.