

## *Bedside Protection Gear*

When something goes bump in the night, what is your plan?

Probably the first thought is to protect your children and/or your spouse. What equipment do you need? Your glasses. A flashlight... A firearm... Your cellphone... What are you wearing? How many free hands do you have? Where is that equipment right now when you need it? How are you going to carry all the tools needed to protect you, your family and your property? What is your plan?



How many children have been killed in a school fire since 1956? To answer this, take your right thumb and touch it to your right index finger – there is your answer – 0! Why? Schools have emergency plans which they practice. Fire drills are routine in schools, usually during October for fire prevention month, as well as other times during the year. Unfortunately now our schools are finding it necessary to practice drills for other emergencies which might happen in their environment.

We need to develop a plan, discuss our plan with family members, practice our plan regularly and update our plan for our own protection. Most of us sleep in comfortable, loose fitting pajamas, tee shirts, night shirts, etc. all of which afford little or no suitability to secure gear of any sort. If we grab a flashlight, a pistol, a cellphone, the elastic in our underwear will most certainly not support the weight of these tools. God only gave us two hands and we need both of them to utilize our tools during developing situations.

The cowboys we've seen in the movies had their pistol belt. This is how they carried their main tool, along with spare cartridges to reload their tool. We have a lot more tools available to us in today's world. We need to be prepared with the right tools for the task at hand in case we suddenly have an unexpected intruder awaken us.

So what tools do we need for the unexpected encounter? Obviously this depends upon our situation. We need to plan ahead and be prepared for the unexpected. Some tools we will probably find beneficial might be a pistol, a rifle or shotgun, a flashlight (or two) and a cell phone. Anything else? If you carry a firearm, you need additional ammunition. Let's add two additional pistol, rifle and shotgun magazines to the list. Standard pistol magazines hold at least 15 rounds, standard rifle magazines hold 30 rounds, shotgun mags hold 10. If you have a shotgun without a detachable magazine, you need additional shells for backup. Your shotgun should hold at least 15 shells, better have the same or more for backup.

Even if you have a firearm mounted light, you need at least one additional flashlight, minimum 250 lumens, two will be better. You'll want this for searching unknown areas. A cell phone light is not an acceptable alternative. Another lighting tool you may consider is a small headlamp. It's nice to have if you need to work with both hands. This may be handy for treating a casualty or to signal the police – flashing feature.





A great idea for additional light sources are chemical light sticks. Have a few of these available, also have one dedicated with a keyring and a house door key. These light sticks can be utilized to light an area away from your position without lighting a path back to your position. The one with the house key can be tossed out the window of your safe room for the police to easily gain access to your house, after you tell the dispatcher the location.

Another great tool to have available is electronic hearing protection. A pair of electronic range muffs will not only protect your hearing, but also amplify ambient sounds so you can have a tactical hearing advantage on someone lurking about your house. If you discharge your firearm, you can severely damage your hearing and impair your ability to function effectively. Speaking of ears, a pair of earbuds will enable you to go hands free on the phone. You may also wish to have a water bottle as one of your tools.

Other items you may wish to have available include medical supplies including a first aid kit, combat gauze/QuikClot®, compressed gauze, a tourniquet. If you or your wife are an asthmatic, an inhaler might be a good tool to have in your med kit.



How can you be prepared to secure your pistol, carry your child and have all your tools at hand when needed? A great way to plan for this is to have a bedside vest. Your vest allows you to have a retention device for all of your tools and is easily slipped on over whatever you are wearing when awakened. Keep it near the bed for easy access. It can be under the bed, or between the bed and the nightstand. When you grab your bedside pistol as you slip on your vest, you have all your back-up tools, as well as a holster for the pistol when you need your hands.



When selecting a vest, you have many considerations. Is this merely a conveyance tool or do you want ballistic protection also? There are many vest “carriers” available which will securely retain your holster, pouches and equipment. These however provide no ballistic protection. Implementing a carrier with ballistic protection will afford you protection from incoming fire; it will also greatly increase the cost.

These tips are designed for you to be prepared when something happens. Merely having your pistol and glasses on the headboard is convenient, but when faced with a home invasion, you will need to have the proper tools already staged to fight effectively. Since God only gives us two hands, we need to have the gear readily available.

Protect yourself and your family by signing up for a Personal Safety class from *Advantage*. You’ll learn more tips like these, how to protect yourself and essential protection techniques. Learn more about available classes online at [www.AdvantageFET.com](http://www.AdvantageFET.com).