

## *Time and Distance*

What is your most valuable asset during any violent encounter? The answer: distance. One famous illustration of being too close is the Tueller Drill, first published in March 1983 by now-retired Sgt. Dennis Tueller of the Salt Lake City Police Department. Tueller demonstrated that someone standing 21 feet away and armed with a knife can make physical contact before you could present a pistol and fire. His basic point was that having any adversary within this distance, even when you are armed, places you in grave danger. And while a pen is not a knife, it can cause grievous injury if applied to the neck or eyes.

Always embrace, utilize and even increase distance whenever dealing with life-threatening problems.

Regardless if you are engaging rebel fighters, chasing a suspect on foot, or simply trying to walk past someone on the street who gives you the creeps, use distance to your advantage until the power curve has shifted squarely into your favor.



Distance is so important because it buys us time. In a fight, time allows us to recognize the problem, develop a response strategy, then execute a plan. Whether you are talking about the split-second before an incoming fist or hours waiting for an insurgent attack, any extra time on your side is worth more than its weight in gold.

The concept of creating distance is primarily defensive in nature. But as even cops and military personnel don't always initiate an aggressive action, we must realize that maintaining or increasing the gap between you and danger is critical for everyone.



Don't think this principle of creating distance negates the idea of attacking into an ambush. In some situations, it is vital to respond to aggression with an immediate counterattack, but I am talking about situations where the threat is likely serious but yet unknown.



There are no hard-and-fast rules about proper distances when dealing with potentially dangerous people. Twenty-one feet is a good start, but it all depends on the infinite amount of unpredictable factors involved with each particular situation. Let your common sense and training dictate how close is too close but above all, err on the side of caution rather than aggression.

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).