

Podcast #231 Transcription – CCW Spare Ammo

- Jeff Anderson: Hey everyone, what's up! It's Jeff from Modern Combat and Survival, welcome to Podcast Episode Number 231.
- Jeff Anderson: Okay, so when I first ask you this question, I think I know what the answer's going to be. But I'm going to ask it anyway, because if you carry a concealed handgun for personal defense, I'm about to expose one of the biggest mistakes I see nearly every gun owner make and they could literally mean the difference between life or death in a real gunfight. Okay?
- Jeff Anderson: So here goes, when you're out there carrying your concealed handgun, are you also carrying a spare magazine or speed loader of extra ammunition of you? All right, now I don't have to be a psychic to know that about 95% of you answered 'no' to that question. Frankly I think it's a critical mistake. Potentially even a life or death mistake. And this week I want to share with you eight quick reasons why I highly suggest you carry extra ammunition on you as part of your everyday carry and your best options for doing so.
- Jeff Anderson: Listen, the topic that we're talking about today, about carrying extra ammunition on you as part of your everyday carry for concealed carry, I wouldn't call a topic of should I carry extra ammo a debate per se. Because I tend to believe that, if you look at it like when you're on your deathbed, you're most likely not going to say, "I wish I had spent less time with my family." Right? Well, just like that, in a real gunfight, I don't think you're ever going to say, "Golly, I wish I had less ammunition on me." Right? We all want as much ammunition as possible basically to get the job done that we have to. And most people I talk to don't carry an extra magazine simply for convenience and comfort's sake.
- Jeff Anderson: And the usual question I get back is, especially from people who have done any legitimate digging is, "Well, why would I really need any extra ammo," depending upon which source you choose to quote, the average number of rounds fired in a self-defense encounter is somewhere between two and four. And that's a legitimate question. But if you even absolutely determine even which type of weapon that you choose to carry. I mean with those stats everyone should be good to go with a five-shot or six-shot revolver with no extra reload. Right?
- Jeff Anderson: Well, my typical response back to them is to give me the name of who it is that's doing this scheduling for them with the average attacker out there. Because we know that you can't count on an attack being the average attack. But just in case anyone needs anymore reasons for exactly why an extra magazine or a speed loader is a good idea for everyday carry, here are eight good ones that I'll share with you real quick here.

Jeff Anderson: Okay. Number one is multiple attackers. Now I'm not going to tell you that you have to be ready for some action movie like shootout with some deadly syndicate of Russian mobsters. But you could face a gang scenario because criminals often times do run in packs. Right? So you might have multiple people that you're going to have to defend against. And this applies even to home defense. Right? Because attackers that come into a home specifically come in there and either burglarize the home or take you hostage as part of a brutal home invasion. They're going to come in numbers and so you're going to need extra ammunition for that. Right?

Jeff Anderson: Okay, reason number two is an armored-up active shooter. Now we know that times have changed and we need to be prepared for this type of an eventuality, whether it is an international terrorist or whether it's most likely going to be a domestic terrorist. But if you watch the news sometimes people are going in with rifles, and shotguns, and handguns, and body armor on there because they want to take out as many people as possible. And they realize that there might be other concealed carry handgun owners that out there that could be a threat to them or police. And so they're coming armored up. And so it might take multiple rounds because some of those rounds that you actually even do get a hit on an active shooter, could hit armor and not stop a person. So an active shooter is another reason why you might need extra ammunition.

Jeff Anderson: The third reason are drugs. And we know this is a possible thing we got there because violent criminals often times also take drugs. Mind altering drugs, pain drugs, opioids, whatever it is they might not actually feel or even recognize that they're being shot, even if you're getting hits on there. And it's not going to necessarily stop your attacker. Therefore you're going to need more bullets than you normally would against somebody who is not under the influence of some sort of drugs. All right?

Jeff Anderson: Reason number four really comes down to you and it's about fear. I mean, listen we all talk about the adrenaline response when ... we're talking life or death here and your body goes into an uncontrollable biophysical, mechanical, whatever it is that you want to call it. But you're going to have a response that's going to jack up your adrenaline. And that's there for a reason. That's your fighter flight response. That's meant to give you extra speed, extra power. It's meant to get you out of harms way, or be able to fight back against some saber-toothed tiger. I mean this is in our bodies, it's in our bio mechanics. So I can tell you that the very first time that ...

Jeff Anderson: I mean, being in the military we train, train, train, train, train. Right? I've shot thousands and thousands and thousands of rounds through my rifle, but I can tell you that the very first time that I had to actually shoot my rifle in combat, I couldn't believe how fast I emptied the magazine. And it's the worst feeling in the world having an attacker doing his best to kill you and you're not getting a response from your gun when you pull the trigger because you're out of ammunition. Not a happy time and certainly not anything that you want to

experience if you're in a parking lot ambush and all of a sudden you're trying to pull the trigger and you're not getting any round coming out there. Right?

Jeff Anderson: Okay, so reason number four is, you can blow right through your ammo a lot faster than you think you could. Now you might think, "Well, okay, but those rounds are going into the person, right?" Well no, because reason number five is most bullets that you shoot, aren't going to hit your attacker. Now that is a hard truth that a lot of gun owners don't like to consider or don't consider as a reality because of how well they do down at the local range when they're doing their marksmanship training. Right? But we know that even from studies, even the best trained police officers out there, arguably right, the Los Angeles Police Department, in their statistics, only about 28% of their rounds actually hit the target. And we're talking about extreme close quarters combat shooting. We're not talking about from 15, 20 yards away. We're talking about right up in bad breath zone here. Okay?

Jeff Anderson: So, if the best trained police department is only hitting 28% you are going to be missing probably more than that. But let's just say that you're going to hit about the same statistics. So that means about three out of every four shots that you shoot, are going to miss the target. So if you're carrying a semi-automatic pistol and you are packing 16 rounds on you, that means if you empty the entire magazine, you're going to hit your attacker four times. Now if you're carrying a revolver and you've only got five or six rounds in there, only one of those rounds might actually hit your attacker.

Jeff Anderson: But let's say that you are carrying semi-automatic pistol, you hit your attacker four times, that should be enough. Right? Well, not necessarily because that brings us to reason number six here, which is what I often refer to as the dead mans' ten seconds. And basically that's the fact that when somebody is shot, even if they are fatally wounded, even if you got one bullet in them, it is absolutely going to kill them, they still have about ten seconds before their body either bleeds out or they basically just die right there. Okay?

Jeff Anderson: This actually goes back to the old west days, the dead mans' ten seconds, because somebody that was fatally shot, they figured had about ten seconds. Now during that ten seconds a lot can happen. That attacker can still continue to charge at you, stab you, pull out a gun and shoot you. Ten seconds is a lot and that's only on one round. That's from a fatal shooting there, okay? But we already know that most of your rounds are going to miss and one shot is not going to kill your attacker. Okay?

Jeff Anderson: So we know that the only two places on the human body that one shot can get an almost instant fatal wounding and that is in the brain or in the left ventricle of the heart. The chances are you're not going to hit those spots. So you need to know that even when somebody is shot, you're going to need to put extra rounds in them until you actually stop them. Okay? It's not like in Hollywood where you're watching John Wick and all of a sudden he shoots one person with

one round and down they go and they're just motionless on the ground. Right? So don't fall into that trap.

Jeff Anderson: Now number seven, reason number seven has to do with a dropped magazine from a struggle. And if we're talking about semi-automatic pistol here, your guns' magazine release is typically located right there where your hand is and it's there on purpose because you need it situated where you can quickly press it to release the magazine to feed a new one in. But that also makes it a very real possibility that you could press that button by accident when your adrenaline is up on high, or if you're struggling to retain your weapon from an attacker who's trying to get to it, you could also press that magazine release button or your attacker might do that also.

Jeff Anderson: And so if that magazine does fall out, well, you're now the proud owner of a one-shot pistol that you'd better hope that one round does the job there. Okay? In that case having a second magazine on you is going to be a way better option than chasing after that one that just went skidding across that parking lot pavement while your attacker is still out there trying to crack open your coconut. All right? So it's a much easier way to make sure that you have extra rounds in there.

Jeff Anderson: Now item number eight, or reason number eight here, has to do with a weapon malfunction. Usually from either from the weapon or from the magazine. I mean let's face it, a semi-automatic pistol is a mechanical device. And just like any mechanical device like your phone, your computer, even your car, Murphy's Law dictates that it's going to pick the absolute worst time to stop working on you. All right? So that's why tactical trainers out there always stress so much importance on being able to clear a weapon malfunction as fast as you possibly can during a gun battle. Or most likely you're trained that or you should be training a weapon malfunction clearing anyway, right?

Jeff Anderson: But what a lot of people really don't realize is that one of the most common reasons for a firearm to fail isn't the gun itself, it is the magazine. When you think about it, it makes sense. I mean if you think about it the magazine, if you're carrying a semi-automatic pistol, if the magazine fails, no bullets are going to get into the chamber where you can fire them. And there are a lot of reasons why a magazine can fail because they take a lot of abuse. I mean they get dropped from training with them, they get thrown into ammo cans, they have thousands of rounds run through them if you're a highly trained gun owner, or just sitting in a safe or a drawer and never really getting used for months or even years sometimes. While those rounds are jammed in there it could possibly damage the feed lip of the magazine causing that dreaded double-feed malfunction that's really not easily fixed by all those tap, rack drills that you're learning down at the range.

Jeff Anderson: So if your magazine is malfunctioning, taking it out and putting it back in broken obviously isn't going to fix the problem. Right? The only things that's going to

permanently get you back into the fight, instead of standing there like a sitting duck with no bullets, is a fresh, fully loaded, spare magazine. Okay?

Jeff Anderson: So those are the eight reasons and now you understand the facts about why you should have an extra magazine or an extra speed loader as part of every day concealed carry. The question now is how? Now the simplest answer to that is to use a separate magazine or speed loader carry attached to your belt, either inside your waistband or outside your waistband. Now this is the most common way that people wear an extra magazine. The problem is that this can make concealment even harder when worn outside of your waistband or really uncomfortable when worn inside your waistband. Especially if you're carrying a revolver and you're using a speed loader, that extra wheel is not going to be very comfortable sitting on the side of the ... I don't even know if they even make it now, they probably don't make any inside of the waistband magazine holders or speed loader holders for revolvers. But nonetheless, even having an extra magazine inside the waistband can be somewhat uncomfortable. Right?

Jeff Anderson: Now an alternative location to store a spare magazine is on your ankle in a magazine holster and this is one that there are a few versions of it out there. I think Desantis makes one where it's not necessarily an ankle holster for a firearm, but it's just there to carry a couple of extra magazines with you. I've never really seen any for speed loaders, but I'm sure one could be rigged up or even, I'm not sure if the Desantis one, I mean I think it's just made out of like an elastic fabric so you could probably put a speed loader in there or just rig one up somehow. But it's a possibility that you could do something like that. Right?

Jeff Anderson: So that is an option there as well. The problem with that is that it's not an optimal place to quickly grab a new magazine or a speed loader for a fast reload. I mean you would need to bend down on one knee to get it and that's not exactly a bad idea but it does take away your options for stance and mobility in the middle of a gunfight, which is a dynamic defensive scenario. Okay?

Jeff Anderson: Now another method for some gun owners to use is to carry an extra mag in some sort of an off-body carry means. All right? So it could be a backpack, a purse, a fanny pack, a briefcase or something like that. Now this is going to be the most comfortable method obviously because it's not up against your body and it's not hard to conceal that way. But it's also the least convenient and the slowest way to get access to an extra magazine, to be able to reach into something like that. Right?

Jeff Anderson: Now the final option is the one that I personally use and that is pocket carry. And you have to be careful with pocket carry because it can make it really hard to get to your magazine fast enough, because that magazine can get buried deep down inside of your pocket or worse it can get flipped around, it can be in the wrong position when you do go to get it out, it could make it really clumsy and make it even slower. It can also, if it's been inside of there, you don't want to have anything extra in your pocket because even lint and stuff like that, when you load that magazine in there, it could actually cause a malfunction in your

weapon that's not easy to get out. If you pull out that magazine, trying to load it, and it has lint or extra thread, and your gun actually loads that into the chamber it could really wedge in that bullet and it could cause like a malfunction that you're not going to really get out of very easily without prying that stuff out of there. And that is certainly not something that you want there, right?

Jeff Anderson: Now, personally what I do to combat all of that is I use a magazine carrier inside of the pocket. Now the one that I use is a Snagmag and I will go ahead and put a link to that inside of the show notes on the blog in the resources section here, not in the show notes but in the resources section. Ah, I'll put it in the show notes too.

Jeff Anderson: Basically the Snagmag uses ... it's a real minimalist design. I love it and it holds and it firmly secures that spare magazine right at the very top of your support side pants' pocket. And what it does is it uses a combination of a pocket clip so from the outside it looks just like a regular, like a pocket knife that you have that's clipped inside of the pocket, but has a metal hook that snags on the inside of your pocket stitching. And that makes sure that when you go to pull it out, the only thing that comes out is the magazine and not the entire holder.

Jeff Anderson: Now that's my preferred means and because it's right there, I mean I can keep my magazine like it's in perfect position, my index finger goes in there. When I pull it out, that magazine is in the perfect location for me to be able to put it into the magazine well of my handgun. It's ready to go. All right? Go ahead and check it out, again it's Snagmag and I'll go ahead and put a link in the resources there. All right?

Jeff Anderson: Okay. Well that about wraps things up. I want to know from you, go ahead and put in the comments on our blog if you would, do you carry an extra magazine or do you carry extra ammunition on you? What have you found to be the best way to carry that extra ammunition for you personally? I'd like to know the pros and cons of things that you've found out there as well. All right?

Jeff Anderson: Now don't forget to grab today's show notes over at www.mcsmagazine.com/231 and until our next Modern Combat and Survival broadcast, this is Jeff Anderson saying prepare, train, and survive.