

## CCW Gear You're Not Carrying (But Should)

with Buck Greene for [www.ModernCombatAndSurvival.com](http://www.ModernCombatAndSurvival.com)

### Gear You Probably Aren't Carrying

You should carry these five pieces of gear every day if you carry a gun.

#### Pepper Spray

A lot of people are uncomfortable with pepper spray because they worry about carrying a pressurized chemical. You should still have this as part of your equipment.

- It's a very necessary “less lethal” option. You don't want lethal force to be your only option.
- It's very often legal, even in anti-gun states.
- There are options that aren't the typical “cloud of noxious gas” type.
  - Kimber makes a good “stream gun.”
  - Reflex Protect makes a CS gel product.

#### Backup Gun

Even if you carry extra ammunition, a “New York Reload” could save your life if your primary weapon jams or runs empty.

- While you can do a “combat reload” with a full-sized pistol, you probably won't be able to do so with a pocket pistol. Most are very slow to reload.
- Even with all the ammunition in the world, your gun becomes a paperweight if you experience a jam you can't clear. Having a backup gun can save you in that scenario.
- A backup gun gives you the option of arming a friend or family member, such as in an “active shooter” scenario.

#### Flashlight

Flashlights have gotten so cheap and so bright that it takes just a couple of dollars to get a good one. There's no excuse not to have one.

- It can be used as a striking implement.
- It has tremendous utility and safety value, such as when walking at night.
- You **MUST** have a means of identifying your target in low light to avoid shooting the wrong person.

#### Tourniquet

There's a lot of debate about which type of tourniquet is most useful. You can do your own research on which type is best for you (such as Combat Application Tourniquet (CAT), Stretch Wrap And Tuck (SWAT), etc.

- It may be your only effective means of stopping blood loss from a vein or artery.
- If you carry a gun and/or get into a gunfight, the possibility of bleeding out is very real. You should be carrying a tourniquet if you carry a pistol.
- You can improvise a tourniquet with a belt or rope (or other improvised tie) and stick (for tightening it).

#### Bulletproof Coat

Sadly, bulletproof backpacks, briefcase inserts, and even clothing have become an industry trend.

- These are great for “active shooter” events, although a backpack or a briefcase insert offers only partial protection.
- A bulletproof vest is too cumbersome for most people to wear (and may even be illegal).
- A bulletproof jacket is more practical for armed citizens. The Self Defense Company offers a [fantastic bulletproof jacket here](#).

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