

Dealing With ROAD RAGERS

with Buck Greene for www.ModernCombatAndSurvival.com

What Is Road Rage?

Road rage is an irrational response to the stress and frustrations of driving.

- Other drivers aren't thinking about us, but we think they're acting intentionally.
- Cars make us feel powerful and indestructible, especially big vehicles.
- Drivers often want to compete and "win".

Avoid Road Raging Yourself

You can't control other drivers, but...

- Don't get mad. Relax. It's better to get there without an accident or ticket (and cheaper).
- Play relaxing, not aggressive music.
- Leave extra room in front of you. Avoid using your horn except for emergencies.
- Stay out of the passing lane except to pass. Be mindful of other drivers and stay out of their way when possible.
- Think worst-case scenario. Don't provoke.

Don't Escalate Road Rage Incidents

When another driver gets aggressive, you can try to defuse the situation.

- Don't make eye contact with the other driver.
- Do NOT use hand gestures (or "the finger").
- Slow down. Let him go past you. Most of the time, all he wants is to feel he "won."
- If you have to, pull over, exit, etc. Give him time to put distance between you two.
- If the OTHER driver pulls over, leave immediately. Don't get out! Go to a public place like a police station or fire hall.

Drive Defensively

Always be aware of your surroundings.

- Adjust your side mirrors for maximum view (you DON'T need to see the car's flanks).
- Avoid texting or even getting drawn into what you're listening to. Don't drive on "auto pilot." You need to keep watch for ragers.
- Look out for brake-checks, sudden moves.

If You Can't Avoid A Road Rager

Whatever you do, don't get out of the car.

- If he approaches your car, keep your window up at all times. Don't engage.
- Dial 911 and keep them on the line.
- If you are under threat, drive away. Don't use your car as a weapon, but if he breaks your window, just go. He may be hurt as a result, but your primary goal is to flee.
- If you can't drive away and he breaks out the window, NOW you have to fight to defend yourself. If you have a gun, it MAY be time to use it, or it may not.
- A knife can be used to cut an attacker's limbs as he reaches into the vehicle to try to hit you, grab you, etc.
- Do NOT shoot through a closed window in a vehicle. You're responsible for every bullet, and the sound and noise may disorient you. Broken glass and ricochets are a danger.

Remember The Legal Consequences

If you escalate a road rage incident, you might be arrested and even go to jail.

- It's not self-defense if you create a situation that you then have to fight your way out of. If you contributed to it before it got violent, YOU could be held accountable.
- Your car is a potentially LETHAL WEAPON. Don't forget that when operating it.

Prepare. Train. Survive.