



## 5 Visual Gunfight Training Mistakes

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### True Gunfight Scenarios Demand Realistic Training

Most shooters make 5 distinct mistakes in where they look at which times during a gunfight. You'll perform twice as bad in a gunfight as your worst day on the range. A lot of these mistakes aren't seen as mistakes... and they become training scars. This happens to expert shooters and beginners alike. Let's look at each mistake in turn:

#### 1. Looking At The Rear Sight, Front Sight, & Bad Guy Simultaneously

Here we are talking about personal defense, not precision target shooting. This is about life and death at close quarters, where gunfights happen.

- Most people involved in a gunfight or force-on-force training will tell you that they never even SEE the sights.
- You can black out or reverse the rear sight so that you won't be tempted to do that. (We detailed this in MCS 125.)
- Focus on the target and the front sight, but primarily on the target.
- Your brain is looking for visual information and it's not getting that from the sights.
- Learning to look at just the front sight is possible, but takes training.

#### 2. Looking At The Gun In A Stoppage

Too many shooters stop and stare at the gun when it doesn't go "bang." In a real gunfight you may stop, freeze, freak out, etc.

- Stoppage drills are called IMMEDIATE action drills for a reason.
- You must instinctively go into an immediate action drill when the gun doesn't fire.

- Don't take your eyes off the target. That's a training scar. The bad guy will be moving and acting, so you must keep track of him.

#### 3. Watching The Reload

A lot of shooters look at the magazine going into the mag well when reloading.

- If you take your eyes off the target during a reload, you could miss what the attacker does during that window. A lot can happen in a split second. An attacker can close 21 feet in 1.5 seconds, as the old drill says.
- Don't reload during a retention situation; reload with the gun up at eye level in the line of sight, maintaining visual recognition of the threat (and what that threat is doing).

#### 4. "Looking" Side To Side By Habit

Even experienced instructors will just glance left and right without really SEEING.

- You'll have tunnel vision in a gunfight. You need to identify threats, friendlies, cover, etc.
- Practice identifying 3 things on each side so you actually see what's there.
- Try good guy/bad guy targets behind you.

#### 5. Looking At The Holster

There's no need to look at your holster when you draw; why look when you reholster?

- This is a simple reverse of your drawstroke.
- Don't take your eyes off the threat. You're NOT safe yet. Don't relax.

### Resources

- [MCS 125: 1 Simple CQC Gunfighting Mod](http://www.ModernCombatAndSurvival.com)

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