



## Fixed Pistol Lights: Should You?

with Jeff Anderson for [www.ModernCombatAndSurvival.com](http://www.ModernCombatAndSurvival.com)

### 1. They're Not Just For Spotighting Your Target

Flashlights are a preventive measure to make yourself look like you are NOT a target.

- A daily carry flashlight is typically used for all kinds of utility tasks in low light. You can't do that with a gun-mounted light.
- The fact that you're scanning the darkness with your light means you're not an easy target. It may deter attackers.
- If you're drawing your weapon with a flashlight, you've already noticed that your attacker is a lethal threat.
- This means you already had enough illumination and visibility to identify a potentially lethal threat to you, and a flashlight wasn't necessary at all.

### 2. They Make It Harder To Clear The Holster

A mounted flashlight makes your gun considerably bulkier.

- If I identify a threat, I don't want any more real estate present than what I have to in order to clear the holster.
- If you train with a small handheld light, you can draw your weapon while clearing your cover garment with the light in your support hand.
- Flashlights that extend beyond the barrel of your weapon can introduce a greater chance of snagging.

### 3. Will You Think To Switch it On?

Unless your light comes on automatically (and I'm not aware of any that do, although some do

have a pressure switch), you've got to think to switch the light on.

- Most lights have a manual switch.
- You aren't likely to think to do this in an ambush.
- Most attacks happen at close range, so you may not even know you're being attacked until the bad guy is on top of you.

### 4. You Can't Check Behind You Safely With A Gun Mounted Light

We're taught to check behind us for other threats.

- If a majority of attacks happen in low light, you'll likely need a flashlight to check for other threats around you.
- You can't do that with a gun mounted light unless you're also waving the gun all over the area.
- If you have a weapon trained on one attacker, you most definitely can't take the gun off them. If your light is on the gun, you can't use it to look without telegraphing what you're doing.

### 5. They Block The Front Of The Trigger Guard In Many Cases

If you grip the front of the trigger guard when wielding your handgun, the flashlight prevents you from taking that type of grip.

- This makes taking a proper grip on the pistol more difficult.
- You'll have to learn to adapt for that reason (more on that in the future).

*Prepare. Train. Survive.*