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Episode #369 Show Notes

**Survival Clowns (And The Preppers Who
Dress Like Them)**

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Survival Clowns (And The Preppers Who Dress Like Them)

with Buck Greene from <https://www.WarriorLife.com/>

I Was A Survival Clown

- Years ago, I took a shooting class in “full costume.” Only later did I realize that most of the experienced shooters (including one instructor) were wearing hooded sweatshirts and ordinary cargo pants.
- At one point, one of the instructors grabbed the back of my “tactical vest” and used the handle to drag me through the course.
- Most of us get these things out of our systems and “calm down” a bit... but there’s a more important reason not to dress like a “survival clown,” and that is that you are making it easier for people to target you.
- Like a gun bumper sticker on your truck invites break-ins, wearing the “costume” of a prepper or “tactical guy” can cause people to target you.

1. Tactical Pants

- People love tactical pants for good reason, but they’re INSTANTLY recognizable.
- I got “profiled” by security on the way into the State Fair a few years ago specifically because of the tactical pants I was wearing.
- A better, just as functional alternative is cargo pants or even carpenter’s pants.
- Stop and think what you’re giving away before you choose your pants. You want function, yes, but you want to stay discreet.

2. Tactical Vests

- The old “CCW Photographer’s Vest” is a dead giveaway.

- Ditto for more upgraded tactical vests. They look great and are very functional, but they scream “I have stuff you want” to anyone within your line of sight.
- If you must wear a vest, choose a more common option, like a fleece vest with pockets, to blend in better.

3. Combat Boots

- Combat boots are often very uncomfortable, even if they’re functional. They’re VERY obviously the mark of a “tactical person.”
- Modern hiking boots or, even better, orthopedic walking and hiking shoes, are much more functional and deceptive.

4. Visible Weapons

- Any weapon you carry that is visible will immediately paint a target on you.
- The old “chair bag” trick is one way to cover this up.
- Jeff Anderson carries his machete between modular pouches on his bugout bag to hide it for this reason.

5. Military Backpacks

- Speaking of which, obviously military-looking backpacks are a dead giveaway, too, even though they’re very functional.
- The [XBOB Evac System](#) we designed is a much better alternative in a “neutral” color so it won’t draw attention.

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What's up, Warriors? And welcome to wear Your Life podcast. Number 369. I am Buck Greene sitting in for Jeff Anderson. And today, we're going to talk about something that I forgot according to Jeff couple of podcasts back. We did a podcast about five reasons that survivalists die. Why Preppers? The people who are supposed to be the most prepared for survival situations. Sometimes make mistakes.

Takes and those mistakes, sometimes are fatal in emergency or life-threatening situations. Well, Jeff listen to that podcast and he said to me, Buck you forgot one and I said we got to talk about that. And that is the topic of today's podcast. Are you ready? All right, then, let's talk survival clowns and the Preppers who dress like them, tactical, firearms, training, urban survival, close-quarters combat. Welcome.

To the show that helps you better prepare for any threat. You may face in your role as a protector and a patriot. This is the warrior Life podcast. Alright, we're back. This is but green sitting in for Jeff Anderson, specifically Jeff pointed out. That one of the things that I didn't include in my mistakes that Preppers make podcast was one that we've covered before in various ways, and that will become clear. As we get into this podcast. I wasn't really thinking

In terms of how people present themselves. I was thinking, in terms of mistakes of thinking, but he had a very valid point. So I thought why not devote a follow-up podcast the next time I sit in for Jeff to this very topic and that's why I want to talk about survival clowns. Now, you may be thinking, but that seems very intolerant of you. Very, very judgy, but I can say this because I was a survival clown. I was the sort of person who didn't understand.

And that a lot of the tactical gear that is on the market, is really just a survival or tactical costume something that you wear because you want to present yourself a certain way that it really isn't your real close. It's more like you wearing a costume and I know this because that was the term that was used. When I went to a shooting Class A number of years ago. I spent a few years just constantly blowing my mind. While I would say blowing my money spending, my money on tactical shooting classes, back in the good old days.



When you could buy, you know, thousands of rounds of nine millimeter ammo and not have to go broke, doing it or, you know, sell your children in order to find the ammo in the first place back. When you, there was boxes of Walley World Winchester white boxes far as the eye could see boxes of 522 rounds to practice with. Oh, those were the good old days. We had no idea how good we had it back then. But anyway, I used to go to these tactical shooting classes and I wore out a Glock 19 going to classes like that. I did a lot of

Of shooting. And one of those classes, I showed up wearing my tactical vest in my tactical pants, in my combat boots, and all my other accessories and somebody referred to it as my costume later on, and they had a very valid point. I had a moment where I looked around myself and I realized that the other people especially the other instructors, we're not dressed. As I was, they were dressed like normal people. One of the instructors was just wearing a hooded sweatshirt and some cargo pants and that

That outfit did everything that my very very tactical outfit. Did he didn't have my sweet Airsoft Tactical Vest with a some sort of weird handle sticking out of the back, I guess for hanging it up when you've got all your tactical gear on it and to their credit. They were very tolerant of me. They didn't give me any grief, you know, nobody nobody pointed fingers and laughed at me. There may have been some snickering behind the scenes, but everybody was very nice and I only found out these things later. And as I got older and more mature, I look back on.

That phase and I'm like, yeah, that was that was a costume. I was dressed like a survival clown, you know, where your dressing. There's a meme where the guy slowly puts on clown makeup while he's trying to talk himself into something. That's a bad decision. Was kind of like that. You know, like this was very important tactical stuff and I'm going to put it on and you know, you're slowly putting on the clown makeup, a lot of us will go through that phase. And I remember it should have occurred to me when one of the instructors. There's a point in the shooting class. We're supposed to be moving.

We'll be shooting and moving and repositioning yourself. Well, it's very easy to forget to move while you're focusing on the Target. So I had sort of Frozen in place. One of the instructors grab that handle on the back of my tactical vest and drag me through the course, which I appreciate it after the fact. But most of us who go through that sort of Tactical clothing phase we get over it. I remember when I first got into martial arts in college. I must have rented every cheesy karate movie. There was at the video rental store at the time.

You know, you get over these sort of obsessive hobby phases and you achieve, a more mature outlook on what it is. You're doing you stop becoming a survival clown.



But there are a few people who are they take a little longer to get past that phase than others. And while you're still in that phase, kind of like a guy who puts a gun bumper sticker on his truck. Inviting somebody to smash out the window, looking for a handgun under the seat. When you dress like a

Rival clown. When you dress in a very overtly tactical way like you are a soldier. When you're not one, then you are drawing a Target on your back. You are telling anybody who sees you that guy thinks in terms of tactical stuff that guy clearly has tactical stuff that he owns. He probably has useful things that I can make use of. This is the foundation of why Jeff is always talking about when you're a prepper when you have supplies and stockpiles, you don't talk about that.

Fact, you don't let your neighbors and everyone, you know, anyone who's not in on your, you know, not part of your group. You don't let the world know that you have these things because you're basically just telling them. Hey, I have stuff. You might want to take from me when you get desperate. The same is true of tactical stuff there. I think it's the old Ben Affleck movie reindeer games, which is not a particularly good movie, but I want to say it's a Shane black screenplay and Shane black wrote like Lethal Weapon. And Shane. Black is he is incapable of setting a movie. Not

Christmas time, I don't know what horrible thing happened to Shane black during the Christmas season, but he keeps from writing movies, action movies, were horrible things happen, keep setting them at Christmas time. But anyway, in reindeer games, Ben Affleck is essentially he's been taken hostage by these people who want to knock over a casino dressed as Santa Claus has, and he's trying to figure out how to arm himself while he's being held captive, and he's able to briefly Escape his hotel room and search the

the parking lot. Well, what does he do? He finds a truck with a, it's like an an array or a gun bumper sticker on it and he goes for that truck specifically and he searches the truck and he finds a, I think it's like a really nice Microtech switchblade that he takes back with himself and that becomes a plot Point. Well, yes, that's a movie that's fiction. But it's a very valid point. If you were in the same situation you would be well served to search the vehicles with gun bumper stickers for weapons because we like to express our affection for our Hobbies. We like to wear.

You know, clothing with gun logos on it. We like to do these things. That tell the world what we're into and what we're about. And unfortunately, you cannot afford to do that. The more you do it, the more obviously you do it. The more you become a survival clown, you are painting a Target on your face. That says, I have things that you the

desperate Predator might want. So how do we avoid dressing like a survival clown? How do we sort of take care of this?

This final category of mistakes that Preppers make while they're very well-intentioned mistakes. All of which I've made, by the way, as a younger, man. I was not aware of any of these things, and especially when I was in my early 20s, gosh, the people around me were really tolerant to put up with me because I was really obnoxious about this stuff. There are things that you should avoid and things, you can substitute to be less. Obviously, a survival guide. I don't walk around dressed like a soldier. Don't walk around dressed, like, a tactical clown.

Survival clown. And, and let's talk about each of those five things because they're important and they will make you a better quote-unquote grey, man. They will help you blend in better and avoid drawing attention to yourself. I'm not saying you have to obsessively. Avoid ever expressing affection for your hobbies. Some of the best friends I've had were people that I mentioned, my interest in certain topics like martial, arts and survival and, you know, we ended up building a friendship on that basis, so, I'm not saying never

Ever speak of it, never breathe a word of it. I'm saying use your judgment and be careful and especially be careful to what you project out into the world in terms of your physical appearance because people will judge you based on how you're dressed good and bad. And in terms of strategy and tactics, you don't want to be giving away information about yourself. There's that Meme floating around right now about the the the rally that was held in Washington recently. That was supposed to be for justice for January 6th, and the meme that

Came out of that. Rally was of all these guys dressed almost identically with the same identical bulges in their, their denim shorts that were probably handguns because those guys were probably government agents, you know, you can be a tactical clown without wearing the types of clothing were about to talk about next because context is everything. And those guys, boy, they couldn't obviously be more government agents than they were. But keep in mind as you go about your day to day life. These are the five.

Things you should think about in terms of your clothing so that you're not giving yourself away as a survival minded tactically oriented person. Number one. This is absolutely. I would say one of the biggest ones because we all wake up and wear pants, those of us with, you know, those of us who wear pants. Tactical pants. Are a big one. Nothing will give you a way faster than if your entire wardrobe is, is tactical pants from here to there. And I've done this, I've been this guy. I had just a word.

The 5-11 Tactical pants at one point, people instantly recognize them for what they are. I got profiled on my way into the state fair once where they decided I needed special scrutiny because I clearly probably had a knife that I shouldn't have had going through the security checkpoint. And they were right. I did have a knife because I was wearing tactical pants. A better. Option is just ordinary cargo pants. Obviously, you could buy nice cargo pants. They don't have to be the \$20 Walmart. Cargo pants that I wear that.

They're fine for what you get, but they're not real durable. I actually had a pantaloone blow out one time where I went to climb into a truck and my pants split like the leg of my Walmart cargo pants blue out. So consider the quality of what you're buying so that you don't have a pan total rupture. When you're doing something important, if I hadn't had a friend who could go into the Walmart and buy me a replacement pair of pants. I don't know what I would have done. I guess I would have just kind of

Those pinned it together and Brazen it out. When you're when you're considering tactical pant. Alternatives cargo pants are one thing Carpenters. Pants are another. These are usually pretty sturdy. They have that Loop for the hammer people who look at you and Carpenters pants will typically understand that. That's what they are. They're not going to mistake them for cargo pants. There's a company called Delta 2 Alpha that makes a it's kind of like a modern interpretation of the old.

Old Chuck Norris action jeans, which were jeans with a special gusseted crotch area so that you had freedom of movement with your legs. You know, if you're Chuck Norris you want to be able to kick people in the face. Well, Delta 2 Alpha puts out a product called straight shooter jeans. I believe they're called and it's kind of the same concept. It's a modern tactical covert pair of jeans with a lot of extra features, but they're not. Obviously tactical when you look at them. So consider your options when it comes to pants and don't

Walk out of the house. Looking like you just dressed in the back of a SWAT truck. You got to stop and think about what you're giving away. You I understand why you want those tactical pants. They have great features, but I'm saying, you can get similar features in a less obvious package. Okay. Number two would be not. You either make this mistake or you don't like some people are tactical vest people. Some guys, like themselves a vest and I've been this guy. I know I walked around New York City wearing a

511 tactical vest for the three days that I was visiting several years ago in retrospect, I shouldn't have because I was giving myself away the whole time. I really enjoyed all

the pockets that vest had but the fact is whether it's a 5-11, tactical, vest or even the old photographers vest that we all used to wear for, for close-quarters weapon, consider close, quarters CCW, you know, concealed, carry weapon.

We're always looking for ways to cover the gun that make us less warm. But unfortunately, the the photographer's vest, especially if it's a little too warm for the vest is a dead giveaway. The tactical vest is definitely a dead giveaway. I was in a Bass Pro Shops once and I saw a guy wearing a photographer's vest that was visibly sagging on one side because his gun was clearly in the pocket and he was sweating because it was too hot, but he couldn't take the vest off because his gun was in there and

Seen people who couldn't take their cover garment off, because it was covering a gun and you could tell they were uncomfortable. So, consider your outerwear carefully when it comes to whether or not it's a dead giveaway, or not. Any kind of photographers vest. Really, any kind of vest is almost a dead giveaway unless the vest is, what's currently in fashion. So like those, sporty fleece vests and things like that. I don't recall what the brand names. Are. I never, I'm cheap, and I don't buy brand-name clothing. Anyway, I buy.

Big box specials, but there are these, you can look at what's being worn by the normal folks out there and dress to match them. And they're, you know, there's fleece vest and other types of s that people where, you know, that look like a like a sweatshirt with no arms, things like that, consider that consider hoodies, consider things that are a little more Universal than won't give you away. It's just better to blend in and yeah, I understand what you're going for, but in some cases. So, does everybody else. So please don't

Give yourself away. I was in a in a rest. Stop off the highway. Once that one of those big red stop complexes that has a restaurant and shops and things like that. And I look up and I see a guy wearing a vest he was wearing. It's like the vest from a suit, you know, like a nice. Some people wear like the vest from a three-piece suit, but just the best and you can usually spot that type of s because the back is glossy, I guess for freedom of movement. Anyway, the reason I noticed this guy was because his vest had written up in the

The back and he had a fixed blade knife on his belt, most of which was in his back pocket. So the handle was accessible by reaching around on his strong side and the vest would have covered the handle of the knife, but the vest had ridden up and got stuck behind the handle. So his fixed blade knife, was visible for everybody to see. I don't know who that guy was or if he was a trucker, or if he was just some guy passing

through likes him a fixed blade in his back pocket. But any time I see a guy in a vest, now, I immediately start looking for

Or anything that is printing to see, if maybe the vest is purely there for concealment of a weapon understand that there are going to be people around you. Who anytime you were a vast, that's what they're looking for. Just keep it in mind. Okay, number three is what's on your feet. I went through a boot phase. It started with engineer's boots when I was in college and you know, I used to wear Engineers boots and a leather jacket. I don't know. I guess I thought I was Arnold Schwarzenegger in Terminator 2 or something, but

Then I moved on to combat boots and combat boots can be extremely uncomfortable. I know some people like them. They're a very functional boot, the certainly very tough. But you were a pair of combat boots on your feet. You're just screaming. I am a tactical person to anybody who sees you there's a lot of better options, modern options that don't scream tactical. And actually, there's a lot of shoe choices that are just more comfortable for your feet more breathable, too.

Modern hiking boots. There's so many on the market and lots of people wear them. So, you'll blend right in another thing. You could consider, especially if you're thinking about bugging out over a long distances are orthopedic shoes. I bought a pair of orthopedic shoes because I'm old and my feet hurt. If I stand too long but these are shoes that are just designed for Orthopedic Comfort. There's a number of different websites that sell them. I got mine from something called ortho feet.com.

But you you they're not a sponsor or anything. I'm not advertising for them. That's just where I got my shoes, but they're really comfortable and they look like ordinary shoes. There's nothing special about them. You'd never notice them if they were on my feet, but they're super comfortable and you could walk long distances in these and that's really what you're looking for. So consider all of those options before strapping a pair of, you know, Vietnam era, military surplus, jungle boots to your feet because honestly, your feet deserve better.

All right, number for Visible weapons. Now this really specifically refers to bugging out and stuff. Most of us are not walking around with weapons out where people can see them, unless you live someplace, where open carry is common and legal, and I know there's a huge debate about open carry. I'm not here to have that debate. I'm just saying, if you have a weapon, that's visible. You are making yourself a target. People will see that people will notice it. And yes, you might be thinking. Well, I'm clearly armed, so they're going to know they can't.

With me because I'm armed. And that's true. But every cop who's ever walked in any kind of altercation. Everybody knows the cop is armed. Will the gun on that cop's belt is also a target. People will attack police and take their guns knowing that hey, I've got to stop him before he can get to it. It happens. So when you're just Joe civilian and you happen to have a rifle slung over your shoulder, especially in some sort of a survival, collapse type of situation where the rule of law.

Is a little optional you don't want to tell the world. You've got something on you that they could use. And there's a number of ways to work around that. There's the old chair bag trick. If you have a rifle with a folding stock or that is short enough to fit in there. Obviously a handgun. You can conceal. I know Jeff has talked about the way he wears his machete and the man is all about machetes for good reason. I have several versions of our of the machete, the guardian machete that that we put out and they are among my favorite blades.

But I know Jeff, where's his machete in a way that keeps it accessible, but concealed, by the components of his bug out bag so that it's not obvious that he's got it and that is a great way to make sure that you're not screaming. Hey, I'm armed to the world in a way that paints a Target on your back, but that brings me to number five because it refers specifically to that X Bobby vac system that Warrior life designed back when we were Modern Combat and survival and that we updated recently, the, the X ba bee vac system is

Great bug out bag system. It's roomy. It's got great features, but most importantly it does not look like a military backpack people by military backpacks because they are functional because they have lots of cool features. And yes, because they look cool. I once I was flying to Texas back when Jeff was based in Texas because I was headed for a business meeting for our company and I was using a military backpack, a military-style backpack that I had it was

Camouflage and covered in Molle straps, and I used that backpack specifically because it fit nicely inside. The size envelope that I was told, I could have as a carry-on. I didn't think anything of it until I was standing there, you know, it was Winter. And I'm wearing my, my Surplus pea coat that I got. And my head is, well, I'm bald. So my head was shaved, and I've got that military backpack and some dude came up and wanted to thank me for my service. I'm like, no, no, no. No, it's just a backpack. I'm just bawled. I have never been in the military. Please. Do not. Thank me.

Service. I didn't do and I got to thinking about that later about what a dead giveaway, that that backpack was. Well, you don't want any sort of the military backpack that screams. I'm a tactical person. Think about how big a backpack is. You can see it from

a long way off. That's like a beacon you. Somebody sees you carrying that military-style camouflage backpack and they're going to home right in on you. It's a much better choice to go with something like the, the navy blue X Bobby vac system that we sell, not only because it's a great bag. I have one myself.

But because it doesn't look tactical, it doesn't scream. Hey, come get me now. Yes, to a certain extent, anyone carrying anything could be targeted by really desperate people but the more military the more tactical you. Look the greater the chance you are dressed like a tactical survival clown and that's what we're trying to avoid. Okay, let's do a quick review. I talked about how I myself but green was once a survival clown, a tactical clown of the highest order and

The categories of clothing where you should reconsider really overtly military style, or tactically style clothing. Are your pants, any kind of a vest uses a concealing, garment your Footwear, including combat boots for any kind of visible weapons. You might be toting around and finally, 5 your backpack any kind of pack. You carry, should not look like something that makes you a soldier. All right, that's going to about do it for podcast, 369. Thank you for joining me, I am Buck Greene in for Jeff Anderson. Until next time, prepare, train, and survive.