

5 In 5: Buck Greene (Guns, Survival)

with Buck Greene for www.ModernCombatAndSurvival.com

At the age of 73, and, being female, am I too old to learn firearms training?

— Sue Givens, Kentucky

- I blame a firearms industry that doesn't always treat women well for this question even having to be asked. The gun is the ultimate equalizer; women need firearms training even more than men do because they're physically smaller.
- Age is no barrier to firearms training, either, provided you have a patient teacher. However, certain guns are better than others for senior citizens. If you lack the hand strength to rack the slide, for example, a revolver or even a derringer is a better choice.

Should I use a shotgun for home defense, or a handgun? I currently use a handgun.

— Jody Leonard, Illinois

- Shotgun or handgun is a matter of personal preference. Don't believe that shot can reduce overpenetration. Inside a house, it will penetrate just as badly as a bullet will. You need to learn your backstops, like appliances and bookshelves, in order to fire "safely" in a home defense situation.
- Shotguns are more powerful and easier to use under stress, but handguns are maneuverable. Choose based on that.

When is it unsafe to keep a revolver loaded in all chambers?

— Gary Letterle, Ohio

- That depends. Are you currently being chased by a posse on horseback?
- Seriously, though, keeping the hammer over an empty chamber was something done before the creation of modern revolvers with hammer block safeties. Colt, I think it was, had an entire ad campaign called "hammer the hammer" to market these modern safeties.
- It's safe to keep all the chambers loaded in the cylinder of a modern revolver.

"What's the best type of knife to carry in a SHTF situation?"

— Timothy Farmer, Alabama

- When SHTF, you'll need both utility and self-defense, so the best knife is actually two knives.
- I'd recommend good fixed-blade utility knife and then the self-defense tactical folder of your choice... or you could do what Jeff Anderson does, and just carry a machete for everything. He doesn't even carry a survival knife anymore.

How do I know what is quality and what is not?

— Matthew Feuge, Texas

- You get what you pay for... but sometimes you pay too much.
- Look at negative reviews online. Can you live with the negatives described there?

Prepare. Train. Survive.