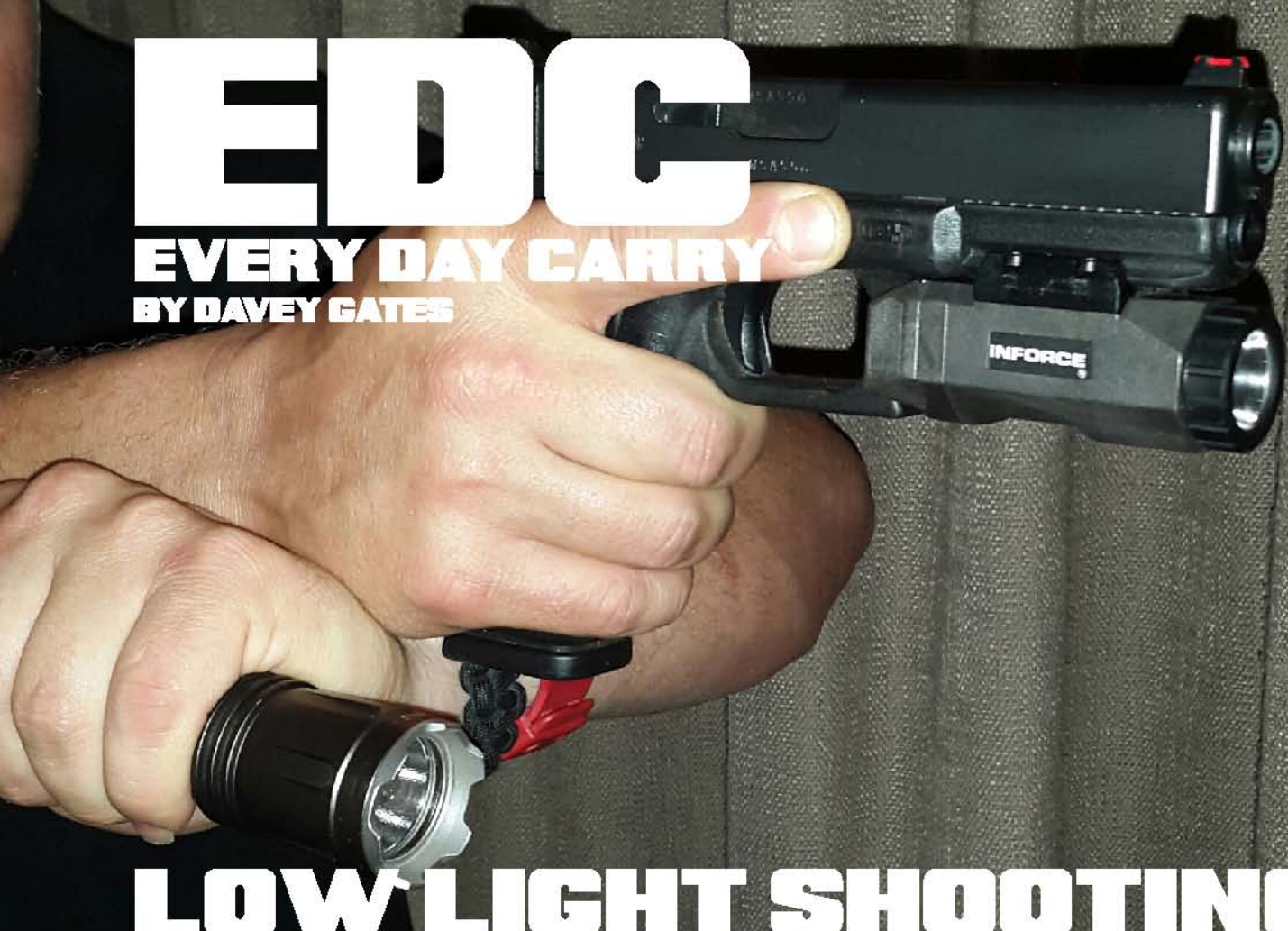


# EDC

EVERY DAY CARRY  
BY DAVEY GATES



## LOW LIGHT SHOOTING

### THE DEFENSIVE LIGHT THEORY

#### *Illuminate*

First, all flashlights are designed to illuminate. They help us clearly define an area in total darkness, allowing us to maneuver or navigate safely. Any light can do that to varying degrees, and that's what flashlights are designed to do.

#### *Identify*

Here the flashlight concept becomes more specialized because we're talking about threat identification. Are we looking at friend or foe? It's this area in which previous generations of incandescent lights with halogen fail. They simply don't have enough lumens and candelas to do the job.

Lumens and candelas are the more modern terms used to define light output. Lumens measure light output at the source, while candelas measure the light that falls on a surface. As the area of the surface increases, the number of candelas will decrease even as the number of lumens remains constant.

The beams from the old tech lights can only identify a small centralized viewing area, allowing the user to see possibly only the face and hands of a person, and not necessarily both at the same time. Even with the best of those ancient generations of lights there was a lot of shifting of the beam from hands to face during any type of confrontation because you couldn't see what you needed to see—the face and hands at the same time. With modern lighting systems, that technique is no longer necessary.

#### *Incapacitate*

The concept was pioneered by the Surefire Corporation in the early 1990s: Use the light as a part of the combat arsenal to incapacitate a suspect through disorientation. Using a light to disorient a suspect was first used with the Surefire incandescent xenon gas bulb 6P lithium battery-powered lights. The strategy is now applied to the latest generations of patrol lights.

The understanding of this concept is critical. In the old days, the best we could do was illuminate and identify our opponent. With today's more powerful and flexible lights, we can use the light system to disorient and stun the opponent. If we don't bring enough light to "stun" our opponents, they can use our illumination source as a target to shoot at.

**A few points consider when buying a flashlight**

**What material is the torch made of?**  
- Needs to be made of a durable compound that can absorb some abuse

**How bright is the torch?** - How many Lumens does it offer?

**What light does the torch use (LED or Bulb)?** - LED last longer than incandescent bulbs and are more rugged. It offers you longer battery life

**Are parts and spares easy to replace**

eyes have "dark adapted" eyes

**Blue** – Helps you identify crime scene trace evidence such as blood and semen

**Green** – is useful for night time tracking as it shows crushed vegetation better than in white light

**Can it be used as a weapon if need be?** - Does the torch have casting on the bevel which can be used to strike or break windows with?

**What type of battery life does the flashlight offer on different mode**

Purchase well known and proven brands.

Training is inconvenient at night for student and instructor as well as businesses. No one wants to work or put in the effort outside normal working hours, but yet the most probable situation is us being attacked at night. So why shouldn't most of our training not be at night?

A few things to avoid when facing threats in low light conditions

Avoid silhouetting or backlighting yourself

Avoid blinding yourself or teammates

Do not illuminate yourself or give away your position by projecting your location.

Take note of shadows and reflections

Fighting at night is completely different compared to bright sunny light. Just because you are an awesome shooter during the day, means nothing at night. You are moving, running and shooting, someone

shooting back at you? Not the ideal conditions? But yet how often do we shoot at night? (Besides the odd sporting club matches) we normally see up to a 60% decrease in accuracy when shooting at night.

Criminals love night because offers them the most cover and concealment. If you find yourself in a situation where you here a noise outside in the early hours of the morning, turn all your inside lights off and your outside lights on. You should have strategically placed lights that shine outwards, keeping the light away from the house. It is easier to shoot from darkness into light, then from light shining in your



**and freely available?** - If you break something on the torch eg. glass how hard is it to replace or repair etc.

**What functions does it offer?** - Strobe light. It can be used to disorientate and stun opponents. Can be used for a "following technique"

**Momentary on/off?** - One touch activation of the torch. To "flash" or "stun"

**Adjustable Outputs?** - Does the flashlight offer different output levels (high, med, low)

**Different colour lens options**

**Red** – Allows you to search when your

**settings?** - It is pretty pointless buying a 1000 lumen torch that lasts 5 minutes

**Is the flashlight waterproof or water resistant?** - If you happen to be caught in the rain or fall in a river etc will the torch still function?

**Are the different modes easy to operate?** - How complicated and time consuming is it to change between the modes. Last thing you want is wanting to "flash and move" and the light stays on!

**Are the buttons accessible?** - Are the buttons easy to manipulate under stress or injury?

eyes.

Flashlights can be valuable tools when used at the right time and place, there is no use trying to draw your flashlight out of your pocket to "stun" you the BG when he is shooting at you. Keep in mind that torches can be bullet magnets. Criminals will shoot at the light, hence the various handgun and torch techniques that have been developed over the years. The only time you will probably use your flashlight in gun fight, is if it is already in your hand.

We should be able to fight in different situations and environments and we should expose ourselves to more likely scenarios. We need to train for the day when we face the most clued up



BG ever. That way we always win.

A torch is an inconspicuous weapon and not many people know effectively it can be used in a self defence situation when one is shown how to use it properly. It can be used as

impact weapon that can be used to strike with, the new castling designs on the bevel can easily cut skin open with minimal effort. The torch can be used to blind and disorientate a BG, this allowing you enough time to draw your firearm if need be. When you use a high output torch It can temporarily blind you so be aware of flash back or lighting yourself up.

We have all shone torches at each other at some point in our lives and we all know how that big blurred spot stays in our vision for a while. This techniques used in conjunction with dynamic moment can make you a worthy adversary, if your opponent is blind, have upper hand.



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### Smooth Move Alert

Here is a game to try with a friend. Switch all the lights off. Make sure your flashlight has a strobe function.

enough space between you and him either to access your firearm or knife. We should all know how to fight without the aid of torch. There might be a time

If you don't believe me that this is necessary just go on to YouTube and go look up gun fight videos, in majority of the cases they don't use their sights at all.



Try not to give too much away, on what you about to do. Tell them to react. Strobe your light (1sec) in a sweeping motion, either from right to left or vice versa and move in the opposite direction. Your friend should follow the light, or just freeze, not only have you blinded him but you have just created

where you have no access to a torch and when the SHTF, how do we survive? A few teaching techniques we teach is to look straight down your arm when shooting for sight reference. We also include when training should practice snap, index or point shooting where we don't see your sights at all.

Another point that can be added is that majority of the time you are going to be shooting one handed or with very little support unless you have a weapon mounted light (WML) fitted to your gun. WML have their place to. The only problem that can occur is if you EDC a WML. Scenario – You walking home and here noises coming from a dark bush, you immediately draw your weapon and shine your gun torch at the bush. You later see its two teenagers getting their freak on. An onlooker sees you pointing a gun at two strangers? See how horrible the situation can end? WML should be purely used for tactical applications or house clearing. The WML can also help with the recoil of the gun as its making the gun top heavy.

Night Sights – there are many brands available on the market. Try avoiding night sights where you have to "charge or flash" the sights with external light to work. They often over charge and this can easily spotted when in pitch darkness, making you an easy target to shoot. Take note that the sights will only give you a limited amount of time before you have to "flash" them again.

.....to page 46

Shooting with the aid of Muzzle Flash – this technique is quite hard to accomplish and definitely needs practicing. In darkness we briefly see our sights, we use the muzzle flash from the gun to make reference or realign our sights for the second shot. This is easily done when static but when on the move is very difficult to achieve.

#### Lasers

Laser should only be used as a supplementary sighting tool. Lasers are too expensive for the benefit they receive. I personally do not like lasers at all on handguns. It makes you lazy and dependant on the sight. What if the laser fails? How do you defend yourself, if you have never trained without it? It will also give your position away at night, showing the BG exactly where you are. However in a situation where you already have the upper hand in a fight a red dot laser can be intimidating. Seeing a red dot focused

on your body letting you know exactly where that bullet is going is disconcerting.

Elite Firearms Training hosts Mark Human for low light courses at the International Firearm Training Academy in Krugersdorp from time to time. Call for dates available.

We will explore how our senses and vision are affected and adapt to dealing with fighting in a spectrum of less than perfect lighting conditions. An important aspect of this course is linking low light threat recognition skills to delivering effective shot placement when dealing with high pressure face to face confrontations. Although we discuss the pros and cons of a weapon mounted lights, the focus of the course is on the practical use of a hand held "tactical light" as a powerful compliment to your handgun. Knowing when and how to move and safely use your flashlight along with your handgun requires adaptations and additions to

our traditional handling skills.

Hitting the intended target is only part of your skill set to effectively deal with confrontations in low light conditions.

Before live fire exercises course participants are drilled through low light handling skills and practice skills against resisting opponents that fight back before running a structured live fire course of fire. It is amazing how quickly myths about techniques and equipment are either proven or busted during when training against aggressive opponents that fight back.

We have found that the Klarus Range of Military Torches fit perfectly well with the above designed course. The torches will be on sale at the course dates. However once the skills and techniques learnt on the course, can be adapted to the use of any flashlight.

Be quick, be safe, be efficient!

## 1 DAY LOW LIGHT SHOOTING COURSE

# R1250

### Call for Dates Available

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