

P&SN Police and Security News

Serving Law Enforcement & Homeland Security

**MAY/JUNE 2022
VOLUME 38 ISSUE 3**

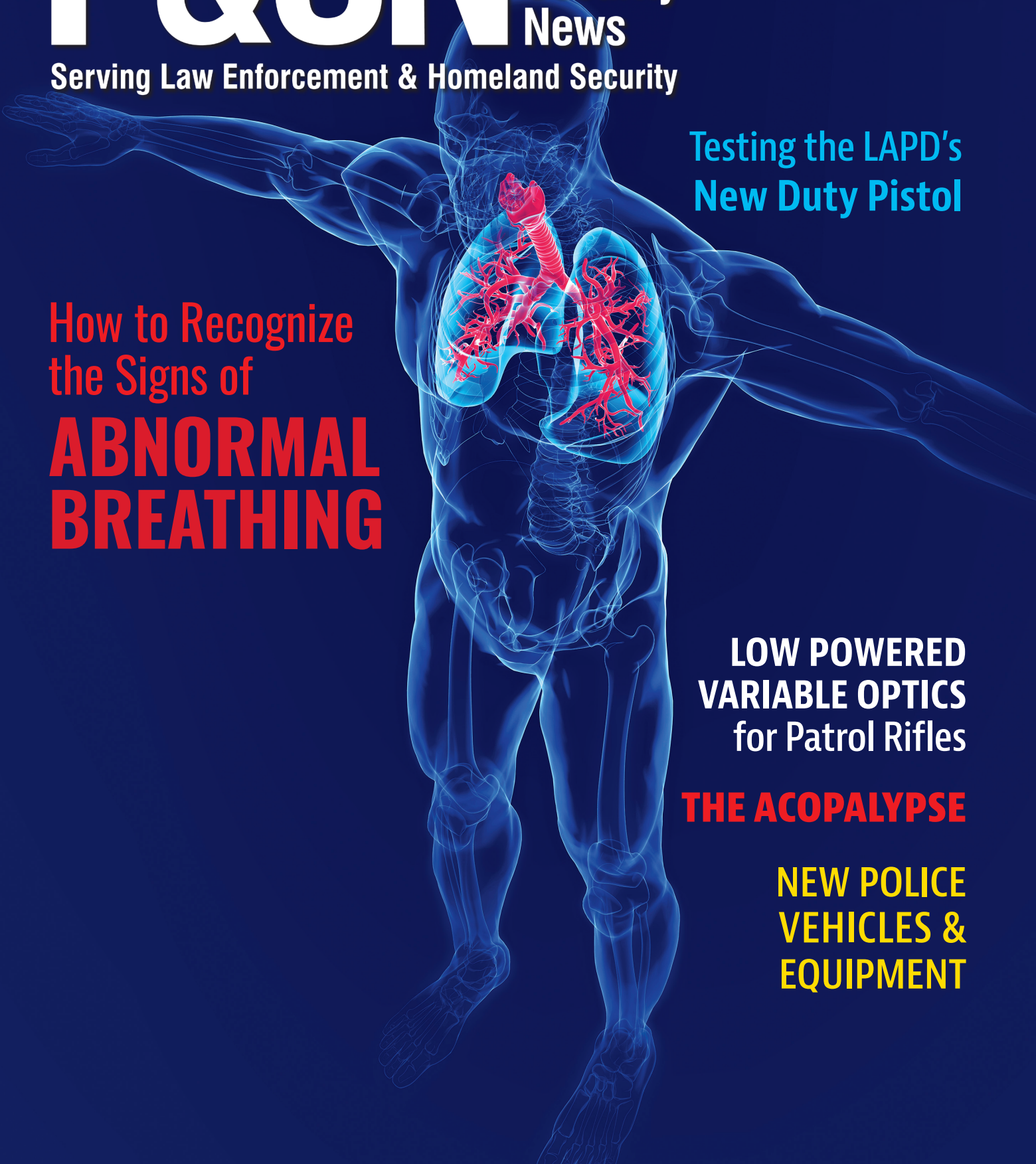
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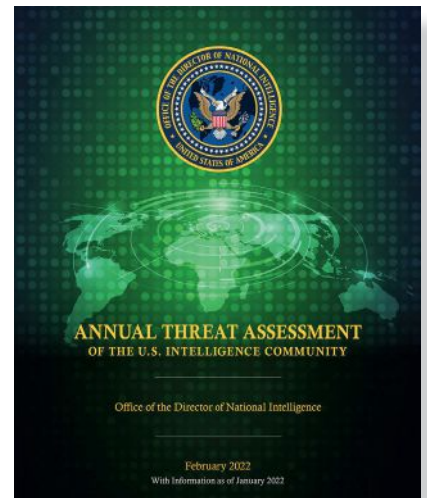
Detecting Opioid Distribution Networks Using Network Modeling and Community-based Intelligence

Published by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), this NIJ supported study focused on the work of researchers from Pennsylvania State and Syracuse Universities to find novel ways to characterize, and ultimately inhibit, opioid distribution networks through data-driven network analysis and the use of citizen intelligence. The work focuses on six Pennsylvania counties well-known for drug trafficking along the interstate highway system. The goals of the study were to (1) define the structure of opioid distribution networks based on observed and computer-modeled opioid networks and (2) assess the ability of community-based intelligence to characterize local opioid supply networks and markets through the use of publicly available police administration data on overdose and drug-related incidents, as well as the solicitation of community input.

To read a copy of the study, visit <https://tinyurl.com/55fyvatd>



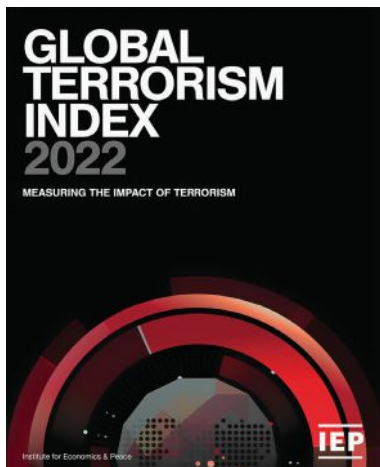
NEWS



New Report on Threat Assessment

Published by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the 2022 Annual Threat Assessment report focuses on the worldwide threats to US national security for the upcoming year and specifically provides the Intelligence Community's baseline assessments of the most pressing threats to US national interests, while emphasizing the United States' key adversaries and competitors. The report details the objectives, activities and capabilities of four adversarial nations: China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea. Additionally, it examines conflicts and instability taking place across the globe which may be of concern to the United States (Afghanistan, India-Pakistan, India-China, Near East, East Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Africa). The assessment also provides analysis for each of the following transnational issues: infectious diseases and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; biological weapons; anomalous health incidents; climate change and environmental degradation; innovative use of new technology; transnational crime; migration; and global terrorism.

A full copy of the report can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/ab4auphh>



Global Terrorism Index 2022 Report

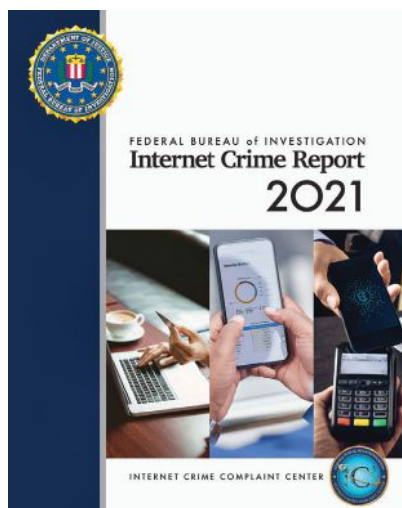
Published by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), this is the ninth edition of the Global Terrorism Index. Trends suggest that, out of the 163 countries included in this study, approximately two-thirds reported no deaths or attacks from terrorism between 2020–2021. The majority of terrorist activity has been concentrated in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa – a major shift from the conflict in Syria. Terrorism-related incidents in the West have continued a downward pattern since 2018 with a decrease of 68 percent. This decrease correlates with the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing restrictions with regard to travel and gatherings. The report also analyzes the relationship between insurgency, conflict, terrorism, and the ways in which these dynamics impact society on a global level. IEP emphasizes the importance of examining the available data as governments around the world continue to increase their counterterrorism efforts.

A full copy of the report can be read at <https://tinyurl.com/yck2ksbj>

FBI's Internet Crime Report 2021

Published by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI's) Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3), this annual report for 2021 outlines information related to the 847,376 complaints of suspected cybercrime, with reported losses at \$6.9 billion, which were received throughout 2021. According to IC3 data, phishing scams, nonpayment/nondelivery scams, and personal data breaches were the top three reported crimes in 2021, and victims lost the most money to business E-mail compromise scams, investment fraud, and romance and confidence schemes. People in the 60 plus age group were hit hardest, as well those residing in California. Along with the cybercrime statistics, the report offers guidance for the protection and prevention of future crimes. It also presents case studies to highlight the FBI's recent work to fight Internet crime.

A copy of the full report can be downloaded at <https://tinyurl.com/yckwz488>



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When I heard the LAPD had selected FN's newest offering, I couldn't wait to get my hands on this new handgun and jumped at the opportunity to put it through its paces.

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Ray Casillas, EMT-Paramedic, and John G. Peters, Jr., CLS, Ph.D.

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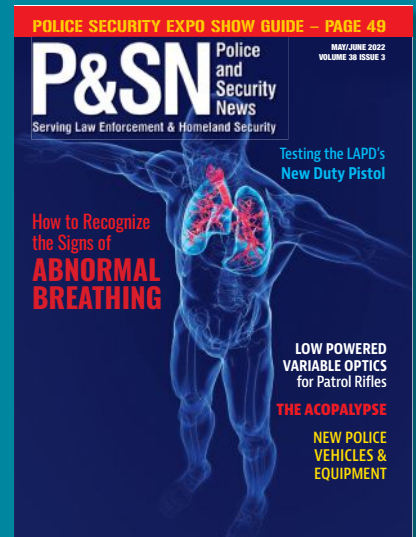
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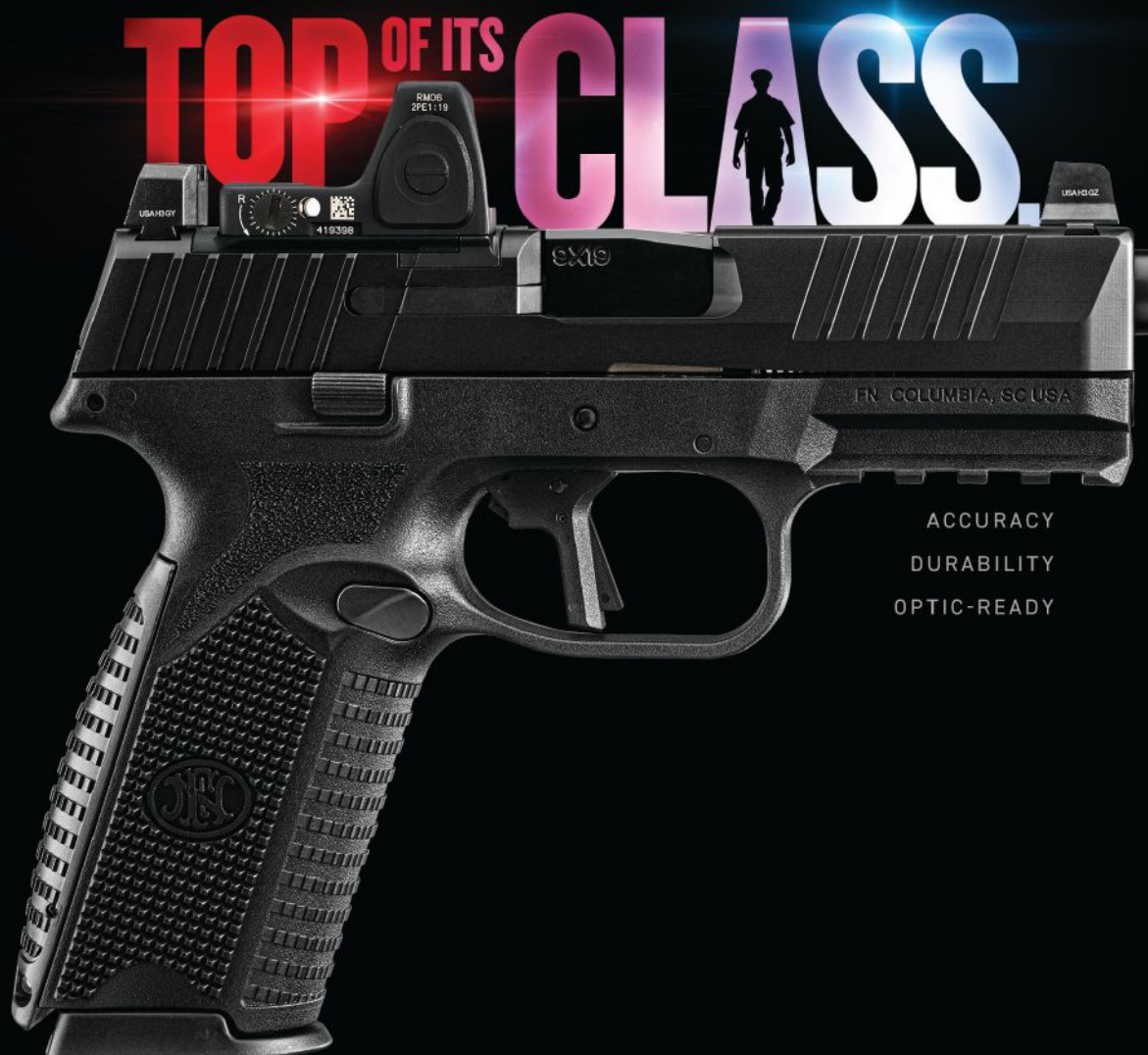


ON THE COVER

Prior to a person asphyxiating, there are often visual and/or auditory signs and symptoms which can alert LEOs and other first responders that the person is experiencing abnormal breathing. If left unrecognized and untreated, disability and/or death may occur.



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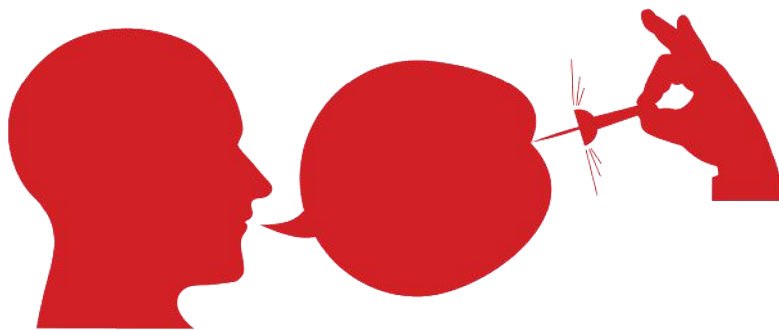
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...AND
NOTHING BUT
THE TRUTH



Freedom of Speech Is a Problem?

Recently, my wife and I went to see an Indian comedian performing in West Palm Beach. He was really funny, but what really grabbed me about his performance was the first thing he said when he got on stage.

"I'm very happy to be here – and I mean I'm happy to be here in the United States, where I can speak freely."

He went on to explain that, as a vocal critic of many Indian policies, he has been threatened with arrest by government officials. Coming back from one of his performances in New York, he fully expected to be arrested when he arrived at the airport in India. The local police there, though, decided that he had done nothing wrong and they never showed up with the cuffs. India is a strange and, often, hypocritical mixture of religion, politics and caste discrimination. It also ends up with leaders who wield just a bit too much power. They don't have the three branch system of government we enjoy, nor do they seem to value their constitution which is closely styled after ours.

But, this column isn't about India – it's more about the idea of freedom, the thing which we as Americans cherish, but sometimes take for granted. For all of our failings and strife, for all the division we experience on our own soil here these days, this is a great country and I believe it always will be. In fact, it is through those failings and that strife that we have managed to pull together and emerge stronger. We have some pretty serious challenges facing us at the moment and, when I look at the faces of my high school students, I'm keenly aware that they will be carrying the torch very soon. I won't be around when they are in their 40s and 50s, doing their best work. I stress to them how much sacrifice has been made for them to be able to express their views without fear – and yet they are hesitant. They are often just silent. Various forces and movements in our society over the past couple of decades have made them fearful of their most powerful weapon: the use of language. They are content to retreat into the cocoon of their cell phones rather than engage in any

kind of meaningful discourse. My fear is that some of them might never learn how to do so.

If this column sounds like a "part II" to the one from the last issue, I apologize. I feel like we are at a critical time in our history. I'm also at ground zero with your future partners in law enforcement, your future employees – or *employers* – and I don't take a moment in that classroom for granted. With all of the controversies swirling around in the public forum, we should never forget to focus on the freedom part of it all. What I mean is that we must keep our society functioning with those original promises of justice at the center. History has shown that, when that happens, freedom eventually prevails. If we take our eye off the ball, however, bad things can happen. We can succumb to movements which want us to talk a certain way and to ideals which demand social censorship in even normal conversation. I shudder when I think of it, but there are people who really want certain types of speech to be *unlawful*. I don't care if you are extreme right, extreme left or anywhere in between, none of us can ever let this happen.

If we need to be reminded how precious our freedom is, we need only to look to Europe where the Ukrainian people who have been working towards a free and democratic environment for their people are suddenly and viciously bombarded by a Russian military. As bad as I feel for them, I also pity the Russian people who cannot even oppose the war in a peaceful way without being arrested. From where I sit and type this article, there is an island not 120 miles away which has been a communist state for the last 62 years. People from Cuba still flee that oppressive regime to find the sweetness of freedom here in South Florida.

Our American journey has been far from perfect. Just a few years after establishing the Bill of Rights, our young country – in response to the conflict between Britain and France – passed the Alien and Sedition

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Act which was the exact likeness of what is happening in Russia. It became illegal to voice an opinion which was critical of our government. Later, wiser heads saw the contradiction and repealed it. There are many other instances in our country's adolescence when our desires and fears caused us to forget about the principles the Founding Fathers cobbled together to start the new republic. Time and time again in the history of our justice system, the Fourteenth Amendment has come galloping onto the field to save the day. Time after time, arguments over

law, fairness and justice have been resolved by relying on the Constitution and entrusting that interpretation to nine people we hope will "do the right thing." The problem is, has been, and always will be that the "right thing" is in the eye of the beholder.

An old Yiddish story goes: Members of a congregation were arguing over the proper demeanor during a certain prayer: Did one stand or sit to recite the prayer? They were bitterly divided and so they sought the advice of an elder rabbi in the village.

"Rabbi," they asked, "what's the proper tradition – do we stand for this prayer?"

"No, that's not the tradition," he answered.

"So, we stand then! Right?"

He shook his gray head. "No. That's not the tradition either."

"Then, sir, what is it? Please tell us! We are at each other's throats, arguing and fighting angrily!"

"Ah!" the rabbi said, his finger in air. "That's the tradition!"

I submit that the same can be true of our legacy. It's safe to say that because of our freedoms, we will never be in a state of perfection or total agreement. It is out of conflict and disagreement that we have chiseled our best work.

I did an exercise with my criminal justice students. I told them that out of the First, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Amendments, they had to lose one. Which would it be? Almost all said the Sixth and a few said the Fourth and Fifth. I changed it up then: Now, you can only *keep* one. Every single student said they would keep the First Amendment, arguably the icon of freedom. To say that was encouraging is a huge understatement. These kids have come to learn that it's our laws, not our *lack* of laws which is the bedrock of our liberty. After all of my concerns I have about my students, this was my classroom version of seeing Old Glory still waving over Fort McHenry.

It's not the "Star Spangled Banner" which best expresses our love of freedom. It's in one of the lines of "America the Beautiful":

*"Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law."*

I'm going to India in June for vacation. I have to watch what I say while I'm out in public. Stay tuned for a full report on that. **P&SN**

Ramesh Nyberg retired from law enforcement in November 2006 after 27 years of police work. He lives in Miami and teaches criminal justice at a local high school. He also teaches regional law enforcement courses through Training Force, USA. He enjoys getting feedback from readers and can be reached at ramesh.nyberg@gmail.com. Also, Ram has recently announced his newly published book, The Ten Must-Haves to Be a Great Detective, available on Amazon in both paperback and Kindle eBook. You can find it by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/hwc2xajm>

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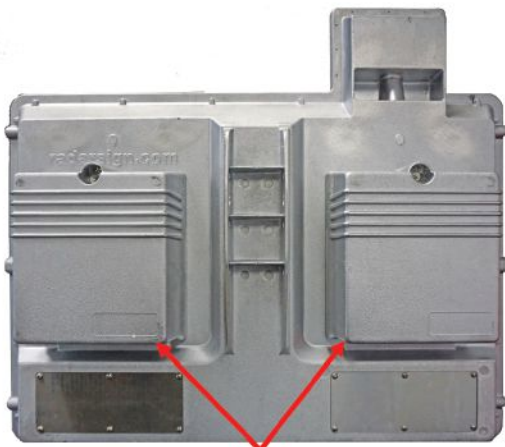
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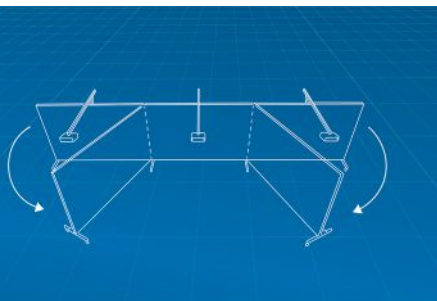
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LEGAL UPDATE

Supreme Court Rules in Favor of Officers in “Excessive Force” Cases

LARRY E. HOLTZ, ESQ.

In two recent “excessive force” cases, the United States Supreme Court ruled in favor of the police.

In the first case, *City of Tahlequah v. Bond* (10-18-21), the Court found that it was unnecessary to decide whether the officers violated the Fourth Amendment in the first place, or whether recklessly creating a situation which requires deadly force can itself violate the Fourth Amendment. In

this case, the Court held that “the officers plainly did not violate any clearly established law.”

The facts unfolded in mid-August (2016) when Dominic Rollice’s ex-wife, Joy, called 911. “Rollice was in her garage, she explained, and he was intoxicated and would not leave. Joy requested police assistance; otherwise, ‘it’s going to get ugly real quick.’” Rollice did not live at

the residence, but Joy indicated that he kept tools in her garage. Three officers responded to the call. They encountered Rollice at the side entrance of the garage and began speaking to him in the doorway. “Rollice began fidgeting with something in his hands and the officers noticed that he appeared nervous. Officer Girdner asked if he could pat Rollice down for weapons. Rollice refused.”

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"As the conversation continued, Officer Girdner gestured with his hands and took one step toward the doorway, causing Rollice to take one step back. Rollice, still conversing with the officers, turned around and walked toward the back of the garage where his tools were hanging over a workbench. Officer Girdner followed, with the others close behind. No officer was within six feet of Rollice." At that point, the officers ordered Rollice to stop. Rollice kept walking. "He then grabbed a hammer from the back wall over the workbench and turned around to face the officers. Rollice grasped the handle of the hammer with both hands, as if preparing to swing a baseball bat, and pulled it up to shoulder level." The officers backed up, drawing their guns, and yelled at Rollice to drop the hammer. "He did not. Instead, Rollice took a few steps to his right, coming out from behind a piece of furniture so that he had an unobstructed path to Officer Girdner. He then raised the hammer higher back behind his head and took a stance as if he was about to throw the hammer or charge at the officers. In response, Officers Girdner and Vick fired their weapons, killing Rollice."

Rollice's estate filed suit, claiming that the officers were liable under 42 U.S.C. §1983, for violating Rollice's Fourth Amendment right to be free from excessive force.

Finding in favor of the officers, the Court instructed that "[t]he doctrine of qualified immunity shields officers from civil liability so long as their conduct 'does not violate clearly established statutory or constitutional rights of which a reasonable person would have known.'" Qualified immunity protects "all but the plainly incompetent or those who knowingly violate the law." Here, neither the Court nor the estate administrator has identified a single precedent finding a Fourth Amendment violation under similar circumstances. The officers were thus entitled to qualified immunity.

In the second case, *Rivas-Villegas v. Cortesluna* (10-18-21), a 911 operator "received a call from a crying 12-year-old girl reporting that she, her mother and her 15-year-old sister had shut themselves into a room at their home because her mother's boyfriend, Cortesluna, was trying to hurt them and had a chainsaw." The girl said that Cortesluna was "always drinking," had "anger issues," was "really mad," and was using the chainsaw to "break something in the house." A police dispatcher relayed this information along with a description of Cortesluna in a request for officers to respond.

Officer Rivas-Villegas heard the broad-

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cast and responded with four other officers. At the home, they were able to see through a window a man matching Cortesluna's description. "One officer asked whether the girl and her family could exit the house. Dispatch responded that they 'were unable to get out' and confirmed that the 911 operator had 'hear[d] sawing in the background' and thought that Cortesluna might be trying to saw down the door."

"After receiving this information, Rivas-Villegas knocked on the door and stated loudly, '[P]olice department, come to the front door[.] Union City police, come to the front door.' Another officer yelled, '[H]

e's coming and has a weapon.' A different officer then stated, '[U]se less-lethal,' referring to a beanbag shotgun. When Rivas-Villegas ordered Cortesluna to 'drop it,' Cortesluna dropped the 'weapon,' later identified as a metal tool."

"Rivas-Villegas then commanded, '[C]ome out, put your hands up, walk out towards me.' Cortesluna put his hands up... walked out of the house and toward the officers[.] At that point, Rivas-Villegas said, "Stop. Get on your knees." He stopped 10 to 11 feet from the officers. "Another officer then saw a knife sticking out from the front left pocket of Cortesluna's pants and

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LEGAL UPDATE

Continued from page 13

shouted, '[H]e has a knife in his left pocket, knife in his pocket,' and directed Cortesluna, '[D]on't put your hands down, hands up.' " Cortesluna turned his head toward the instructing officer, but then lowered his head and his hands. At that point, one of the officers shot Cortesluna twice with a beanbag round from his shotgun, once in the lower stomach and once in the left hip.

"After the second shot, Cortesluna raised his hands over his head. The officers shouted for him to 'get down,' which he did. Another officer stated, '[L]eft pocket, he's got a knife.' Rivas-Villegas then straddled Cortesluna. He placed his right foot on the ground next to Cortesluna's right side with his right leg bent at the knee. He placed his left knee on the left side of Cortesluna's back, near where Cortesluna had a knife in his pocket. He raised both of Cortesluna's arms up behind his back. Rivas-Villegas was in this position for no more than eight seconds before standing up while continuing to hold Cortesluna's arms. At that point, another officer, who had just removed the knife from Cortesluna's pocket and tossed it away, came and handcuffed Cortesluna's hands behind his back. Rivas-Villegas lifted Cortesluna up

and moved him away from the door."

Cortesluna brought suit under 42 U.S.C. §1983, claiming that Officer Rivas-Villegas used excessive force in violation of the Fourth Amendment. Finding in favor of the officer, the US Supreme Court reminded that "to show a violation of clearly established law, Cortesluna must identify a case that put Rivas-Villegas on notice that his specific conduct was unlawful. Cortesluna has not done so. Neither Cortesluna nor the Court of Appeals identified any Supreme Court case that addresses facts like the ones at issue here." Instead, the Court of Appeals relied solely on its own precedent, citing a case which was "materially distinguishable and thus d[id] not govern the facts of this case." Accordingly, Rivas-Villegas was entitled to the benefit of qualified immunity. **P&SN**

Larry E. Holtz has served as a Detective Sergeant with the Atlantic City, New Jersey, Police Department; a Deputy Attorney General for the state of New Jersey, and an Assistant County Prosecutor. Presently, Mr. Holtz is the Managing Editor of Blue360° Media, the largest US provider of legal information which is solely focused on serving law enforcement.

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FOCUS ON TECHNOLOGY



Chevrolet's Pursuit-rated Silverado

Chevrolet® has recently debuted its first pursuit-rated Silverado. The **2023 Silverado Police Pursuit Vehicle (PPV)** is a crew cab, short bed, four-wheel drive truck designed for high speeds and dynamic capability.

Highlights include a 355 horsepower 5.3L V-8 engine, standard ten speed automatic transmission and six piston Brembo brake front calipers with 16 inch rotors.

Twenty inch Goodyear all-terrain speed-rated tires come standard, along with a 9,300 pound max towing capacity. The **Silverado PPV** includes a 220 amp alternator and two 120 volt outlets to help devices stay powered and an optional upfitter switch bank is also available.

A standard suite of safety features work to help drivers stay in control and avoid collisions. The Chevrolet Safety Assist package features Lane Keep Assist with Lane Departure Warning, Forward Collision Alert, Following Distance Indicator, Automatic Emergency Braking, and Front Pedestrian Braking.

gmfleet.com/police



Havis VSX Console

The **VSX Console** for the 2021-2022 Chevrolet Tahoe provides the user with a comfortable workspace by organizing control heads, cup holders and other essential equipment. The **Console** design incorporates the strength of a heavy-duty steel mounting structure with a lightweight polycarbonate chassis to offer a high degree of strength, impact resistance and thermal performance.

havis.com

Police Vehicles and Equipment

New Trunk Box Cargo Storage Unit

Safely store equipment and gear in the new Gamber-Johnson **Trunk Box**. Constructed of lightweight aluminum, the **Trunk Box** secures equipment in the sliding drawer using a dual lock system.

The **Trunk Box** cargo storage features a sliding drawer with a full width, aluminum polished drawer pull for easy access and rear vent cutouts to keep equipment cool.

The inverted top with a nonslip lining provides additional mounting space, maximizing cargo storage capabilities. In addition, a cargo net can be attached to the knockouts around the frame to keep equipment in place.

The Gamber-Johnson **Trunk Box** easily mounts to the 2020+ Ford® Police Interceptor® Utility Leg Kit for a complete cargo storage solution.

gamberjohnson.com



New Duty Gear Saver/Max Depth Contour Console

The new **Dodge Durango (2021+) DGS/Max Depth Contour Console**, from Jotto Desk, has a dash contouring shape and will fit all necessary communication and lighting equipment. It features 16" of equipment mounting space with extra room for both duty weapons as well as deep equipment. The installation of the **Durango DGS/Max Depth Contour Console** is quick and simple, utilizing OEM mounting points under the factory sensor cover plate. No drilling is required. The **Console** relocates the OEM controls and the manual park release for user convenience. Equipment mounting depth on this console varies, with over 9.25" at the top, down to 6.52" at the bottom to maximize space for deeper equipment. The **Console** also comes with 16" of faceplates.

jottopublicsafety.com



Advanced Setina Engineering at Work



Setina Manufacturing Company began working with Tesla in June of 2017 on the new innovative electric "Model S." The project was a successful collaboration between Setina, Tesla and LAPD. Since the original 2017 project began, Setina Manufacturing Company has continued to work on other Tesla projects, most recently the "Model Y," teaming up with Tesla's engineering staff and support staff with integral DATA and equipping a "Model Y" for a "Pilot Build."

Some of the primary points of concern on the project were for the overall comfortability for the officer, achieving maximum seat travel as well having sufficient room for the detainee in the back seat. Additional concerns were how to integrate the Push Bumper and the

Fender Guard System into the vehicle's park assist and crash detection function. Another challenging aspect of the build was accommodating a "TPO" Replacement Prisoner Transport Seat in the second seating location while maintaining adequate structure around the primary battery of the vehicle.

Some of the products offered by Setina Manufacturing Company for the new "Model Y" are Push Bumpers and Fender Guards, Front and Rear Partitions, Prisoner Transport Replacement Seating, "TPO" Door Panels, Firearms Mounting Systems, and Rear Cargo and Electronics Storage.

setina.com



New Wireless Speed Sense Module

Kustom Signals has released a new **Wireless Speed Sense Module** for use with their moving RADAR. This **Module** features the same technology used in the wireless vehicle speed sense featured in Kustom's Eagle 3 traffic safety RADAR. The **Speed Sense Module** provides several benefits, including an independent verification of the Doppler patrol speed which eliminates common RADAR anomalies like shadowing, batching and combining. It enables the RADAR to quickly display patrol and target speeds when coming out of HOLD and it enables the feature for automatic mode switching from stationary to moving operations and vice versa.

A growing number of police vehicles do not offer a VSS signal to integrate with traffic RADAR. Some patrol vehicle OEMs advise against using the patrol vehicle's OBD II port cable to obtain the VSS signal as it can cause equipment malfunctions. The **Wireless Speed Sense Module** solves both of these issues, eliminating installation headaches no matter the year, make or model of the patrol vehicle.

kustomsignals.com



New mpower® Traffic Controller Available

Designed for either interior or exterior use, the new **mpower Traffic Controller**, from Soundoff Signal, utilizes the same six inch module silicone lenses as the mpower Lightbar. One of the best new features of this light is its ability to support traffic control in all facings via separate controls for each direction. The **mpower Traffic Controller** is available in lengths of four, six, eight, or ten modules, with the eight module version available as split or full. LED colors include red, amber, blue, green and white and feature a number of warning or arrow/patterns.

soundoffsignal.com



New Mobile Printer

Designed for public safety, the **Interceptor 80** is the latest 8.5" x 11" full page printer from PrintekMobile. Officers can print tickets faster with this user-friendly mobile printer. Its simple to install design fits in most existing printer mounts and it is available with Bluetooth®, USB or Wi-Fi connectivity. The **I80** also comes with a two year warranty.

printek.com



New LDV Built Mobile Command Centers

Recently, LDV delivered the first of three **new mobile command centers** for the Riverside County Sheriff's Office in California. Each truck is built on a Freightliner M2 106 conventional cab chassis with Cummins L9 350 hp diesel engine and an Allison 3000EVS automatic transmission. LDV integrated four of their in-house fabricated flat floor slide-outs in each truck to maximize the available interior workspaces. Each of the trucks feature a weatherproof exterior monitor compartment and an exterior charging station for cell phones and other electronics.

Inside, each **command center** is complete with a conference room, workstations, lavatory, and the latest electronics and communications equipment available. Each vehicle is also equipped with a weather station to monitor oncoming storms and other data.

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THE FN 509® MRD-LE

BORN FROM THE DNA OF BATTLE-PROVEN FIREARMS

When I heard the LAPD had selected FN's newest offering, I couldn't wait to get my hands on this latest handgun and jumped at the opportunity to put it through its paces.

TODD FLETCHER

Back when I started my career as a police officer, my first department issued patrol rifle was a well-worn FN FAL. I put thousands of rounds through the rifle in my attempts to impress the department rangemaster enough to send me to firearms instructor school. Ever



since, I've had a soft spot in my heart for FN firearms.

FN America, LLC is a US subsidiary of

FN Herstal, S.A., a leader in the development and manufacturing of high quality firearms for military, law enforcement and commercial customers worldwide. As a matter of fact, the FAL is historically one of the most widely used rifles and has been used by more than 90 countries. FN also currently produces the FN 15® series of modern sporting rifles for US consumers and law enforcement, as well as the M4/M4A1 carbines; M16 rifles; MK46, MK48, and M240 machine guns; and the MK19 grenade launcher for the US military. To say the company has a history making military grade firearms is an understatement.

According to the company's literature, the FN 509 MRD-LE delivers more precision and versatility than any other duty-rated handgun. It's manufactured at the company's production facility in Columbia, SC, and is built on the proven FN 509 lineup, with some exclusive upgrades for law enforcement. Making up the new high performance package is a conical striker and a flat-faced, duty-rated trigger which combine for outstanding accuracy from a striker-fired handgun.

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First Impression

The first thing I noticed about this handgun is the aggressive grip texture. It felt good in my hand without being overly abrasive. A close examination of the grip shows four different types of texture along the backstrap, front strap, side panels, and below the slide stop lever. The value of a positive grip on a handgun cannot be

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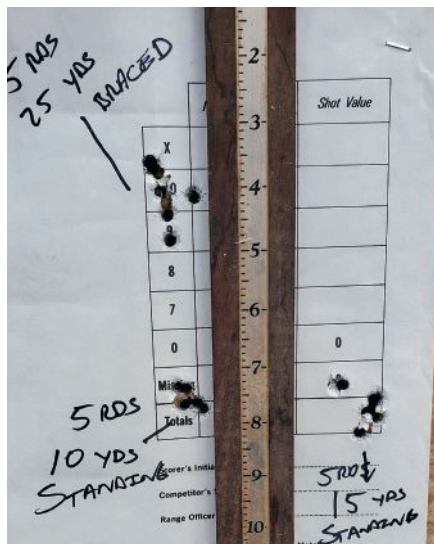
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THE FN 509® MRD-LE – BORN FROM THE DNA OF BATTLE-PROVEN FIREARMS

Continued from page 18



Half inch groups at ten yards offhand and 1.5" groups from 25 yards prove the accuracy claims of the FN 509® MRD-LE.

overstated. Combined with the interchangeable backstraps, I was able to get this pistol to fit me perfectly. Even with sweaty hands, I was able to keep this pis-

tol planted firmly in my grip during combative speed drills.

Following the grip texture, the second-best feature of the frame is the magazine cutouts in the bottom of the grip. These cutouts make stripping a stuck magazine quick and easy. I have added this enhancement to several of my personally owned handguns and find this feature is a great upgrade. Especially when clearing malfunctions, these can help the shooter diagnose and fix problems quickly. Speaking of magazines, the FN 509 MRD-LE comes with three 17 round steel magazines with a high visibility follower.

When you pick up the FN 509 MRD-LE, you'll notice it's built like a tank. The slide is thick, stout and feels substantial. This handgun feels extremely well-built for a 9mm leading me to believe it should be dependable and durable over the course of any law enforcement officer's career. In fact, the FN 509 platform has proven to be reliable and has been tested beyond the million round mark using a wide variety of training and duty ammunition. The hefty slide has a sturdy external extractor with a

loaded chamber indicator providing visual and tactile feedback to indicate a loaded round.

Another nice touch on the slide are well-placed and designed front and back cocking serrations which are suitably aggressive. I grew to appreciate these, especially with wet or gloved hands. They aided in working the slide, conducting press checks, loading, unloading, and doing malfunction drills. Additionally, the slide stop lever is fully ambidextrous and guarded by a frame cutout on each side to help prevent accidental interference with the shooter's hands during firing. This is a common problem for some shooters whose grip consistently depresses the slide stop lever causing the slide to fail to lock back when empty. Other shooters can have their grip interfere by inadvertently pressing up on the slide stop lever causing the slide to lock back on a full magazine. Either way, this can be problematic. However, this shouldn't be a common problem with the design of this handgun.



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THE FN 509® MRD-LE – BORN FROM THE DNA OF BATTLE-PROVEN FIREARMS

Continued from page 20



Two pieces of brass in the air and another one being ejected show the 509® can quickly burn a hole in the middle of any target. Photo courtesy of Billy Etheredge.

Sights

The FN 509 MRD-LE utilizes their Low-Profile Optics-Mounting System™ for rapid sight acquisition and consistent shot placement. A set of three dot tritium sights co-witness with the red dot optic for maximum versatility and a clean sight picture.

After giving it a once-over, I checked the owner's manual and lubed it as directed. I paired the FN 509 MRD-LE with a DeSantis® Cazzuto™ KYDEX® holster which included a belt slot and paddle attachment.

Together with a DeSantis Quantico™ double mag pouch, this is a setup any plainclothes detective would be pleased to carry on a daily basis. In fact, this was the exact setup I used to instruct two pistol mounted optics instructor courses, a handgun instructor certification course, and an advanced firearm instructor course. It was comfortable and provided lightning fast draws and reloads from a concealable holster and mag pouch.

Range Results

On the range, I found the FN 509 MRD-LE to be as accurate as any of the currently available duty handguns. In fact, I don't think I'm going out on a limb saying the FN 509 MRD-LE is the most accurate factory duty handgun I've ever tested. I'm not one to put a handgun in a vice and shoot it from 25 yards to test its mechanical accuracy. (I find this tedious and boring.) Instead, I'm more interested in seeing if a duty gun can maintain good accuracy running at combative speed with a variety of ammunition and still be



The FN 509® MRD-LE paired with the DeSantis® Cazzuto™ KYDEX® holster and a DeSantis Quantico™ double mag pouch is a great plainclothes setup.

reliable and dependable. Call it “minute-of-bad-guy,” or whatever, but most quality duty handguns on the market can shoot more accurately than me. However, this one really got my attention with consistent groups like the ones in the accompanying photo. The 25 yard group was shot braced over the top of a plastic barrel and the other groups were shot two-handed while standing. This was better than

A large, dark, textured background with a large, stylized, metallic-looking 'BLACK HILLS' logo in the center. The logo is composed of many small, overlapping pieces, giving it a fragmented appearance. Below the logo, there is a white rectangular box with a distressed, hand-drawn border. Inside the box, the text reads: 'OUR PROCESS IS SLOW, ON PURPOSE. SLOW SO WE CAN WATCH EACH ROUND BEING MADE. SLOW SO THAT EVERY SINGLE ONE CAN BE HELD AND INSPECTED BY HAND BEFORE EARNING OUR NAME.' At the bottom center of the advertisement, there is a circular logo for 'BLACK HILLS' with the text 'THE POWER OF PERFORMANCE' around it. Below this logo, the word 'Ammunition' is written in a cursive font. At the bottom of the advertisement, there is a white horizontal bar with the text 'TO LOCATE A DEALER NEAR YOU, PLEASE CALL 800.568.6625' on the left and 'www.black-hills.com' followed by social media icons (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube) on the right.

I typically do with any of my other duty handguns.

The 509's cold hammer forged stainless steel barrel (with a recessed target crown) helped ensure better than normal accuracy on steel targets at distances beyond 50 yards. The smooth flat-faced trigger compliments the sight picture with a positive wall followed by a crisp, clean break which will improve accuracy for many officers. It ran reliably with a mixture of 115-, 124- and 147-grain ammunition including training and duty ammunition. Even with magazines containing a mixture of ammunition weight and bullet types, the FN 509 MRD-LE ran without a single hiccup.

Bottom Line

During this evaluation, I used the FN 509 MRD-LE on my home range, during several classes and during practice sessions. I ran it hard and fast to see if it could stand up to abuse and tested it for accuracy to see if it lived up to its precision standards even when dirty. It never disappointed me. In fact, the only malfunction drills I did with this handgun occurred when I intentionally set them up during testing or classes. Even though I've only had the FN 509 MRD-LE for a couple of months, my scores on several different timed courses of fire are the same as handguns which I've had for years.

The FN 509 MRD-LE is everything law enforcement officers are looking for in a duty gun: reliable, durable and accurate and easy to shoot well. The new handgun will definitely help FN continue to carry on the tradition of producing high quality, battle-proven firearms for military and law enforcement customers worldwide. **P&SN**

Sgt. Todd Fletcher (ret.) has over 25 years of law enforcement experience with assignments to patrol, criminal investigations and training. He has presented instructor development training nationwide and at multiple regional, national and international training conferences. He owns Combative Firearms Training, LLC which provides firearms training and instructor development classes to law enforcement, military and private security. Todd was awarded the 2022 ILEETA Trainer-of-the-Year award. He can be contacted at todd@combativefirearms.com.

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SERGEANT JAMES POST

Opening scene: Tom Cruise, in a somewhat grungy police uniform, walks down a debris littered city street, past burnt-out businesses, numerous abandoned tents and shopping carts, until he spots what he's looking for – an abandoned several years old police cruiser. It sits between two burnt-out units, although graffiti covered and sitting on four cinder blocks, this one is relatively intact. Officer Cruise opens a door and begins searching for any usable police equipment he can salvage.

As he searches without luck, a Prius bearing his department's logo and the text "Community Service Unit: We're Here to Help" passes by. It is occupied by a college age couple neatly dressed in civilian attire who identify themselves as a male and a female. They slow, wave and continue on, while not so subtly suppressing smiles as

they return to their (now legal) cannabis lunch break.

Officer Cruise, finding nothing of use in the interior, finally gives up and continues on down the street where he finds a couple more abandoned patrol units. Tom doesn't know why the cruisers were abandoned. They may have simply died at 300+ miles or stopped because they lacked the parts necessary to keep them running, or they just simply ran out of gas. As he begins his search for anything usable, he really doesn't care what brought these noble machines to this end; he's just doing his job.

Officer Cruise still walks the same foot beat he has for years. At first, he felt this "salvage" assignment was demeaning, but he eventually accepted it. In fact, he has actually adapted to the "new normal" as he walks past boarded up and vacant busi-



Departures of police officers greatly accelerated during the period of "peaceful protests."

nesses whose owners have fled. Gone also are the great smells of food carts selling hot dogs and pretzels, replaced now by odors from trash bags littering the sidewalks. Fortunately, the COVID-19 mask Tom has been wearing since the 19th variant blocks most of the noxious fumes. Even the firehouse where Tom always found a clean bathroom and a welcoming hot cup of coffee is vacant and boarded up as the firefighters were relocated to the affluent neighborhoods.

Tom's beat is actually quietly serene now. There are no more businesses to rob or cars to jack, and the CSU crews handle all the calls for service, so Tom patiently walks his beat towards his "twenty" (*scene ends/fade to black*).

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

My anagram of the word "apocalypse" was fully intentional; I feel law enforcement may be at the abyss. Violent crime is off the charts and criminal gangs freely ravage and loot businesses; carjackers and muggers operate freely in daylight; random violent assaults are perpetrated with utter disregard; all because blue city and state prosecutors and DAs ignore sentencing and bond statutes while liberal

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THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE

Continued from page 24

parole boards are more concerned about prison overcrowding than public safety.

Cops are certainly on the endangered list. Large numbers of retirements and resignations are a direct result of nationwide "civil" disturbances (aka riots) prompted by the death of George Floyd, as well as the subsequent defunding of police departments in sanctuary cities across the country. Layoffs and COVID-related terminations have also depleted departments to critical levels. To complicate things, recruitment efforts are becoming a futile waste of time as the nightly news and social media discourages eligible young men and women from applying.

At one point, some 9000 NYC employees were laid off for refusal to comply with COVID orders (masks or vaccine). Ultimately, 36 NYPD and 25 FDNY personnel were terminated. In a scenario repeated across this country, we recently read that 12 Massachusetts state troopers and one sergeant were terminated for refusal to vaccinate. Because of COVID mandates and other concerns, some 2600 NYPD officers retired/resigned in 2020, 144 in Portland and another 219 from Seattle. For all of 2020, American police retirements were up 45% and resignations up 18%.

The shortages on every shift are not the only concerns officers live with daily. Line of duty deaths are rising at a catastrophic rate – 2020 counted 414 total (50 from firearms); 2021 increased to 607 deaths (64 by firearms); and by April of 2022, there have been 92 deaths (17 by firearms). Even LE K-9s have not been spared line of duty deaths, either, as seven have been killed already this year.

While the accuracy of COVID-19 death recording is being debated, American LE COVID deaths currently stand at: 414 in 2020, 430 in 2021 and 50 in 2022. Fortunately for officers' families, COVID deaths are now considered duty-related.

GETTING AROUND

Many other current developments (in the last 16 months) have had significant impacts on LE agencies and their responsibilities to their citizens. Included is a drastic shortage of vehicle replacements due to slow or halted assembly lines due to a shortage of parts and microchips. Departments are having to use vehicles two and three times past normal rotation. Used police cars are no longer an option to replace worn-out units, as their prices have

increased by 40.5%. Wholesale tire prices have increased by 40% and retail tire prices by 10-15%. Goodyear®, who supplies many police vehicle tires, increased their prices a record four times last year!

What about fuel? Sixteen months ago, we were promised that the new administration would end fossil fuels and they're doing their best with closed pipelines, fracking terminated, coal mines closed, drilling halted, and more. As of March 10, 2022, gas prices hit the highest price per gallon ever, breaking the previous record of 2008. The national average is \$4.33 a gallon with West Coast prices of \$7 to \$9 and more. So, in the matter of a scant 16 months, we have gone from gas and oil independence to possibly buying oil from Venezuela and Iran!

Another concern for all Americans, particularly law enforcement, is the surge of illegals streaming across our Southern border due to this administration's flawed and failed "open border" policy.

The Border Patrol reported that, in January of this year, 73% of those crossing were single males in their 20s and that number has increased to 76%. News broadcasts clearly show well-dressed, healthy men in

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Chevy has announced its first-ever pursuit-rated Silverado.

new clothes and shoes, but among them are murderers, repeat offenders, convicted felons, sex offenders, and gang members, plus thousands of pounds of deadly illegal Fentanyl (estimated enough to kill 900,000,000 Americans) and countless illegal firearms.

ARE YOU READY FOR SOME GOOD NEWS?

While *Police and Security News* does one hell of a job keeping you apprised of the latest in vehicles, equipment, weapons, and protective gear, we can't protect you from the next crisis coming at you,

whatever that might be. But, what we can, and will, do in this column is give you our best ideas and tips on how to cope with current events and, hopefully, lighten the strain on your budgets and improve your officer's working environment.

POLICE VEHICLES

The great news from Brampton, Canada, is that production has slowly resumed on 2022 Pursuit Chargers and Durangos, while still hampered by parts and chip shortages, and ordering has now ceased. Civilian models already on order (some for as long as six months) are being built

first to reboot dealers' inventories. Naturally, they're building high-end units with all of the bells and whistles, BUT they are still building 5.7 HEMI®s! If your budget can take the hit, in lieu of pursuit models, you might consider Charger and Durango R/Ts at dealers now. They have all the heavy-duty mechanics of the pursuits, but with a bunch of fancy civilian amenities. Pursuits for 2023 can be ordered until July and are scheduled to be built this fall.

New 2022 Chevy PPV Tahoe orders are slowly being delivered to departments in my area to fill long overdue orders. More good news...Chevrolet has announced a 2023 first-ever pursuit-rated Silverado which will be available in late summer of this year. It is a crew cab, short bed, 4WD designed for high speeds and with equipment which will make any off-roader jealous. It is equipped with a 355 hp V-8, backed by a ten-speed auto, Brembo™ brakes, 20" Goodyear all-terrain tires, optional Rancho® shocks for a two inch lift, and skid plates. Safety features include Lane Assist, Lane Departure Warning, Forward Collision Alert, Following Distance Indicator, Pedestrian Braking, and Automatic High Beams.

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THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE

Continued from page 27



It may be beneficial to start thinking of tires as being the “new toilet paper.”

There is apparently no shortage of Ford® Interceptor® Utilities coming from Chicago and the LE 150s are rolling off the lines in Kansas City. Ford's Interceptor Utility continues to be the top-selling LE SUV in the field.

TIRES AND GAS

Being a petroleum-based product, we have no control over tire prices and will likely not see any price reductions until America once again becomes oil self-sufficient by opening pipelines, drilling and fracking, and ignoring the Green New Deal activists.

However, there is something you can do right now about tires...it's called hoarding – pretend tires are the new toilet paper. If your department operates their own ga-

rage, start buying and stockpiling tires in the sizes you use. If you don't have your own service facilities, ask the vendor you buy tires from if you can purchase tires now and stockpile them at their facility. New tires don't have a “use by” date and only the vehicle manufacturers control tire sizes on their builds.

Gas price increases are the result of the actions of this administration listed previously. Unlike tires, however, you can't hoard massive quantities of gas (unless you buy your own tanker), so we have compiled a list of gas saving tips gleaned from numerous sources.

1. **SLOW DOWN** – Unless on emergency runs, advise your troops to slow down and avoid rapid acceleration. Driving 55 mph instead of 65 mph improves gas mileage as much as 15%. Departments operating Mopar® HEMI V-8s are fortunate because these vehicles feature MDS which switches the engine to four cylinders during normal conditions.
2. **CRUISE CONTROL** – Although this primarily applies to highway patrols, cruise control smooths out speedups and slowdowns.
3. **IDLE TIME** – Reduce idling whenever possible as this wastes fuel and in-

creases engine wear. Officers should be instructed to shut off engines whenever possible – sitting any length of time, such as writing reports manually or on lap tops; at accident scenes; meal times; etc. The exception would be extremely hot or cold weather, particularly in K-9 units. Idling is easily monitored as most LE-rated vehicles feature idle meters.

4. **LIGHTEN THE LOAD** – Police vehicles have to carry a heavy load, but, whenever possible, consider transporting extra or backup equipment in supervisors' vehicles.
5. **REDUCE A/C USE** – Air conditioning is the main contributor of reduced fuel economy. You're already fighting an uphill battle with lightbars and the weight mentioned above. A/C use can reduce vehicle fuel economy by more than 25%, particularly on short trips such as patrolling a city beat. Open windows can also impact fuel economy, so the secret is alternating between the two.
6. **MAINTAIN YOUR FLEET** – It's been proven that a rigid maintenance schedule, enforced by regular inspections, will save fuel and add to your vehicle's life. Oil changes, tire pressure and align-

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ment, and replacing air filters will save you gas money. Manufacturers' service schedules tend to be pretty liberal, so I would suggest shorter intervals than given, but using the recommended oil.

7. **TAKE-HOME UNITS** – This topic probably won't win me any friends, but as long as inflation and gas prices continue to rise, departments with take-home units should closely evaluate those programs now and many are. I've written about take-home units extensively, listing pros and cons, examples and experiences from departments across the country.

First off, I am in favor of these programs if a department can afford them; however, departments should consider modifying them until cooler heads prevail in DC and prices start falling. I believe personnel with 24 hour required response (detectives, SWAT, crime scene, and some commanders) should always have take-home units; however, I think other programs can be modified. I suggest patrol officers carpool for rides to work, while one of their units stays at the station until a tour starts. Simple math tells us that will save half the gas of two vehicles.

Of course, this wouldn't work for state troopers or others who start their tours from home, but this suggestion could be tweaked as necessary to fit your needs. At least, it's a start.

8. **DON'T DOWNSIZE** – Don't be tempted to hastily downsize to some compact econoboxes to save fuel. As an officer and car collector, I was frequently asked by parents what car I would recommend that they purchase for their teenager's first car. An old adage frequently came to mind at that time: "A compact car will save you gas, but it won't save your ass." I always recommended used cruisers, particularly Crown Victorias. They were built like tanks and were almost indestructible, with the best accident rating of most domestic vehicles.

9. **AND THAT'S NOT ALL** – As fuel prices soar, gas thefts across our country and Canada have increased dramatically and you're not immune.

Most thieves we encounter are not that sophisticated, but they do use the latest technology. Sucking gas through a garden hose is old school. Using cordless drills, they simply drill holes in gas tanks or filler tubes and drain the tanks. Tall vehicles, such as pickups

and SUVs, are particularly vulnerable as they're easier to slide under and trucks often have a larger capacity tank or even twin tanks.

Police departments are certainly not exempt from these thefts. Vehicles parked behind stations, in back lots, or at service garages overnight are tempting targets, especially the SUVs. And, gasoline thefts are not all you have to worry about with a stationary fleet... expensive catalytic converter and aluminum driveshaft thefts continue to be a nationwide phenomenon. A Harris County, TX, deputy was shot and killed in March when he attempted to stop thieves stealing his catalytic converter in a retail parking lot.

If you disagree with my observations of the current state of affairs in the country most of us swore to protect, please don't blame this publication or my editor. Blame the grumpy old retired sergeant with way more calendars behind him than in front. **P&SN**

James Post is a 27 year veteran of law enforcement and has written this column for over 22 years. He always welcomes your comments and suggestions and he can be contacted at kopkars@arkansas.net.

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How to Recognize the Signs of Abnormal Breathing

"It's not fair, I'm telling you, it's not fair!" "Officer, calm down! Calm down!" said the Internal Affairs investigator in a loud voice. "How can I calm down when the department didn't train me about what to look for and you guys are now trying to hold me and my backup officers responsible for his death," replied the officer.



RAY CASILLAS, EMT-PARAMEDIC, AND JOHN G. PETERS, JR., CLS, PH.D.

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Historically, many defensive tactics and/or restraint instructors have taught Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) how to control and restrain a person (knee on the back of a prone suspect for control), but have often neglected to teach officers the signs and symptoms of abnormal breathing and how to identify them. This is changing. In the post-George Floyd culture, a few states, such as California, have passed legislation which can hold officers criminally liable for the failure to monitor for signs of asphyxia or, more accurately, abnormal breathing. To save lives and careers, it is critically important that LEOs get training on how to recognize the signs of abnormal breathing.



A few states (including California) have recently passed a statute by which LEOs can be held criminally liable when a suspect's death can be attributed to positional asphyxia and/or physical restraint.

In today's "cancel culture" and "anti-police" environments, opinions have replaced facts and logic. Lawsuits have been filed against governmental entities and first responders because the person with whom they had fought, arrested or tried to help died and, therefore, someone had to be held accountable . . . and pay! A recent multimillion dollar verdict to plaintiffs in a western city only feeds the frenzy of what some people have called the "litigation lottery."

Redirecting Resisting Subjects to the Ground

Struggling subjects pose a risk not only to themselves, but also to LEOs. Frequently, LEOs redirect struggling and resisting individuals to the ground for safety and stability. The ground or similar firm surface acts as a platform to help control the individual, preventing him (or her) from falling. (Lie on the floor in a prone or supine position and try to fall.) After the resisting subject is on the ground and, often, in a prone position, the LEO often places a knee across the person's shoulder blade area of the back for better physical control of the person. Handcuffs and/or other restraints are then applied before removing the subject from the ground to an awaiting vehicle. Regrettably, and rarely, the restrained individual suddenly becomes unresponsive and dies.

Criminal charges and/or civil litigation may be filed against the involved officer(s) claiming the person had asphyxiated because of positional asphyxia – failure to recognize and respond to abnormal breathing – even though the individual may have had drugs in his (or her) system, had heart or breathing issues, and/or other physical ailments. In far too many instances, the decedent said repeatedly, "I can't breathe," only to have his pleas ignored. Too often, it is discovered during the discovery phase of the litigation that the involved LEOs had training on how to appropriately restrain resisting subjects, but had no (or ineffective) training about how to recognize the signs of abnormal breathing.

Critical Thinking

Before teaching LEOs and other first responders the signs and symptoms of abnormal breathing, they must first be taught how to critically think about the situation involving them. In short, they must be trained to think and to recognize when the struggling person changes from being a suspect to becoming a patient. Critical thinking involves evaluating the information one has received (e.g., noisy breathing); determining if the "claim" is true (err on the side of the person's claim); and then concluding the suspect is transition-

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HOW TO RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS OF ABNORMAL BREATHING

Continued from page 30



Asphyxia occurs when the human body is not getting enough oxygen because adequate gas exchange is not taking place.

ing, or has transitioned, into a patient in need of immediate medical care. This is a necessary module of instruction, but it may not be sufficient unless scenario-based and competency-based training are used to quantitatively assess how LEOs apply what they see and hear to a hypothetical situation. Important definitions and behaviors must also be taught to LEOs.

Asphyxia

Definitions vary, but generally asphyxia means that the human body is not getting enough oxygen which can lead to passing out or death because adequate gas exchange is not taking place. In short, the oxygenation of blood cells by the oxygen which is inhaled is not being adequately “exchanged” in the blood stream enabling the person to release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Gas exchange occurs in the human body during the respiratory phase and cannot be seen with the naked eye. A lack of appropriate gas exchange in the lungs can cause changes in heart rate, skin signs and the level of consciousness. It will also cause the person who is in distress to tell you they cannot breathe. If left unrecognized and untreated, disability and/or death can occur.

Asphyxia Types

Medically, asphyxia can be grouped as follows: mechanical (aka “physical”); positional/postural (a form of mechanical asphyxia); restraint; sexual or autoerotic; environmental (e.g., smoke); or traumatic (aka “compressional”).

Positional and/or postural asphyxia is

when the positioning of the human body interferes with adequate breathing (think sliding under side bed rails). Traumatic asphyxia is often referred to as “compressional asphyxia” when too much weight has been applied to the back or chest of an individual, interfering with adequate breathing (think knee on the back/chest).

Asphyxiation

“Asphyxiation” is a derivative of the word asphyxia and means without a pulse. It is a medical emergency. There are two categories of asphyxiation: external and internal. External asphyxiation includes gagging, drowning, asthma, neck compression, positional asphyxia, seizure, drug overdose, and mechanical or traumatic asphyxia.

In contrast, internal asphyxiation includes acidosis; aspiration of gastric contents; pre-swallowing, swallowing and post-swallowing aspiration; and hypoxia asphyxiation.

Airway Anatomy and Adequate Breathing

Adequate breathing is a subconscious act which can also be consciously controlled. The airway system is one part of the body’s vital life functions. Breathing allows the body to inhale and exhale air which affords it the ability to exchange gasses to function normally. It extends from the mouth and nostrils, trachea, both lungs, and all the way to the smallest passages in the lungs. Normal breathing in adults consists of 12 to 20 breaths per minute. However, these numbers are based on healthy adults under nonstress conditions.

It is important to know about adequate breathing before discussing abnormal breathing. Breathing is simply the volume of air moving into and out of the lungs. It is coupled with a respiratory rate which is the number of times a person breathes in one minute. In short, the body’s goal is to breathe in and exhale an adequate amount of air as often as possible for its current condition.

Abnormal Breathing

Prior to a person asphyxiating, there are often visual and/or auditory signs and symptoms which alert LEOs and other first responders that the person is experiencing abnormal breathing. Abnormal breathing, also known as respiratory distress, dysfunctional breathing or breathing pattern disorder, can have many causes including foot pursuits, struggling with others, fighting, running, and a forceful bear hug. However, not all abnormal breathing will result in asphyxiation.

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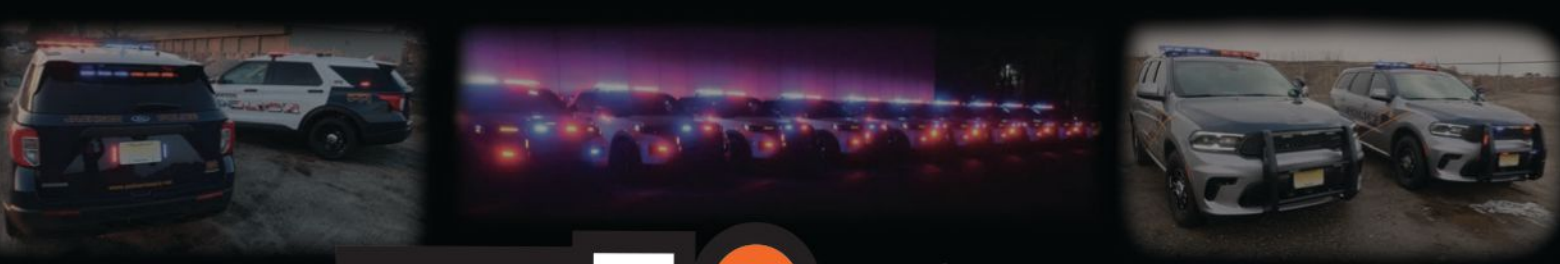
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HOW TO RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS OF ABNORMAL BREATHING

Continued from page 32

For example, LEOs chasing a suspect during a foot pursuit will probably notice heavy, abnormal breathing in the suspect and, possibly, in other officers at the end of the foot pursuit. At face value, the respiratory rate for all involved will have increased, as well as the volume of air exchanged. Once the event is over and none of the individuals involved is no longer stressed, this form of abnormal breathing will correct itself in a few minutes; however, if it does not or if it worsens, consider it a medical emergency.

Talking Does Not Equal Breathing, or Does It?

During Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training, instructors teach students that, if a patient is talking, they are breathing. This is a true statement as long as the teaching point is related to an obstructed airway from foreign matter obstructing the upper airway. During EMS calls related to patients in respiratory distress, it is not uncommon for patients to cry out, saying they "cannot breathe" or struggle to speak, saying they "are dying." In the examples noted, the patients can speak (air is passing over the vocal cords), but they may be experiencing abnormal breathing. First responders should critically examine the root cause of their complaint and should take

appropriate lifesaving measures.

From an LEO centric perspective, too often the national or social media show a spokesperson for a law enforcement agency say, "If he was talking, he was breathing." This is simply not correct. One or two breaths do not confirm that the person is breathing adequately and may indicate agonal (agony) breathing, indicating that death is imminent. Similarly, lip movement does not prove adequate breathing. Talking is simply air passing over the vocal cords and may indicate ventilation, but not respiration. "Talking is breathing," but it is adequate to sustain life?

If a person says, "I can't breathe," it may indicate the individual cannot properly exchange gasses contained in air (respiration) and may actually be "suffocating" from the increase of carbon dioxide. This may be a verbal manifestation of inadequate gas exchange.

Abnormal Breathing Signs and Symptoms

There are many signs and symptoms of abnormal breathing; space neither permits a comprehensive listing nor discussing all of them. The following are common subjective and objective findings that a person is experiencing breathing difficulty:



A subject's ability to speak is simply air passing over the vocal cords and may indicate ventilation, but not adequate respiration.

- Tripoding: Sitting or standing, leaning over with their hands on their knees.
- Accessory muscle use: Nasal flaring, or muscles retracting or sucking in around the neck and in between the ribs.
- Pursed lip breathing: Asthmatic and COPD patients often breathe this way when in distress. It is also known as "guppy breathing."
- One word or short, broken, or incomplete sentences: Patients are subconsciously trying to conserve valuable air.
- Noisy breathing: Gurgling, wheezing, or "wet, junky coughing" – the airway passage or passages are partially or fully occluded.

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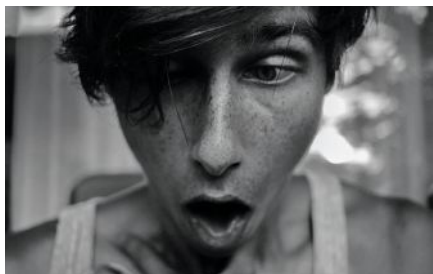
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HOW TO RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS OF ABNORMAL BREATHING

Continued from page 34



There are many signs and symptoms of abnormal breathing.

- Anxiety and irritability: Oxygen levels in the body are below normal.
- Changes in skin color, moisture and temperature: The body is stressed. Skin will begin changing color at the nail beds, lips and pink pigmentation of the eye. As oxygen level drops, these areas become blue. Because the body is fighting to survive, the skin will begin to perspire and become very sweaty. Depending on circumstances, the temperature will become cool, cold or hot.
- Confusion, inability to follow commands: Because of a lack of oxygen to the brain, the patient will become disoriented, irritable, unable to follow commands, and will become weak.

Think: Patient and Seek Medical Care

If one or more of the above signs and/or symptoms are seen by, heard by, or reported to LEOs and/or first responders, the LEO must think and recall, "Prisoner to Patient." This is also true if the LEO responds to a "person fell" call or similar event. After recognizing the person is becoming, or has become, a "patient," the LEO must request immediate medical attention. This is a medical emergency.

Until emergency medical providers arrive at the scene, LEOs should perform basic first aid, CPR and/or apply an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED), but only if qualified.

Emergency Medical Providers

During EMS calls, EMTs and paramedics will begin to assess and treat a patient according to local protocols. Not all-inclusive, but typically, in cases related to a patient's complaint of difficulty breathing, chest pain and altered mental status, the EMT or paramedic will attempt to obtain an EKG reading, check oxygen levels and may also attempt to determine the patient's end-tidal CO₂ reading. These readings will reveal heart rate and rhythm, oxygen levels and carbon dioxide levels. Before LEOs write their reports about the incident, they must obtain and document this vital information because it will add value to their reports.

Summary

California recently passed a statute by which LEOs can be held criminally liable when a suspect's death can be attributed to positional asphyxia and/or physical restraint which impacts a person's breathing. Specifically, California Government Code Section 7286.5 reads:

" 'Positional asphyxia' means situating a person in a manner [which] compresses their airway and reduces the ability to sustain adequate breathing. This includes, without limitation, the use of any physical restraint [which] causes a person's respiratory airway to be compressed or impairs the person's breathing or respiratory capacity, including any action in which pressure or body weight is unreasonably applied against the restrained person's neck, torso, or back or positioning a restrained person without reasonable monitoring for signs of asphyxia."

The positive side of this statute is that it applies when a LEO acts "unreasonably." LEOs must always use reasonable force, restraint, etc. when interacting with individuals. More troubling is the language "reasonable monitoring for signs of asphyxia." LEOs cannot monitor for signs of

asphyxia unless they have been trained about those visual and auditory signs and symptoms. After all, no officer wants to be in the position of the LEO in the beginning of this article where accountability is being attempted even though adequate training was not provided about the visual and auditory signs and symptoms of abnormal breathing.

Remember, fire, EMS and law enforcement have the same goals: "to protect and serve," and to "save lives and property." The differences are the tactics, techniques and procedures they use to accomplish their mission. Despite the differences, each profession can work collaboratively.

Having difficulty breathing is not a comfortable feeling and watching somebody struggle to breathe is nearly as difficult. Identifying the signs and symptoms of respiratory distress are observed by looking at the patient's overall presentation and listening to what they are saying or not. Providing care to a patient in respiratory distress must not be taken lightly. The LEO must remain mindful that the patient in respiratory distress will not tolerate lying prone or supine. Along with this, EMS should be called so the patient can adequately be evaluated and treated by medical practitioners with modern technology. **P&SN**

Fire Captain Ray Casillas (ret.) has over 30 years of combined experience as a California firefighter/paramedic, SWAT team paramedic and fire officer. Educationally, Ray holds a bachelor's degree in fire science, a Master of Public Administration degree, and is pursuing a Ph.D. in Public Policy and National Security. As a thought leader, he has collaborated with senior staff from diverse disciplines and led grassroots initiatives updating first responder best practices in tactical EMS, first responder interoperability, and was one of the first to translate modern military medicine into a civilian format. Ray has also partnered with federal agencies and academia to increase the safety and security of public and private educational institutions.

John G. Peters, Jr., Ph.D. serves as president of the Institute for the Prevention of In-Custody Deaths, Inc., and Executive Director of the Americans for Effective Law Enforcement, Inc. A frequent contributor to Police and Security News, Dr. Peters has been judicially qualified in international (Hong Kong), federal and state courts as a law enforcement expert. He recently served on a California Peace Officer Standards and Training panel on positional asphyxia. He was the instructional designer of the Institute's tuition-free, user level on-line breathing program, "Recognizing and Managing Abnormal Breathing."

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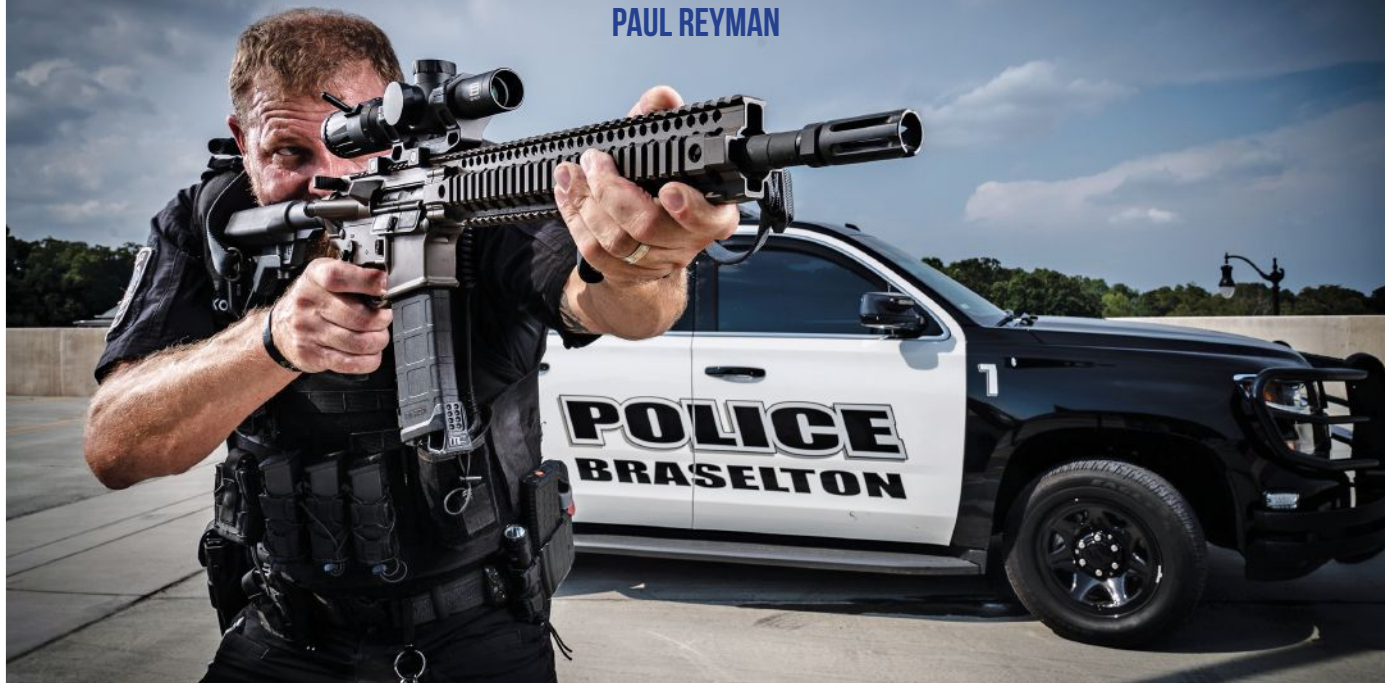


Photo courtesy of Richard King Photography

Patrol rifles have been an armament for much of American law enforcement for a relatively short period of time. However, lawmen in the Western areas of our country frequently carried rifles as the distances frequently encountered demanded it.

Back in the day, most urban or sub-urban law enforcement agencies issued a shotgun, typically loaded with buckshot and/or slugs. Within its tactical niche, the 12-gauge shotgun is hard to beat. Buckshot, although short-range, can deliver tremendous terminal effects and slugs deliver

energy which many rifle calibers cannot even come close to equaling. Shotguns can be thought of as “payload delivery systems.” Loads are available to deliver chemical agents, mini distraction devices, and even less-lethal munitions are also available.

However, shotguns do have a few short-

comings. They lack precision/accuracy; they lack range; and they also have a somewhat complex manual of arms. The fact is that shotguns are not very pleasant to shoot. They offer a significant recoil impulse. People who really enjoy shooting shotguns have learned to tolerate the recoil. However, this is not a description of most Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs).

OUTGUNNED

On February 28, 1997, two bank robbers got into a protracted gunfight with police in North Hollywood, California. They had .223, 762 x 39mm and .308 rifles. These calibers/weapons allowed a high volume of fire and range. LEOs had pistols and shotguns. At least to me, this event seemed to stimulate law enforcement to begin to adopt patrol rifles for patrol use in large numbers.

This class of rifles (carbine) offer tremendous advantages. The recoil impulse is polite, so most LEOs don't mind shooting them. The manual of arms is logical and easier to understand, and modern duty loadings of ammunition are quite accurate and effective. A very common patrol rifle in the US today is based upon the AR-15 platform. Many are equipped with a sling, a Weapon Mounted Light (WML) and

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LOW POWERED VARIABLE OPTICS FOR PATROL

Continued from page 38



One of the drawbacks of placing a magnifier behind an RDS is that the dot/reticle will likely be distorted.

an optic – usually, a nonmagnified Red Dot Sight (RDS).

In my humble opinion, law enforcement agencies typically do not change their policies/procedures unless they are forced to by case law or a really bad event. Also, in my opinion, this is a mistake. Technologies evolve and they change. Today, we can leap forward in advance of case law and increase our capabilities. The technology I am referring to is the Low Power Variable Optic (LPVO).

What about magnifiers? Magnifiers are optics which mount behind an RDS and provide a magnified view through the RDS. They can work, but they come with baggage. The higher the magnification, the heavier the bags. Keep in mind, they mag-

nify everything in front of them. Your RDS dot or reticle will be magnified as well. The RDS dot/reticle will likely be distorted. Flip mounts or detachable mounts add complexity and weak points. The additional lens(es) open the door for parallax distortion as well. For some applications, a fairly low power magnifier behind an RDS may provide some utility in some applications. However, when precision is necessary, I cannot recommend them. Quality LPVOs are clearly (at least to me) superior.

PREMIUM PRICE

LPVOs come in quite a few different varieties, capabilities and prices. Generally, you can expect to pay at least as much for your LPVO as you did for your rifle. I fully understand that most agencies have gotten used to the idea of a viable, durable patrol rifle RDS costing a little south of \$500. And, the thought of spending twice that amount, if not more, will be difficult to talk decision makers into seriously considering.

Issuing LEOs LPVO equipped carbines and supporting them with training increases their tactical capability to a degree which is difficult to quantify. They will be able to employ their carbines at close ranges as

they did previously with RDS equipped rifles. However, with a quality LPVO, they can see further and more clearly, thus having better information to base their use-of-force decisions on and, should the need arise, be very accurate and precise with their shot placement.

In order to get the most out of an LPVO equipped carbine, certain adjustments will need to be made. It pains me, but many agencies do not issue each LEO his/her own carbine. They are pool guns. Many are assigned to a vehicle and left there much like how shotguns were before. This is a bad idea. Even if the pool shotgun was zeroed by an armorer, it was never expected to be precise. Carbines are different. Each shooter will hold and fire a carbine a little differently than everyone else. Zeros may be close, but they will not be identical. LPVO carbines must be assigned to a single officer. That officer is accountable for the readiness of that carbine and all of its accoutrements. If your agency decides that not all of its LEOs are worthy of the added responsibility, that's fine. Just issue them to the LEOs who are – once they are trained.

What is a (duty) LPVO? For a very long time, optic manufacturers couldn't crack

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the code as it relates to obtaining a true – or close to true – 1x magnification at the low end and be able to increase magnification to a higher degree and still be useful throughout its range. In the last few years, several companies have been able to produce optics which function almost like a Red Dot Sight (RDS) at 1x and, when turned up to a higher power, allow long-range threat identification and, depending upon the reticle and the officer's skill, precision accuracy at range.

At first, reputable manufacturers offered 1x to 4x and people took notice. Then, they started offering 1x to 6x. Guys in my circle (military) started buying them. Then, 1x to 8x hit the scene and the world changed. Vortex® and other manufacturers are now offering a 1x to 10x. Again, just to prepare you, it will be expensive. Duty use means that the life of the optic will be rather harsh. It will live its life attached to a carbine which is locked in a car, subjected to constant vibrations and temperature extremes. Building an optic which can survive that environment and still have a usable red dot when activated requires quality materials and meticulous assembly. It will also require a purpose-built mount. They may be pricey, too.

How much magnification is needed? I can't recommend anything less than 4x, with 6x being comfortable and 8x being just about right. Keep in mind, a quality LPVO won't make you shoot better; it will only make you see better. For most perimeter applications, ranges will likely be about 100 yards, perhaps a bit more, but often less.

TWO CONFIGURATIONS

Optics come in two focal plane configurations – first focal plane and second focal plane. Both are usable, but they come with idiosyncrasies. Reticles in second focal plane optics will not change size as the magnification is adjusted. This is a problem if you intend to use the reticle to “hold over” for targets beyond the range at which you zeroed the system. The reticle subtensions only have true value when at maximum magnification. Reticles in first focal plane optics



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will change size as the magnification is adjusted. This means that, no matter at which magnification the optic is set, values of the reticle subtensions are still valid. Plain crosshair reticles which you may have learned on or hunted with are inappropriate for this application. Technology has surpassed them.

What reticle should you select? One popular class of reticles is the Bullet Drop Compensating (BDC) reticle. The

manufacturer calculated the trajectory of a notional bullet, fired out of a notional rifle with notional atmospheric conditions, and “mapped” the corresponding aim points for different ranges in the reticle. Generally, they're pretty close to the indicated range, but not precisely so. Each different type and weight of bullet will fly differently. Identical loadings with different lot numbers will fly differently. Different enough to matter. Atmospheric matter.



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POLICE

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The aim points in the reticle will line up somewhere for your loading; you just won't know exactly where without significant research.

Ballistic reticles use a series of lines in the reticle to facilitate measurements. They may appear similar to BDC reticles at first glance. Instead of mapping a trajectory, they map distance. Some are fairly basic, simply marking elevation along the vertical crosshair. Some are fairly complex, denoting measurements laterally along the various horizontal stadia lines. This configuration allows the shooter to adjust for wind as the range (and elevation hold) increases.

MOA AND MIL

Are you confused yet? It gets a little more complex. Ballistic reticles come in two main types: Minute of Angle (MOA) and Miliradian (MIL). They are simply different tools for measuring and nothing more. I will say that, in my opinion, MIL is more useful in this application. MIL facilitates measuring and communicating more efficiently than MOA. A MOA works out to about one inch at 100 yards, two inches at 200 yards, etc. A MIL is about 3.6 inches at 100 yards, 7.2 inches at 200 yards, etc. MOA optics of the type applicable for this use will usually come with .25 MOA adjustments to the reticle, meaning every "click" of the elevation turret will move the impact of the bullet a quarter inch at 100 yards. Most MIL optics will have .1 MIL adjustments. This will move the point of impact just over a third of an inch at 100 yards. It can get confusing when you are just getting started. Just keep in mind that MOA and MIL are simply different methods of measuring. Nothing more.

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HOW WILL THE LPVO BE USED?

Perhaps we should revisit what the LPVO will be used for or how it will be employed. At 1x, with the illuminated reticle turned on, the LPVO will function as a regular RDS. It will be useful on felony vehicle stops or clearing a structure. If the officer is on a perimeter for whatever reason or needs to visually investigate something beyond what he/she can see with the naked eye, he/she can increase the magnification of the optic to see (make sure that the safety is on and your finger stays off the trigger). Should the need arise, the officer should be capable of quite accurate and precise use of force at distances not prudent for a RDS equipped carbine. There will be a slight learning curve when first adopting the LPVO. But, bear in mind, in the greater context, it will still only likely be used at relatively short ranges.

What will “qualifying” with a LPVO equipped carbine look like? Initially, it will be the same as regular RDS equipped carbine qualification. But, the LPVO equipped carbine allows the officer to (ideally) shoot up to the capability of the carbine/ammunition package. You’ll need a training range of at least 100 yards, preferably a few hundred yards. Once the officer understands trajectory, work can begin on learning how to be accurate and precise in different shooting positions. I’d start with prone supported, kneeling supported and standing supported. Again, the goal is to train the officer to shoot up to the capability of the carbine/ammunition package at greater distances than what’s possible with a standard RDS. Once the officer understands the fundamentals, work can begin on learning the cartridges trajectory and how to apply it using the reticles subtensions.

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longer distances, the officer will need to master keeping track of what magnification the optic is set on and remembering to turn on the illumination should that be required. As of yet, manufacturers have not been able to get the same length of battery

life as what we've come to expect from RDSs. The illumination element should be kept in the off position until needed.

TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION

How often should the LPVO equipped

officer qualify/train? I'd strongly recommend at least quarterly. Shooting well is a perishable skill which needs constant reinforcement. Sustainment training need not be terribly extensive – a magazine or so should suffice if done correctly. There really shouldn't be any significant policy adjustments to deploy LPVOs beyond the obvious of specifying which optic(s), mounts, ammunition, maintenance, and mandating frequent training. **P&SN**

Paul Reyman's law enforcement career recently concluded after a total of 29 years of service. He served as a vehicle crash investigator, motor officer, motor officer instructor, tactical first aid instructor, field training officer, and use of force instructor. Paul still serves in the National Guard and has deployed to Afghanistan twice. Paul has successfully completed various military courses including the National Guard Precision Engagement Course (Sniper), Special Operations Armorers Course, USMC Master Breacher, and the Special Forces Sniper Course. Paul frequently functions as a subject matter expert/instructor during Advanced Close Quarters Battle and Sniper Courses.

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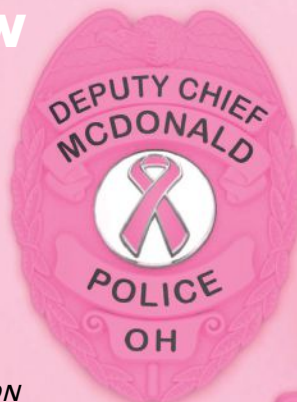
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The NJSACOP Accreditation Assessors Overview – Bringing the Resources of the NJSACOP LEAP Program to Your Agency

(For program times, check in with the NJ State Association of Chiefs of Police in Booth #846)

The NJSACOP "LEAP" will have a review of the current standards this year. Come join NJSACOP Accreditation assessors in a discussion about new or revised standards addressing new developments in law enforcement. Comments and suggestions are welcome. The NJSACOP LEAP Standard Review Committee will be discussing and gathering feedback from law enforcement practitioners in preparation for the very important revision. Are you interested in becoming a NJSACOP LEAP Assessor? Do you have questions? Come join them.

Seminar Leader: Harry J. Delgado, ED.S (NJSACOP LEAP Accreditation Program Director)

12:30 p.m. Opening Ceremonies

Main Entranceway (New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police)

1:00 p.m. Special Opening Ceremonies Presentation

Booth #619 *Presenter: Block Communications*

1:30 p.m. The Blind Spot: Revealing the Risks Behind Off-duty Employment

Room: #307

Overview: A deep dive into some of the most common reasons officers and agencies are exposed to the off-duty blind spot. This will be explored by creating an immersive experience with leadership interviews, personal testimonials and video documentation.

This presentation will review factual data and quotes from recent headlines and real-life experiences to reinforce why agencies would be wise to make managing their off-duty program a priority sooner rather than later.

Topics Being Covered: Risk; Job Tracking; Liability; Job Equity; Time; Costs; and Resources to Mitigate Risk Before the Blind Spot Makes the Headlines

Seminar Leader: Retired Austin Chief of Police Brian Manley (Off Duty Management)

2:30 p.m. Customized Professional Development

Room: #308/309

This session explores how you can tailor professional development for yourself or for your team to ensure you climb the ladder and/or you have the most productive workforce possible.

Professional development has two dimensions. First, you can engage in customized professional development in order to enhance your Skills, Knowledge and Abilities (SKAs) to boost your own productivity, efficiency and career. Additional competencies make you better prepared for higher-level positions. Second, as a supervisor, you may determine that an individual or the whole team should be groomed for advancement which, likewise, requires a tailored education plan.

Professional development can be accomplished through formal training and education, attendance at conferences and individual efforts, such as reading and completing self-help publications, but a formal process leads to better outcomes. This includes assessing skills, knowledge and abilities needed for current and future positions, as well as the SKAs of the current staff.

Seminar Leader: Dr. Paulette Laubsch (Fairleigh Dickinson University)

3:30 p.m.

Room: #310

Physical Security Cloud Solution for Video Surveillance, Access Control, Alarming and Sensors

Demonstrations on physical security solutions which integrate seamlessly behind a single cloud-based platform

Seminar Leader: Jeff Hickey (Verkada)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2022

Exhibits Open: 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Seminar Area "A"
Inside Exhibit Hall**

The NJSACOP Accreditation Assessors Overview – Bringing the Resources of the NJSACOP LEAP Program to Your Agency

(See previous description)

Other added attractions at PSE 2022 include the following:



Great Photo Opportunities!

Everyone loves the PSE TV/Movie Vintage Show Cars...not your everyday departmental vehicles.

See the 1966 original "Batman" TV series car (back by popular demand); the "Scooby-Doo" Mystery Machine van; the 1964 Dragula – "The Munsters" Coffin Dragster (which was driven by Grandpa Al Lewis); and "The Flintstones" Flintmobile (one of the first non-gas powered vehicles); plus a collection of classic police vehicles on display.

Meet the PSE Artist - John Kiernan (BlueLine Studios - Sponsored by Setina Mfg.)

Stop by and see John's recently completed mural which he started painting at Police Security Expo 2021.



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NEWS



America's Data Held Hostage – Case Studies in Ransomware Attacks on American Companies

Published by the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, this new report details the attacks by Russia-based ransomware group REvil on three American companies and the experiences of those companies during the incident response. The goal of this report is to provide information which companies and agencies can use to prepare for, and respond to, ransomware attacks.

A pdf copy of the report can be downloaded at <https://tinyurl.com/49k9rb37>

DHS Guide: Summary of Resources for Enforcement Partners

Published by the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the "Summary of Resources for State, Local, Tribal, Territorial, and Campus Law Enforcement Partners" highlights many of the resources available to law enforcement partners, including training and grant opportunities, to increase nationwide resilience to evolving threats. This includes key tips and information related to human trafficking, forced labor, cybersecurity, information and intelligence sharing, preparedness and prevention, school safety, and critical infrastructure protection.

A copy of the guide can be viewed and/or downloaded at <https://tinyurl.com/jhzmr63b>



Training Video: Your Role in Protecting Privacy, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties



Online First Amendment-protected Event Training for Law Enforcement Personnel

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), in partnership with the Department of Homeland Security, has published online trainings titled "Responding to First Amendment-Protected Events – The Role of State and Local Law Enforcement Officers." This Web site provides training videos to assist law enforcement personnel in understanding their roles and responsibilities as they prepare for, and respond to, First Amendment-protected events; protecting the privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties of persons and groups participating in these events; and reinforcing fundamental concepts learned at law enforcement training academies and during in-service programs. Two training options are available. The first, "Your Role in Protecting Privacy, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties," is an 8:15 minute video which provides users with a certificate of completion. The second, "First Amendment – The Role of Law Enforcement," is a 3:31 minute line officer roll call video, designed for use during roll call and pre-event briefings, featuring an introductory overview of law enforcement's roles and responsibilities at a First Amendment-protected event.

Visit firstamendment.ncirc.gov to view the online training courses.

New Research Better Predicts How Things Burn

A newly released report details research focused on measuring key fire-related properties to better understand not only the properties of the material, but also the difficulty and cost in measuring those properties. This research effectively created a more accurate methodology for predicting how things burn to aid in arson investigations.

In the report, "Determination of Material Property Input Data for Fire Modeling," researcher Brian Lattimer noted that the results, "will not only provide a more standardized approach for material property determination for forensic applications, but also for the general fire protection engineering community." Lattimer, a professor of mechanical engineering at Virginia Tech, and his research team, had five objectives:

1. Measure all the fire-related properties for several different materials, including a plastic polymer (Polymethyl methacrylate), medium density fiberboard, white pine, cardboard, strand board, and glass fiber reinforced vinyl.
2. Identify the properties which most strongly affect simulation results by performing sensitivity analyses on three different pyrolysis models.
3. Formulate tests to quantify model properties through optimization. (Optimization is a numerical method to determine the maximum or minimum value of an equation and is constrained by the need to arrive at a realistic solution.)



4. Design benchmark tests to determine the predictive capabilities of the models.
5. Conduct pyrolysis model benchmarking using the new methodology.

A copy of the report can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/43va7fzm>



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BUSTED!

JAMES L. MCCLINTON, PH.D.

He “can’t get no satisfaction!”...Police officers were dispatched to a disturbance in Naples, Florida, where a 59-year-old man was claiming to be Mick Jagger. The impersonator reportedly jumped on stage at a restaurant where a live performance was going on and declared himself to be the Rolling Stones lead singer. He became belligerent when the patrons didn’t appreciate his performance and had left by the time the officers arrived. They found him in a nearby park where he charged an officer before falling to the ground in a “drunk unstable state.” The phony was charged with battery on a law enforcement officer and disorderly intoxication. (*Detention officers were quick to tell “Jumpin’ Jack Flash, let’s spend the night together!”*)

A tragic case of IDD (Intelligence Deficit Disorder)... I think most would agree that it’s never a good idea to take counterfeit money to the police station, especially if you plan to use it for bail. Still, a couple of geniuses recently went down to the Androscoggin County Jail in Maine, planning to bail out a friend. But, when they presented the cash to jail officials, it was immediately obvious that their bail money was counterfeit. This, of course, resulted in a search of their vehicle which turned up 112 grams of crack cocaine, 165 grams of cocaine, nearly 300 grams of fentanyl, 492 grams of meth, and a 9mm pistol. The nitwits were busted and charged with four counts of Aggravated Trafficking of Scheduled Drugs (Class A) and Violation of Conditional Release (Class E). Oh, and by the way, their friend remained in jail. (*Next time, pay it in Bitcoin!*)

Charged with dangerous operation of a motor vehicle? What about excessive littering?... A woman in Manotick, Ontario, Canada, spotted a frozen river and considered it the perfect opportunity for taking her car for a spin on the icy surface. Several videos emerged showing her speeding on the frozen waterway, sending plumes of snow and ice into the air. But, alas, she hit a spot of thin ice and the car began to slowly sink into the cold water of the river. While any normal person would frantically try to get out of the car and make it to land, she instead climbed onto the back of the car and took several selfies of herself as the vehicle slowly sank. She was eventually pulled to dry land by bystanders who tossed her a

REAL STORIES OF GENUINE ABSURDITY



Who needs K-9s?...

Thanks to the services of a local goat, the Henry County (Virginia) Sheriff’s Office got their man. A captain with the Henry County Sheriff’s Office said it was a goat who helped two deputies flush out the person they were chasing. One deputy was investigating a domestic assault in the Fieldale area. When the deputy explained to the suspect that he was under arrest, the suspect fled on foot. The deputy chased the fleeing person through a fence line and across a field. A goat from the property joined the deputy in the chase. When he and the goat reached the next fence line of the field, the goat continued through the fence in front of the deputy and entered a wooded area. The goat took over the lead in the chase and, together with another deputy, flushed the man out of the woods. The suspect was then taken into custody. (*Ba-a-a-ack the Blue?*)

flotation device. Police charged her with dangerous operation of a motor vehicle. (*I wonder how she planned to post photos from her waterlogged cell phone.*)

This little beauty comes equipped with factory air, an HD music system and a trunk monkey... A woman in British Columbia was shocked when she discovered a naked stranger had been living in the trunk of her car. The Nanaimo resident noticed some mud in the front seat of her car earlier that week. She deduced someone had broken in and spent the night in her vehicle so she cleaned and steamed the upholstery and moved on. However, three days later, she noticed the windows of her car were fogged up. Then, when she was inside the car, she heard a voice say “Hey.” That’s when she discovered the naked man in her trunk and quickly realized something was amiss. She said she’s been driving around with him, running errands and going to work. She called the police right away. RCMP officers responded and said the man has “significant health issues.” (*Used car for sale – cheap.*)

He should have purchased “Get Out of Jail Free” cards from Amazon as well... In Tempe, Arizona, an employee of The Home Depot is facing a federal

charge after authorities said he repeatedly took cash from the store and replaced it with counterfeit currency before depositing it in the bank. A US Secret Service news release said agents from the Phoenix field office arrested the employee at the store. He was responsible for counting cash and preparing it for deposit. He is accused of ordering counterfeit (prop) bills from Amazon, swapping them with money taken from store cash registers and sealing them in bags for transfer to the bank. (*And, you thought that putting a slug into a gumball machine was bad...*)

Their purses didn’t match their shoes... Three Nigerian men were arrested after it was discovered that they were impersonating Arab women. They were allegedly caught by UAE officials who managed to discover that they were indeed not who they claimed to be. It is alleged that the three men went to Dubai in hopes of making a better life for themselves after hearing how the United Arab Emirates was a thriving nation. The men are not expected to get off lightly, as the UAE laws are known to be very strict on criminal activity. (*Then, there was the sudden urge to go shopping and watch the Hallmark Channel.*) **P&SN**

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