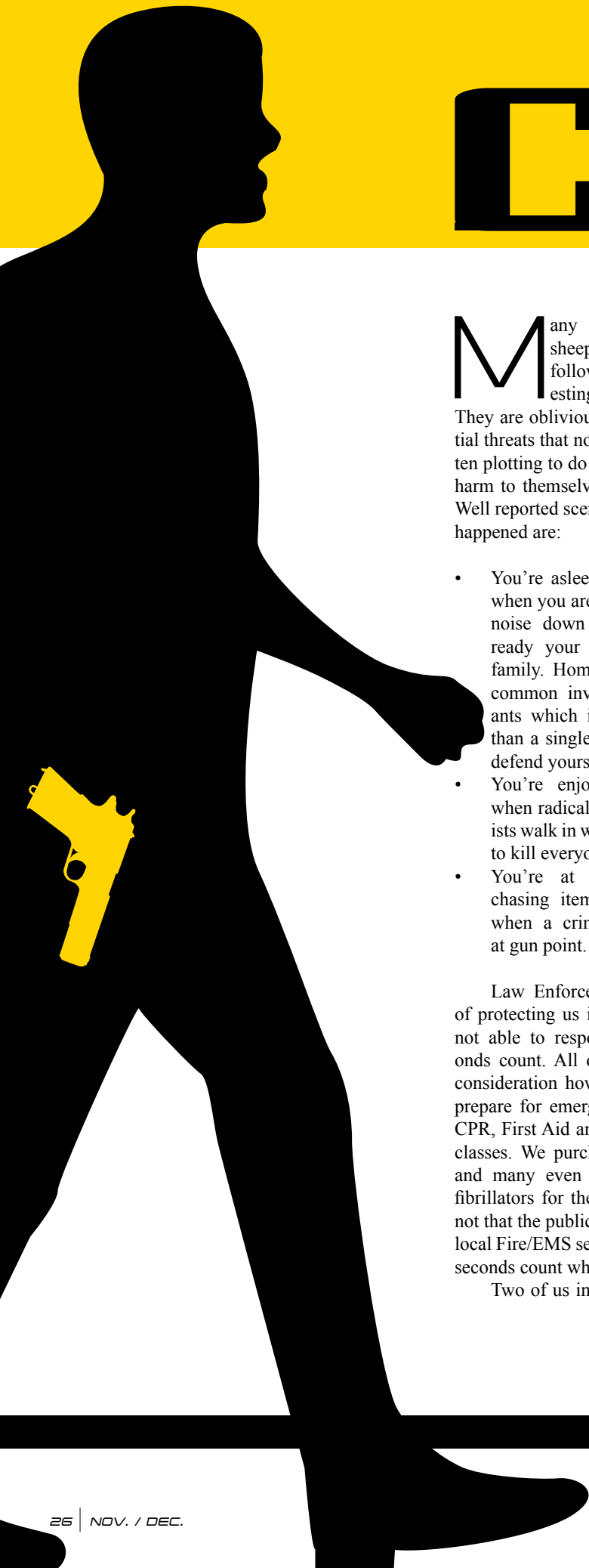


# CCW



Many Californians are like sheep who wander around following whatever is interesting right in front of them. They are oblivious to the real and potential threats that not only could, but are often plotting to do significant or even fatal harm to themselves and those they love. Well reported scenarios that have actually happened are:

- You're asleep soundly in your bed, when you are awakened by a strange noise down the hall. Quietly you ready your firearm to protect the family. Home Invasions are all too common involving multiple assailants which is why you need more than a single ten round magazine to defend yourself.
- You're enjoying a holiday party when radical Islamic inspired terrorists walk in with the means and intent to kill everyone in the room.
- You're at the local store purchasing items for your next meal when a criminal holds the grocer at gun point.

Law Enforcement does a great job of protecting us in general but often are not able to respond quickly when seconds count. All of us have to take into consideration how we have adapted and prepare for emergencies. Today we take CPR, First Aid and disaster preparedness classes. We purchase large first aid kits and many even obtain Automated Defibrillators for their home. The reason is not that the public doesn't believe in their local Fire/EMS services, the reason is that seconds count when you're saving a life.

Two of us in the CRPA offices went

through the process of obtaining a CCW permit in two different counties. Both staffers had previously held CCW permits in other states where they lived and/or worked. This article is to dispel some of the myths and to share normal concerns one has in going through the process.

## **ORANGE COUNTY – SHERIFF SANDRA HUTCHENS**

Many people had told me several tales that it was impossible to obtain a CCW in Orange County. I was going to be denied and it would go on my record. It was going to take 3-4 years. In other words, don't even try.

### **STEP 1:**

I investigated the situation for myself and ignored the blogs, chatter and naysayers. I found a couple of training locations, where if approved by the Sheriff's Department, I would obtain the training required to hold a CCW in my county. The free course offered by Artemis Defense Institute in Lake Forest was informative and laid out an easy to follow set of guidelines.

### **STEP 2:**

I filled out the online initial application ([http://ocsd.org/about/info/services/ccw/initial\\_application](http://ocsd.org/about/info/services/ccw/initial_application))

### **STEP 3:**

I was assigned an appointment with an investigator. I brought all fees, requested materials, obtained my fingerprints (Start ASAP with live scan) and brought them to my appointment.

# PERSPECTIVES

## STEP 4:

My investigator was professional and courteous and asked normal questions and advised me of the process. Let me know that an investigator would visit my house and check into my background. All of which took place over the following two weeks. Considering the number of applicants I was impressed by the timeliness.

## STEP 5:

I was approved and attended my training class and turned in the required paperwork.

## STEP 6:

Met with Department personnel and was issued my CCW.

The biggest issue for me and many others is not with the Orange County Sheriff's Department but with the California Department of Justice who can take over 5 months to approve your live scan required for a CCW in Orange County and others.

## SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY – SHERIFF JOHN MCMAHON

My experience with San Bernardino County was actually simple and I have encouraged many friends and family to take the time to apply with the Sheriff's Office. While it is not an inexpensive process, it was easier than I expected.

## STEP 1:

I visited <http://cms.sbcounty.gov/sheriff/ccwfaq.aspx> which provided me with the initial information, costs, training requirements, and online application. I completed the online application and awaited my interview date. The website does ask that you wait up to two weeks for a confirmation email for scheduling the interview

date and if you live in Redlands, you must apply through the Redlands Police Department. (I was a little anxious and called when I did not hear anything back and they scheduled my interview right away.)

## STEP 2:

I was assigned an interview appointment with a deputy and was informed to bring the items needed for the application with me. I also had to have a cashier's check for a portion of the fees at this point. I was asked various questions about why I wanted a CCW, are there any issues with abusing my spouse, do I have a history of violence or drug abuse and the deputy went through the entire online application with me. I was then walked down the hall to have my fingerprints processed and a photo taken.

## STEP 3:

The background check had to be performed before I was approved to attend the class and range time. I waited for about 90 days and called back. Everything was ready and they scheduled me for the class and range time. There are only two ranges where you can take an approved CCW class. It was a little inconvenient for me, but I went anyway. Because San Bernardino County is so large, they could use more locations, but the class was completely full and we were all glad to be there.

## STEP 4:

The classroom training is a full day so be prepared and bring your lunch. (Make sure to bring your next portion of the payments due on class day!) The instructor was very informative and was very positive in his role of making sure that more citizens have the ability to defend themselves and their families. The Sheriff in San Bernardino truly supports the Second

Amendment and the right of the people to bear arms- which is refreshing. There was no written test at the end of the day, but a lot of great information.

## STEP 5:

Next we moved to the range time. You need to have each firearm that you want on your CCW there so you can pass the test for each firearm. We were called out in groups onto the range and asked to hit our targets within a specific range and area. Safety was key and the range officers made sure that everyone was capable and proficient in the handling of their firearm before final approval was given.

## STEP 6:

Waiting. Waiting is always the most difficult part. After about two weeks I called the Sheriff's Department and my CCW was ready for pick up. Again, don't forget your final part of the payment when you pick up the license.

Having a CCW is like having any other tool for an emergency. You train on how to use it, you run scenarios on what you would do if confronted with a situation requiring its use. You understand your responsibility with that tool and hope just like you do with a defibrillator that it never has to be used. You remain confident that you are prepared in the event it does. CRPA understands that not all counties are this organized and supportive of citizens obtaining a CCW, however we are working with law makers and elected officials to make these processes smoother and more transparent. It is important that if you want to obtain your CCW, that you do not let a difficult or complex process deter you from moving forward. Self-defense is one of the most basic individual rights and one that we should all be able to participate in if we choose.