

Refuse To Be A Victim.®

Quarterly Newsletter Fall 2024

Upcoming RTBAV Seminar and Instructor Development Workshop At the Sig Sauer Experience Center in Epping, New Hampshire

We are excited to announce that Ed O'Carroll, RTBAV Regional Counselor and a central figure in the ongoing re-write of all program materials, is conducting an RTBAV Seminar and Instructor Development Workshop at the Sig Sauer Experience Center in Epping, New Hampshire in March 2025! Ed worked closely with the staff and management at Sig Sauer to ensure attendees get not only an excellent RTBAV seminar but also the full experience offered by the state-of-the-art facility. Pre-registration will open soon on nrainstructors.org and seats could be limited so be on the lookout for announcements in the future about this event.



The logo for Sig Sauer, featuring the words 'SIG SAUER' in a bold, italicized, sans-serif font. The letters are black with a white outline and a slight 3D effect.

Keep in mind that a content update of this scale takes time.

We are expecting a release date no earlier than next year.

Continue to order the current materials
until notified that updated materials are available.

Order your seminar materials three to four weeks ahead of
your event to ensure they arrive in time!

[NRA Program Materials Center](#)



Get To Know The Instructors T.J. Johnston, California

T.J. Johnston first became an NRA Certified Firearms Instructor in 1986. He was an early supporter and champion of the Refuse To Be A Victim program and hosted his first class in 2010. As an NRA Board Member, he was there when the program was first introduced to the Board and pushed for it to be included in the offerings of the Women's Issues Department.

He finds the lessons taught in Refuse To Be A Victim to be valuable in various situations and calls it teaching the concept of "street awareness". T.J.'s favorite thing about this program is that we are making people aware that the individual is responsible for "hardening the target", which is a phrase used to describe making oneself more difficult for a criminal to target and victimize.



According to T.J., the most touching moments in his classes are when attendees feel comfortable enough in his class environment to share their personal victimization stories. These first-hand stories help others realize that it can happen to anyone. So, the classroom becoming a safe space for sharing is invaluable.

T.J. has a long history with RTBAV. He continues to teach seminars and Instructor Development Workshops, as well as many other NRA courses, as the chief instructor at [All Safe Defense Systems](#) in Orange, California.

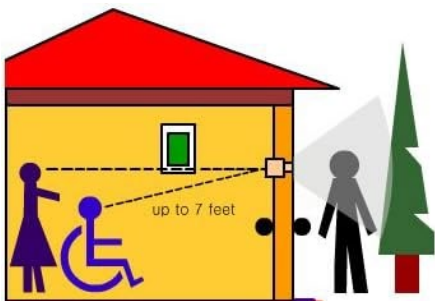


Door Scope – Wide Angle Screen Door Viewer

We are all familiar with the traditional peephole found in most doors. It's a small eyepiece that shows a narrow view of the outside when you put your face right up to the door to look through it. It's great to be able to see who or what is out there, but the image isn't always clear, it leaves large blind spots that you can't see, and you are physically right up against the door. It doesn't leave you feeling the safest looking out.



Most people believe the only other options are high-tech security cameras or doorbell cameras. However, there is another low-tech option similar to the traditional peephole, but with a couple of upgrades. This is the Door Scope wide-angle screen door viewer. It gives a better view of the outside with fewer blind spots, and you can see clearly while still up to 6 or 7 feet away from the door itself. It's a little more expensive than a traditional peephole with prices on Amazon.com for the Door Scope brand start around \$50, but other brand options are available that start around \$18.



This is a great option to consider if you want to improve your security and viewing without jumping into the high-tech options.

Keep Your Presentation Up-To-Date and Relevant

As an instructor, it is always valuable to do your own research on crime statistics, examples, and tips. National, state, or local information will help solidify the information for your attendees.

[Federal Bureau of Investigation: Crime Data Explorer \(cjis.gov\)](https://www.fbi.gov/crime-data-explorer)

[2023 Crime Rates in U.S. Cities Report | SafeHome.org](https://www.safehome.org/2023-crime-rates-in-u-s-cities-report)

[Crime | Bureau of Justice Statistics \(ojp.gov\)](https://www.ojp.gov/crime)

[Home & Neighborhood Safety - National Crime Prevention Council \(ncpc.org\)](https://www.ncpc.org/home-neighborhood-safety)



Be Smart Keep Yourself and Your Home Safe First

Statistically the most common time for a burglary is between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Those are the hours when most people's homes are unoccupied. A criminal would much rather enter a home and not have to contend with the homeowner.

This being said, a frightening trend has been developing in recent years. Criminals pose as someone most people will answer the door for such as utility workers, postal workers, package delivery services, and sometimes even someone "in distress". Once the homeowner opens the door, they force their way in or continue the ruse until they can incapacitate the homeowner.

Your first line of defense is the door itself. You want to make sure that it is solid with a functioning lock. You should keep your door locked at all times, even when you are home. You should also have a way to see who is at the door without having to open it.

See the previous article for an excellent lower-tech option, but there are high-tech solutions as well. Doorbell cameras give you a good view of who is outside your door, and some even allow you to speak to them through the doorbell. You can also have standard security cameras on your porch which give you a good angle of your door and porch.

You should always speak an unknown visitor through the door until you can determine their reason for knocking. A person in distress may ask to use your phone. Offer to call the police or tow service for them. Do not open the door or allow them in the house. A true utility worker should have proper identification they can show. Most of the time they will call ahead for an appointment with you. Delivery people can leave the package, or you can call to schedule another time with their main office if it needs a signature.

Last, you should never admit you are home alone. It's ok to call out to a husband, boyfriend, brother/sister, parent or friend who isn't really there. This gives the impression that someone else is in the home with you. It's always safer to assume that someone may be a risk to you.

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We want to know what you want to see in this newsletter! Please send us an email with your suggestions and ideas.

refuse@nrahq.org