



**OFFICER**  
**MEDIA GROUP**  
OFFICER.COM OFFICER

**OFF-DUTY  
SURVIVAL  
PROTOCOLS**

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- ▶ We are off-duty far more hours than we are on-duty
- ▶ Our oath of office doesn't specify on-duty or off-duty.
- ▶ When we are off-duty we should embrace being off-duty. Don't be looking for work.
  - ▶ Let the on-duty officers handle and manage calls.
  - ▶ Don't interfere or inject yourself into a situation UNLESS NEEDED.

**BASICS**

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- ▶ Bad things can and do happen to good people.
- ▶ Bad things happen when you least expect it.
- ▶ You better be ready; physically, mentally, armed and skilled when bad things happen.

**KEVIN DAVIS' RULES**

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- ▶ YES – if you're in your jurisdiction
- ▶ YES – if you're going to be someplace where you might run into a known criminal or someone you've arrested
- ▶ YES – if your agency General Orders or Standard Operating Procedures require it
- ▶ YES – if it's legal and you want to
- ▶ NO – if you can't maintain control of your weapon
  - ▶ OR if you cannot store it safely/securely

**SHOULD YOU CARRY OFF-DUTY?**

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- ▶ Arm yourself sufficiently.
- ▶ Dependent on circumstance there IS such a thing as "too little" gun.
- ▶ The best gun to carry off-duty is the one you have ON YOU when you need it.
- ▶ Gun must be in a secure holster
  - ▶ Kydex molded holsters are very popular, especially for IWB carry. Are they sufficiently secure for a fight or chase?

**WHAT TO CARRY OFF-DUTY?**

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- ▶ If possible, it's advisable to carry other than lethal force.
  - ▶ OC spray
  - ▶ Axon TASER C2 / other ECD
  - ▶ Collapsible / concealable baton
- ▶ Handcuffs?
  - ▶ Is detention without handcuffing possible and safe?
  - ▶ Would you take off-duty action if full-process arrest was required as a result?

**WHAT TO CARRY OFF-DUTY?**

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- ▶ We are more likely to come across someone in need of medical / first-aid assistance than a lethal force encounter.
- ▶ Having a few trauma / first-aid supplies at hand, or reasonably available, helps us to Protect & Serve.
  - ▶ Gloves (protect yourself first)
  - ▶ Tourniquet(s)
  - ▶ Hemostatic gauze (QuikClot, etc)
  - ▶ Pressure Bandage(s)
  - ▶ Sterile Wipes / Disinfecting agent
  - ▶ Adhesive Bandages



IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT LETHAL FORCE

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- ▶ Avoid going to risky places.
- ▶ Have a mental plan for what you will do in various circumstances.
  - ▶ Play the "what if" game during slow time on patrol.
- ▶ Have a plan with your family.
  - ▶ Your spouse and older children should all know your plan.
  - ▶ They should know what they should do.
  - ▶ They should know what to communicate to emergency personnel.
  - ▶ Have a plan for a reunion after the fact.



PLANNING & OUTLOOK

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- ▶ When you're off-duty, do you still look "coppish"?
- ▶ Prominently display badge in an emergency and BEFORE taking any police action
  - ▶ Clipped on belt may be insufficient
  - ▶ Remember your badge can't be seen from the back
- ▶ Family members should know, and be able, to describe you / your clothing to emergency personnel.



IDENTIFICATION IS MANDATORY

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- ▶ Often it's best to simply be a good witness.
  - ▶ If family is with you and there's no way to separate them from the incident.
  - ▶ If you are not properly equipped to handle the situation at hand.
  - ▶ If involving yourself might increase risk to other officers or to bystanders.

BEST OPTIONS?

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