

SPY + SURVIVAL BRIEFING

LIFESAVING STRATEGIES FROM FORMER CIA AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS PERSONNEL

UPGRADING YOUR HOME FIREARMS ARSENAL

Incorporate Full-Autos in Your Defense Plan?

By Jason Hanson

Former CIA Officer

When you think about the Tommy Gun, you picture bootlegging gangsters from the 1920s and 30s. But the Thompson submachine gun was designed for the battlefield. After it gained popularity from gangsters and soldiers in World War II it became an iconic gun. In fact, *Time Magazine* once called the Tommy Gun "The deadliest weapon, pound for pound, ever devised by man."

The man behind the Tommy Gun was Brigadier General John Thompson. He was a West Point grad. He rose through the ranks and became Chief of the Ordnance Department's Small Arms Division. In 1914, Thompson retired from the military. He became the chief design engineer at Remington Arms Company. When World War I started, Thompson



believed that U.S. troops needed more firepower to win the war. He was called back to service and continued fine-tuning his idea of a gun.

By 1921, Thompson had refined the submachine gun to the point it was ready to sell to civilians. Because of the machine gun's high rate of fire and large magazine capacity, it became the weapon of choice for lawmen and gangsters. Tommy Guns were used in the infamous St. Valentine's Day massacre. During this mob hit, 70 rounds were fired into seven members of the Moran gang. The gun became the favorite weapon of John Dillinger, Baby Face Nelson and other Depression-era gangsters.

What a lot of people don't know is that the Tommy Gun became one of the first weapons subject to the 1934 National Firearms Act. This curbed the use of fully-automatic weapons by civilians. However, the U.S. military adopted the Thompson submachine gun in 1938. General Thompson's dream of equipping U.S. troops with a gun capable of delivering devastating power was achieved. His weapon went on to be used in Korea and Vietnam before it was retired from the military.

The Tommy Gun can fire 50 rounds of .45 with the pull of a trigger. It is a deadly gun that gained massive popularity among civilians.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- 3 Gold and Silver Predictions For 2021
- 4 Keeping Your Firearms Out Of The Grip Of A Tyrannical Government
- 6 Wound Management At Home Or In The Field
- 7 Time to Shore Up Your Oft-Neglected Planning



Yet, these days it is more difficult to own a full auto weapon since you have to apply for a federal tax stamp. But, would you ever want to own a full automatic weapon for home defense?

One of the biggest reasons people want fully automatic weapons is protection against mobs and riots. The idea is that if you're outnumbered you obviously want the ability to shoot as many rounds as possible. In this scenario, there is no doubt that a full-auto would be effective.

But, the problem with full-autos is it's too easy to break a crucial firearms rule. One of the four rules of firearm safety is to always know your backstop. Well, when shooting a full-auto, you may be less able to assess each shot and know what is behind your threat. That's because prolonged full-auto firing can create some un-aimed shots. Obviously, since shots fire one after another in full-auto, there is muzzle rise and barrel-drift affecting shots. And often, only the first shot is accurately aimed.

This is acceptable in battle, because the purpose of full-auto is to put a lot of rounds on the target and it's used extensively as suppressive fire to stop the enemy from advancing, which is a great strategy for the battlefield. But in a home defense situation, you're responsible for every round that leaves the barrel of your gun, so you want to take precise shots.

Now, it's true that in 2020 we saw that it's possible to have a complete breakdown of society in small pockets. So, if you have the means to

legally own a full-auto weapon, I wouldn't hesitate to buy one (if nothing else, they're a blast to shoot at the range).

But, when it comes to home defense, you want to stop the threat with precision shots, not by sending hundreds of rounds whizzing by. And most home invasions involve only a handful of intruders — not mobs. So, my advice is not to go full-auto for home defense, but just to use a shotgun, AR-15 or pistol, whatever works the best for you.

"You're responsible for every round that leaves the barrel of your gun."

SureFire 60 Round AR-15 Magazine

One of the many reasons the AR-15 is so popular is because it can hold 30 rounds for home or self-defense. But, if that isn't enough, SureFire sells a 60-round high-capacity magazine for 5.56x45 mm (.223 Remington) ammunition.

The SureFire 60 round magazine is compatible with all M-16 and AR-15 variants.

This magazine is made from Mil-Spec hard-anodized aluminum. The magazine springs are cadmium coated to reduce friction and corrosion and the magazine doesn't need any lubrication and comes apart without tools. So, it's easy to disassemble, clean and reassemble without tools.

The biggest advantage to a 60-round magazine is the firepower you can deliver without reloading. This means you can stay in the firefight longer. The magazine weighs only 2.02 pounds fully loaded. It is 8.7 inches long and about 1.66 inches wide. It's only 1.75 inches longer than a 30-round mag, but twice as thick.

Many high-capacity magazines have issues with dependability. But SureFire has done things right and their 60-round magazine works well. It sells for about \$130 new and it's worth the price if you want a reliable way to have a ton of ammo for a worst-case scenario.

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GOLD AND SILVER PREDICTIONS FOR 2021

How Metals Performed Last Year and Where They're Headed

By Forest Hamilton
Universal Coin & Bullion

My close friend and mentor Mike Fuljenz, America's Gold Expert, has made a career out of predicting the market bulls and bears. But last year, Mike was way off. In fact, his 2020 predictions for gold and silver turned out to be too conservative.

Way back in July 2019, when silver was barely \$15, he "boldly" predicted \$18 silver by year's end and \$20 silver in 2020. Well, we reached \$18 silver three months later and \$20 silver by July of 2020. Then silver rose to nearly \$30 in August 2020.

As for gold, he predicted in January 2019 that gold would reach \$1,800 to \$2,000 in 2020, but he was a little too cautious there too. He also predicted gold would peak at \$1,800 if Donald Trump won re-election, but he said the only chance gold would reach \$2,000

was if a socialist Democrat like Bernie Sanders or Elizabeth Warren won in November. As it turned out, gold peaked at \$2,070 in August, when the election was still 11 weeks away, with "moderate" Joe Biden the Democratic candidate.

Of course, Mike had no way of forecasting that the COVID-19 pandemic would supercharge deficit spending. He based his prediction on the ongoing impeachment process, past election year trends and rising global tensions. In hindsight, the printing of way too many trillions of new dollars in response to the COVID pandemic was the primary engine that pushed gold prices above \$2,000.

So, what about 2021? Analysts at Citibank see gold rising to \$2,200 in the short-term and then rising to \$2,400 within six to 12 months. This marks an increase from their early July forecast of a 2021 high of \$2,275, made shortly before gold ascended to its recent record high of \$2,076. A move to \$2,200 within three months would be an 18% gain and a rise to \$2,400 is a gain of 28.7%.

Citigroup analysts maintain a \$40 price target on silver over the next 12 months due to investors seeking safety and an increase in industrial demand. Citi also sees 12% growth in 2021 for silver demand in traditional consumer segments like silverware and jewelry.

Mike's predictions are \$2,350 gold and \$32 silver early this year. But could he be being too conservative again? That is quite possible. There is no way Congress and the new Biden administration will lower deficit spending in 2021. COVID will not magically disappear with a vaccine that doesn't really cure

the disease. Nor will the many geopolitical threats suddenly solve themselves. At this point, the only certainty is uncertainty and gold and silver have always done well in times of uncertainty.

For gold, he is predicting a slightly lower range than Citibank of somewhere between \$2,200 and \$2,350, but he doesn't think gold can reach \$2,200 within three months like Citibank does. He is thinking it will take six months to reach \$2,200 and a more likely peak price would be \$2,350 in the second half of 2021.

Silver often acts like "gold on steroids" during a bull market move, so Mike thinks it can exceed \$30 with a 30% gain to \$32 per ounce based on rising industrial use in solar panels and rising investment demand.

Now is not the time to sell any of your precious metals or rare coins you have stockpiled over the years. I recommend you hold all of your hard assets and even recommend strongly that you acquire more for times just like these when metals will become more valuable as most major currencies "race to the bottom" in value. All major global central banks are offering zero or near-zero returns on cash and are massively infusing their balance sheets with new paper money.

[Publisher's Note: For questions about buying gold and silver coins you can contact Forest Hamilton directly at foresthamilton@universalcoin.com or call 800-822-4653. Please know, if you purchase any coins from Forest, we don't receive any compensation from him. We simply know he's one of the good guys in the business that can be trusted.]



SAVINT YOUR MONTHLY SAVINGS INTELLIGENCE

This month, you'll want to grab our incredibly popular DVD that shows you the three types of gear bags that intelligence operatives rely on. The time is now to make sure all your gear and bags are prepped and ready to go and this DVD will tell you exactly what to do. You can get the DVD for free when you cover S&H at www.FreeSpyDVD.com.

KEEPING YOUR FIREARMS OUT OF THE GRIP OF A TYRANNICAL GOVERNMENT

How I Hide My Guns

By Michael D.

Former Clandestine Officer, CIA, DIA, NSA

Friend, I know what you might be feeling right now. The thought of it actually being illegal to own or possess a firearm is disorienting, disgusting and disenfranchising. Almost every American has enjoyed their God-given rights to protect themselves and their loved ones from criminals and from tyrannical government since we demanded our independence from the oppressive and corrupt British Monarchy.

That has just changed. The Biden administration has sworn to confiscate firearms that they deem a threat to their impending tyrannical control and Martial Law. The very notion that they are going to conduct a nationwide gun “buy back” reveals the power they believe they have over you. You see, they think they allowed you to have your guns in the first place and now they want them back.

And what will they do with the millions of confiscated firearms, large capacity magazines, bump stocks, suppressors, “excess or hoarded” ammunition, and anything else they consider a threat to their regime? They’ll arm the foot soldiers who’ve helped them win the White House by burning, looting, assaulting and killing true Americans.

Unfortunately, I know all too well the feeling of being in places rife with uncivil unrest. Places where riots, assaults, rape and murder happen daily, yet knowing that if you get caught with a firearm you will be punished far more severely than the criminals perpetrating those crimes. The only upside I can offer you are some skills, tactics, and close-held methods for concealing a firearm. Not just from the public, but from security forces.

These are some of the ways that I carried firearms and other self-defense tools while operating undercover in dystopian places where the

local authorities not only sympathize with gangs and thugs, but are often teammates with them. As a clandestine operative, I conducted high-risk missions in countries that were not just hostile to America, but to their own citizens. Buying, owning, using or even knowing anyone who had access to a firearm was prohibited and there was devastating punishment and, in some cases, execution.

Did that mean that no one had firearms? Of course not. Anyone with a shred of wisdom did everything they could to procure, protect and conceal their firearms from the government’s security apparatus. It was highly dangerous. But it was far less dangerous than being the only one in a firefight without a gun.

Sadly, in my personal experience, I’ve witnessed that the majority of people refuse to use wisdom. And, I got to know very many good, honest, law-abiding people in several different countries who obliged the early demands of a new regime’s security forces to surrender all of their rifles. That included hunting guns, shotguns and even small caliber pest control guns.

Next, the security forces started rounding up all handguns, all ammunition, all scopes and everything else associated with firearms. They explained it was necessary to do so because many criminals had not turned in their guns and the government could not protect its law-abiding citizens from these wanton criminals.

The people were told that these vicious criminals were stealing anything they could use to commit crimes. Therefore, everyone



had to give up their guns and ammunition to the government for safe keeping. Citizens were assured that it was the only way to protect them. But after the roundup, news reports about corrupt security forces stealing, assaulting, kidnapping and even raping citizens began to slip through the government's propaganda systems.

Soon stories began swirling about security forces being ambushed along quiet stretches of roads as they left bars or as they went out about their personal business. Instead of guns, security personnel were attacked with machetes, lead pipes, heavy chains and homemade incendiary devices. Once-law-abiding citizens had, against their will, been transformed into vigilantes to prevent further abuses of their people, property and freedoms. Of course, the citizens would have far preferred going to work each day, and enjoying the company of their friends and loved ones. But that time had come to an end. They gave up their guns and freedoms and now they were forced to fight for them back.

Don't make the mistake of waiting until you have little or no chance of prevailing in a battle to protect yourself or your family. Here are the steps you can take right now to secure your rights and freedoms:

First, learn to disassemble every one of your firearms. Go online and find the field strip disassembly instructions for each of your firearms (most have a series of photographs to help you identify every part and give you the names of every part). Print at least one copy of the entire set of instructions and photographs. Next, disassemble your firearms, placing small components together and labeling them as well as marking what firearm they belong to.

Keep close track of all of the components and put them in mylar, vacuumed and heat-sealed

pouches or waterproof freezer-grade "Ziploc"-like bags that can be sealed against water infiltration. I like to add a copy of the portion of the photographs and instructions for assembly/disassembly. It makes it easy for my spouse, children or trusted friends to be able to re-assemble a firearm with which they are not familiar. Then label each protective bag with the exact parts and part names and the firearm to which they belong.

"I have a 12-round magazine for my Taurus G2c concealed in a Betty Crocker cake-frosting tub."

For long guns, you can place the barrels in a 4" PVC pipe, cut to length, and fitted with water tight, easily removable end caps. When you are finished with this process, you should have several freezer-grade Ziploc bags properly labeled with the name of the firearm and a description of the parts in the bag (trigger assembly, slide, frame, etc.). And for the long guns, you will have the PVC pipes labeled as well.

Now, this next step takes a little creativity, ingenuity and planning. Find some place in your home, office, garage, yard, shop, etc. to conceal all of these bags and PVC. For instance, I have a 12-round magazine for my Taurus G2c concealed in a Betty Crocker cake-frosting tub. I scooped out all of the frosting, inserted my waterproof encased magazine and then filled the frosting back into the tub. It's hard to tell the weight difference. I chose to use a lemon tub of frosting because it is unlikely that I will accidentally reach for that for my cakes. For my AR-15 barrel, I put it in a 4" PVC tube and stuck it to the back of my water heater.

Imagine if you were searching someone's home for guns. Would you look in the wet soil of a potted plant that is only five inches deep and three inches in diameter? There is no way a handgun is go-

ing to fit in there, and even if it did, who would store a gun in the mud? Anyone searching for your guns will likely be looking for some place that might conceal a gun. But they are not likely to search places too small, too wet and dirty or too

inaccessible to conceal a firearm. That's why, in addition to hiding guns, we also hide pieces of guns in places guns could not or would not, be hidden.

As you start thinking like a spy who has to hide things, you will start to discover places and opportunities to conceal your guns from people who are intent on depriving you of them. Then, once you've decided where you will conceal each bag, list it on a sheet of paper (use code words to describe things so only you know it) and store it wherever you keep your vital documents.

I have already done this for each firearm I own. I have all of my bags labeled and they have their portion of re-assembly instructions and photos in them. And I have my master list of locations already prepared. I am not going to disassemble and hide my firearms by parts yet. But I am fully prepared to do so at a moment's notice. And since I have everything planned and laid out, I can disassemble my firearms, place the components in the pre-labeled bags and hide them in just minutes.

The bottom line is, we can never just passively give up our freedoms. We must continue to fight for our God-given and Constitutional liberties. And while I hope it doesn't come to it, you can use these methods to keep your guns out of the hands of tyrants and those who would rob you of your rights.

WOUND MANAGEMENT AT HOME OR IN THE FIELD

How to Properly Treat Cuts, Punctures, Abrasions and Contusions

By Dr. Omar Hamada
Special Operations Physician

Last month, we discussed various types of skin injuries: puncture wounds, abrasions, contusions, avulsions and lacerations. We briefly discussed how to manage them, but let's delve into that further. Puncture wounds, abrasions and contusions are usually managed rather conservatively, rarely needing actual repair beyond basic bandaging. On the other hand, many avulsions and lacerations need more specialized repair to control bleeding, minimize infection risk and promote wound healing.

Avulsions are caused by shearing or tearing forces on the skin that cause it to rip open. Because of this, avulsions are usually jagged, uneven and asymmetrical, and can be difficult to repair, so they often leave a rather telling scar. They also have a tendency, if deep, to be dirty and have foreign materials imbedded in the soft tissues underlying the skin that can make cleaning the wound out difficult.

A laceration, on the other hand, is a clean cut of the skin caused by a sharp object like a knife, nail, saw, scalpel, etc. Lacerations tend to be less contaminated, though it can still be "dirty". The objective of wound closure is several-fold. The goals are to stop the bleeding, reduce the chance for infection and promote wound healing. To do this, we work to bring the wound edges back together to minimize dead space that can get infected or inhibit the healing process.

If there isn't much bleeding or if the wound was contaminated, we can loosely close the wound. But if the bleeding is more difficult to control or if the wound overlies a



joint or another area that will be exposed to pulling forces as it heals, we may want a tighter repair. We close avulsions and lacerations in pretty much the same way — by using sutures to pull the edges closer together as we close the dead space between the torn or cut edges.

The first thing is to make sure the wound is clean. Let it bleed a little to "flush it out" and then use copious amounts of running water to rinse out the wound. You may consider using a product that also kills bacteria such as Betadine, chlorhexidine, hydrogen peroxide (don't use a lot as this also kills healthy tissue) or Bactine.

You probably want to stay away from alcohol as well, as that will burn. You may have older products in your medicine cabinet like mercurochrome — these are fine to use as well. I've even heard of people using things like kerosene and turpentine (I wouldn't recommend that, though some swear by it).

If the wound is superficial with little bleeding and little tension on the edges, we can use something as simple as SteriStrips or a bandage to pull the edges together or we can use superglue to hold the edges together. Remember, superglue will bond with whatever it touches — even skin. So, be careful and only apply it to what you want to cover or bond together. Pull the wound edges together and apply superglue

over (not into) the wound edges a little at a time and allow it to dry enough that you can move on to the next section of the wound. The glue will serve as a bandage and will naturally come off on its own in about a week. If you need to remove it sooner, you can use nail polish remover or acetone.

If a wound is very contaminated and you cannot assure it's clean even after rinsing, you should leave it open, but pack it with clean wet gauze and wrap it with another bandage until you can get professional medical attention. If you are unable to get to medical care, change the packing twice daily, watch for infection and let it heal itself closed. This will take longer, but works fine.

As a matter of fact, as surgeons, we do this all the time with dirty abdominal wounds. If there are signs of infection like pus, odor, fever, angry redness or tenderness, take an antibiotic like penicillin, sulfa, or a cephalosporin like Keflex.

If a clean wound is gaping, bleeding, or is more than glue can handle, suturing is needed. The body is quite amazing, all you have to do is get the edges together and it will heal itself without much attention. There are various considerations and types of suture materials and techniques. We'll cover these next time. But for now, make sure you've got super glue or SteriStrips and plenty of bandages in your home.

TIME TO SHORE UP YOUR OFT-NEGLECTED PLANNING

How to Prevent and Survive Snakebites

By EJ Snyder

Former Army Ranger and Extreme Survivalist

I realize we're in the middle of winter, but remember, it is vital to prepare for situations well in advance of you ever facing them. I remember during my time as a Ranger Instructor in the Florida swamp of the US Army's Ranger School, how we would put the Ranger students on graded patrols in the waist deep swamp water and force them to operate in the thick vegetation surrounding it.

There was a massive snake threat in the area. Everything from Water Moccasins to Copperheads to Pigmy Rattlers to Timber Rattlers to Eastern Diamond Backs and Coral Snakes. They were everywhere and you had to be on constant lookout for them.

We had an actual snake house in camp that housed live specimens of all the kinds of snakes in the area. I went there often to receive training in snake handling. I was glad for the knowledge on these reptiles and am grateful to say I never had a seriously bad snake incident in my three years on duty there.

Plus, I was able to take my snake knowledge with me into my wilderness adventures and that knowledge has kept me safe in the wild. It has also allowed me to hunt and handle these creatures in survival situations and I have munched on many during my outings (and they are actually better than chicken in my book).

So, here is what you need to know: While nearly 8,000 people are bit by venomous snakes each year, there are usually no more than eight deaths. But that doesn't mean a snake bite isn't something to



worry about. If you are bitten by a venomous snake and not treated quickly, the venom can be deadly.

But even a bite from a so-called "harmless" snake can cause infection or allergic reaction. Snakes like constrictor types have curved back teeth to hold onto their prey and usually are full of bacteria and other germs. You should perform a thorough area study on the wildlife in the area you may be camping, hiking, hunting, or fishing. By understanding exactly what types of snakes will be there, it can let you know the threat they pose and help you avoid them.

The best way to not get bit is to clearly avoid the snakes. Do not bother, pester or provoke snakes. Do not play with them or attempt to pick a snake up unless you are a trained professional. Remember, you are in their territory. If a snake bites a human, it is almost always defensive in nature and will likely only leave enough venom behind to cause illness.

Another good idea if you are camping or you will be in an area for

an extended time, is to get some commercial snake repellents to put down. You can also sprinkle essential oils like cinnamon and clove around the area to deter snakes because they don't like the smell. There are also some DIY repellent solutions like ammonia, human hair and vinegar.

If you stumble on a snake, you can usually identify venomous from nonvenomous snakes with this general rule: Venomous snakes usually have distinctive triangular shaped heads and cat type eyes (elliptical pupils). Nonvenomous snakes have more oval shaped heads and rounded eyes. Just remember, this is a general rule and there are some exceptions to it.

There is also the simple rule for Coral Snakes that goes "Red and yellow will kill a fellow, while red and black is a friend of Jack." There are exceptions to the rule, but they mostly apply south of the equator.

Another simple rule of thumb is: if you hear rattling, it almost always means a rattlesnake is near. Some snakes mimic the sound to keep



intruders at bay, but there's no reason to roll the dice. So, when you hear the distinct rattle sound, freeze in your tracks, remain calm and scan the area to identify where the sound is coming from.

Once you see the rattlesnake, slowly step away from it. Remember, the snake is just warning you that it is there and wants nothing to do with you. Let the snake slip away or walk well around it. But keep in mind that rattlesnakes can strike from a distance of half their body length, so don't linger too close.

When scrambling up rocky trails, watch where you put your hands, especially on sunny ledges. And avoid hiking in areas where snakes are known to be. Stay out of tall grass and on the trail as much as possible. If you must invade snake territory, wear long pants, ankle-high boots or even snake-proof gaiters.

Also, be careful when stepping in areas where snakes could be hiding, such as under rocks or logs. If you are entering an area where you cannot see your feet, kick ahead of you to give snakes enough warning and time to slither away. Always keep your hands and feet out of areas where you are unable to see them. And be careful around rocks or while picking up firewood.

All snakes will attack if they feel threatened or surprised, but only a handful are actually venomous. This list of venomous snakes in-

cludes Rattlesnakes, Cobras, Copperheads, Coral Snakes, Cottonmouths and Water Moccasins. But your best bet is to treat every snake as dangerous — venomous or not — and to treat every bite seriously.

If you do happen to get bitten or a loved one does, here's a simple first aid procedure to follow: Keep the snake bite victim calm, still and quiet. Restrict movement and keep the affected area at or below heart level to reduce the flow of venom. Remove any rings or constricting items and clothing as the affected area may swell. Allow the bite to bleed freely for 15 – 30 seconds before cleansing. Create a loose splint to help restrict movement.

Contact medical help as soon as possible. If treated correctly, many bite victims will not have serious injuries. However, medical support needs to know the correct anti-venom to use, as this is the only treatment. Attempt to identify the snake or remember its appearance in order to let the hospital or poison control know what type of anti-venom is needed.

Evacuate the victim immediately by hiking to a car, a helicopter or medical staff. Monitor the person's vital signs if possible and watch for any signs of shock, since the fear of having been bitten is often more dangerous than the bite.

Don't allow the victim to engage in strenuous physical activity.

If necessary, carry the person to safety. Don't apply a tourniquet. Concentrated venom will rapidly destroy cells. Allowing it to spread will dilute the toxin and reduce tissue damage. Don't apply a cold pack. Cold reduces healthy circulation to the infected area. Also, some experts believe snake venom increases vulnerability to frostbite. Don't apply a suction device. This is no longer considered safe treatment. These devices generally do not remove a substantial amount of toxin and can damage sensitive tissue.

Don't let the snakebite victim eat or drink anything, including medication and alcohol, unless okayed by medical staff. Don't cut across the bite marks and attempt oral suction. Because snake fangs are curved, the pocket of venom will not be where expected and will probably have already spread. Plus, some snakebites are "dry," with no toxin released into the victim. And this may increase the risk of infection in the open wound.

When on a location scout for the TV Show "Naked and Afraid: Jungle Curse" in Belize, TV Producer Steve Rankin was bitten by a Fer De Lance, a very deadly venomous snake. If you do not get medical attention within 2 to 4 hours of a Fer De Lance bite, you will surely perish. If it wasn't for the swift actions of the crew, Steve may not have made it out alive. Miraculously, his foot was saved and he was able to walk again after months of therapy.

Snakes are nothing to take lightly and should be avoided when you are out in the wilderness, unless you are in a dire survival situation. Avoiding these creatures starts with knowledge and understanding, and hopefully with the information provided here, you will be better prepared for your next outing when things warm up.