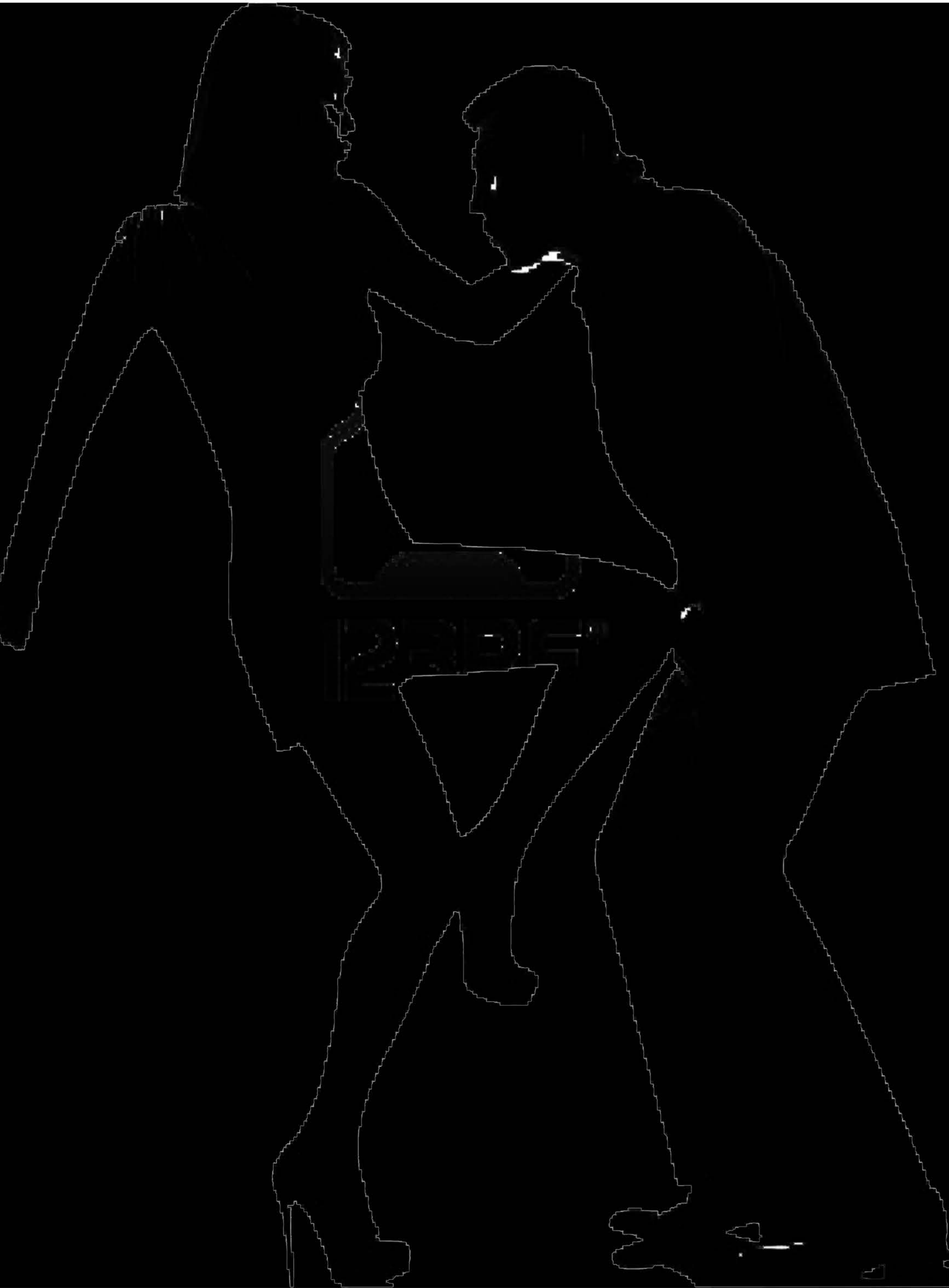


5 Self-Defense Response Strategies For Multiple Attackers



**Five Self-Defense Response Strategies for Multiple
Attackers**

There is more to self-defense than fighting. There are in fact, five self-defense response strategies to consider when responding to a volatile or predatory situation.

Choosing the right self-defense strategy at the right time is the essence of producing a desired outcome. Choosing the wrong self-defense strategy can make matters worse.

As I've mention elsewhere in this series, no two self defense encounters are the same. To respond effectively, you need to evaluate the situation and the circumstances that exist and apply the most appropriate self-defense response strategy

But for now, I'll give you an overview of the 5 self defense response strategies.

Self-Defense Strategy #1: Compliance

Compliance involves cooperating with the predatory intent of your assailant. Whether you decide to comply or not, depends on what is at risk and your level of "perceived vulnerability" in the encounter.

Some things are worth fighting for and others are not. You need to know the difference. Perceived vulnerability is your perception of how vulnerable you are to the will and actions of your assailants.

Being confronted by several potential assailants definitely increases your vulnerability in a confrontation and will impact your decision about how to respond.

Self-Defense Strategy #2: Escape

Escape involves putting as much distance between you and the threat as possible. However, it is not always a simple matter of running away. There might be circumstances that compromise the probability of a successful escape attempt and your energy might be better invested in another response strategy.

The decision to escape is influenced by a number of factors such as your clothing, your fitness level, available escape routes etc. Later in this series, I'll provide you with specific escape tactics to consider when dealing with a multiple assailant situation.

Self-Defense Strategy #3: De-escalation

De-escalation involves the use of communication tactics and dialogue to discourage or de-motivate your assailant's BEFORE the situation turns violent.

There are a number of deliberate, logical, and persuasive tactics that you can learn in order to calm a volatile situation and reduce the potential for violence.

De-escalation is NOT appropriate when things are already violent. Nor do you want to increase your image as being weak, passive or "inferior" in your negotiation attempts.

That can bolster the assailant's perception of control and dominance. It can increase the probability that they'll follow through with their victimization.

Self-Defense Strategy #4: Defiance

Defiance is based on the belief that predators select their intended victim on the perception of their inferiority. They target people who they think are submissive, unwilling or unable to resist or fight back.

The defiance strategy is a deliberate effort to "short circuit" the victim selection process by projecting a strong, assertive, and defiant demeanor. It is essentially calling the bluff of your aggressor and having them second guessing their selection of YOU as a suitable victim.

If done poorly or at an inappropriate time, defiance CAN escalate an already volatile situation. However, if you used strategically, it can motivate your assailants to abandon the confrontation and renew their search for an easier, safer and more compliant victim.

War Story: A client at one of my self defense seminars related a story to me about his friend who was confronted by several “street punks” who were intent on robbing him. His friend, a man in his mid 40's was walking to his car after a late night at the office.

Before he got there, he was confronted and told to turn over his wallet. This infuriated the man and he challenged the group, tossing his jacket aside and rolling up his sleeves. Pointing directly at the punk he believed to be the leader of the group and stated, “Alright, which one you shit heads wants it first?”

The group scattered like cockroaches!

Defiance is a “high risk” strategy and does have the possibility of backfiring (just like any other method applied in the wrong situation), but in this particular case it worked.

Self-Defense Strategy #5: Fighting Back

Fighting is what comes to mind for most people when they think about self defense. If YOUR idea of personal safety and resolving conflict is limited to punches and kicks you are dramatically limiting your options and your ability to avoid a severe beating.

Street fights are unpredictable, chaotic, and challenging events. There are no guarantees of who's going to win and even if you defeat your assailant you could limp away busted up and injured.

If you are a competent fighter and not particularly concerned about your ability to dominate a physical encounter, you still need to be concerned about the civil and legal hassles associated to a situation that could have been avoided.

I'm not saying that there is never a reason to fight because there is. There is, in my opinion such a thing as “good violence.”

Good violence is aggressive action that is morally and ethically right; actions necessary to persevere you or someone else from injury or victimization.

That being said, you've got to be smart about it.

The idea of multiple assailant encounters is not an easy subject to broach, and I want to temper my instructions with some common sense.

The purpose of this series is to focus predominantly on your **PHYSICAL RESPONSE OPTIONS** to a multiple assailant situation that turns violent.

My intent is to assist you in answering the question:

“If I were to encounter a violent incident involving multiple attackers, what is my most appropriate plan of action to deal with it?”