



FAFO
Provocation with intent

Was your force unavoidable?

We all enjoy a good "F Around and Find Out" (FAFO) video, but there's a critical line between using force in self-defense and provoking a fight intentionally.

There is a thin line between the force **YOU** applied during **unavoidable** circumstances or force applied due to **YOUR** provocation with intent.

Provoke who, with what?

Provocation with intent loosely summarized: action taken by **YOU** to incite a physical response from another person with the **intent** of using deadly force against them.

Cavate: We could easily go down a deep rabbit hole, defining terms, adding context, and supporting case law. These are intend to spike your interest so you dive down the hole.



Why does it matter?

Let's do a make believe: You find yourself standing victorious in the aftermath of an incident. You are covered in the blood of your enemy, and now it's time to justify your action. You make the claim of self-defense to sell your force as lawful. If the incident resulted from your FAFO attitude, your affirmative defense might not be an option. YOU MUST understand provocation and steer clear of it.

Here is an example, don't be this guy!

You are confronted by a stranger, who thinks you are seated in his seat (he is mistaken). He tells you to move. You say, make me. He shouts, "get the fuck out of the chair." You stand up and respond, "get the fuck out of my face or you are going to FAFO!" He pushes you. You put your hand in your pocket and say, "push me and see what happens." He does as you asked and you stab him in the throat.

You are gonna have a hard time with that one.



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A closer look at the case:

By responding with "make me" and escalating with "get the fuck out of my face or you are going to FAFO," you contributed to the conflict's escalation. Your words and actions, including standing up and making a veiled threat ("push me and see what happens") while placing your hand in your pocket, could be interpreted as provocative, suggesting intent to incite a physical response. Courts often view provocation as undermining a self-defense claim.

But I was in-fear for my life!

Ok buddy, sure you were. I will even grant for some reason you subjectively believed it but there is no way you meet the objective reasoning. But that is a topic for another day.

Incidents are often gray. They can be argued from different angles. The water becomes murky. Understanding when you can and why you can use force is a required life skill. The best way to develop the knowledge in a way you can access it **IN-REAL TIME** is through scenario training like we do during ECQC.

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