

# Street Survival 101: Abduction



**Y o u** watch in dismay as the evening news broadcast presents

"breaking news" of what appears to be a possible child abduction that occurred earlier in the day.

The broadcast shows video surveillance of what appears to be the physical kidnapping of a twelve year-old girl. You don't believe your eyes as you see the young girl dialogue with the two middle aged men, then, in the middle of the conversation, one of the two individuals swoops the young girl off her feet, dashes to a door where she is then placed in a waiting van.

The more you watch, the more you realize that something about the young girl in the broadcast is memorable but you just can't put your finger on it. The only reason the video was analyzed by the mall security personnel (which in turn was given to the local police department) was because a young couple noticed the young girl in the van banging on the back window.

They watched as one of the men put what appeared to be some type of hood over the young woman's head, at that point she appeared to struggle violently. The couple perceived that something was terribly wrong and immediately reported it to the mall information desk.

Something else catches your eye; you notice that the abduction occurred in front of the local mall that your daughter walks by everyday to and from school. You look at the clock and realize your daughter is about an hour late. You dismissed the lateness because she has done this in the past only to call later from a friend's house to tell you she was

doing homework.

All of a sudden it hits you, the coat! The coat that the young girl was wearing looks just like the one your wife had brought your daughter two weeks ago! The phone rings, it is her best friend; she tells you that she and your daughter decided to go to the mall to hang out and look at some clothes.

She also informs you that they got separated and she hasn't seen her since earlier in the afternoon! She is just calling to check and see if she made it home alright!

Now you are in a state of sheer terror, the possibility that this might be your daughter has completely demoralized you. You are in a state of shock and don't have the faintest idea as to what to do. You tell yourself that you have to go to the mall; you dash out of the house and zip away.

Upon your arrival, you inform the local law enforcement personnel that you think the young girl who was abducted might be your daughter. They attempt to comfort you, they escort you to their command post and tell you to wait and be patient, waiting is all that can be done at the moment!

Your daughter, Zola, knows she is in trouble. Her two abductors have finally taken the hood off her head; this was only after one of them was dropped off at an unknown location. The abductor she is with tells her he will not harm her if she just behaves and does what he says. (Her wits tell her otherwise). His voice is extremely firm, she senses he means business! Her mind is racing, and she knows she has got to keep a cool head and think!

Back at the command post, Zola's father thinks to himself "all the meetings and anti-violence press conferences won't

help my daughter now!" "All the calls to stop violence in the community will not and have not prepared my young daughter for what she is going through!" The only thing that is going to give her the capability to survive this situation is real life pressure training, knowing what specifically to do and what techniques to use.

The only comfort you get is knowing you took your daughter to that "Safe Escape" anti-child abduction seminar two months before. You remember how the instructor forcefully pulled her into his vehicle and demonstrated the tactics to use, and how she was shown to crash the abductor's automobile using a technique called the "shock ram."

You listened intently as he taught the entire group of young females the most common lures used by the perpetrators, the hunting tactics of the abductor, the seven most proven escapes moves, the mental plan (how they think), and how to stop a car in its tracks with only a pencil.

Your mind takes you back to how she was taught to attach herself like Velcro to her abductor to slow him down in public. You remember how pleased you were after the class as well as how good you felt knowing she had acquired some real useable skills! Now you only hope & pray she remembers some of these techniques and gets the chance to use what she had learned!

You are lucky, she does!

Zola is also thinking about that class as well as the skills she acquired while she was in it. Her mind raced back to the "stop on a dime technique", "the foot jam", the "stick like glue method", and the "jam ram". She thought to herself "the class taught me not to wait for an opportunity, make one! That is exactly what she did.

As the abductor's vehicle slowed to a

stop at the upcoming red light, Zola moved! She unbuckled her seat belt and using the "shock ram" technique, she threw herself down by the foot of her abductor and with both hands pushed as hard as she could on the gas pedal.

Her abductor was caught by surprise! The car lunged forward and slammed into the back of the truck that was directly in front of them. The abductor jumped out of his vehicle and grabbed Zola pulling her out of the automobile.

As he did, Zola remembered another technique called "stick like glue". She fell to the ground and locked her legs and arms around her abductor, at the same time yelling as loud as she could "this is not my father. This is not my father." I need help!

By locking onto her abductor's legs, this prevented him from moving fast. In his attempt to run, he fell over and hit the ground, Zola broke free and took off running as fast as she could to a group of

stunned onlookers. Zola was free; she had saved her own life because she had acquired realistic, workable, preparation training that provided her a "useable, survival action plan"! Because of her training, she was able to break her comfort zone and bypass her fear, which in turned, probably saved her life!