

Executive Protection Story Submission Form

For the book,
“No Kidding, There I Was”
The Real-Life Stories of Executive Protection Professionals

Purpose

The purpose of this project is to develop a book of stories based on personal experiences, situations that cannot be taught in a training environment. These stories can be a humorous situation, emergency situation, procedural situation or any other situation you found to be unique.

The Goal

The goal of this project is to provide other Executive Protection Professionals insight into situations they can learn from, situations that are not typical events yet have been encountered in the field.

Guidelines

1. No names other than the submitter's shall be used.
2. No operational security information shall be included.
3. All stories must be first-hand accounts. Stories based on third-party accounts will not be accepted.
4. Provide a title to your story.
5. Provide as much detail as possible so the reader understands the environment, the situation, and how it was handled or resolved.
6. Any lessons you learned and that you would pass on to the readers.
7. Each unrelated story requires its own individual submission form.
8. Review your submission for spelling and grammatical errors prior to submitting.

Submission Information

Name: (provide your name only if you want it associated with your story. Stories will be listed as anonymous if no name is provided):	James Cameron
Date of story: (approximate is fine, month, year, or both)	2016
Location in which your story takes place: (general area, not specific)	Beverly Hills, CA
How would you describe your story: Humorous, Error, Procedural, Emergency, Other	Humorous
Did your story happy in the Public or Private Sector?	Private
If you could put your situation into one of the EP Domains of Knowledge which would it fit into? Domain I EP Fundamentals, Domain II Intelligence, Domain III Information Security, Domain IV Planning, Domain V Operations, Domain VI Legal Domain, VII Business Administration, Domain VIII EP Leadership	Domain I

Your Story

Please write your story below.

Title: The \$500 Steak Problem

Story:

My protectee had scheduled a dinner party for sixteen guests. Sixteen very important, very well-fed guests. As I was coordinating with other protection teams, the house informed me, the chef had called out for personal reasons and would not be cooking tonight's main course.

The estate staff could handle the sides. The main course, however, was a shipment of Wagyu steaks flown in from Japan, and nobody on the property was willing to touch them. Understandable. Nobody wants to be the guy or gal who ruins a steak that costs about as much my monthly car payment.

I had the pleasure of delivering this news to my Protectee. He looked at me, completely unbothered, and asked, "You can cook them, right?"

I have negotiated with hostile actors. I have held my composure in genuinely dangerous situations. None of that prepared me for the internal panic of hearing myself say, "Yes sir, I can."

My reasoning at the time was solid: I grill my own steaks all the time, how hard could this be? I did not know how wrong I was yet, but I was about to find out. For anyone unfamiliar with Wagyu, it is absurdly marbled with fat and cooks like it's made of lava, especially over an open flame.

Since my Protectee happened to own several award-winning restaurants, he handed me the phone number of one of his Michelin-starred chefs. I was now on the phone with a world-class chef, prepping to cook \$500-a-steak Wagyu on what was fundamentally just an upgraded backyard propane grill.

The chef's instructions were simple: salt heavily, dunk in canola oil, throw on the hot grill. What he failed to mention was that "heavily salted, oil-soaked, extremely fatty steak meets open flame" is also the recipe for a small structure fire. The first test steak went up like a tiki torch. I was still on the phone, describing the flames in real time, and clarifying, with some urgency, that I was not standing in a professional kitchen and did not have a proper oven to finish these things off. The chef laughed and told me he would not want to be me. Extremely helpful. Thank you, chef.

I adjusted the heat, adjusted my technique, then grilled all seventeen steaks. I did not take a single temperature preference. Everyone got medium rare, whether they ordered it or not. Somehow, it worked. The steaks were a hit.

In over twenty years of protection work around the world, including being shot at, being blown up, and responding to mass casualty situations, cooking those steaks remains the single most nerve-racking moment of my career.

There was a silver lining. Right before dinner, my Protectee sent me down to the wine cellar for a specific three-liter bottle of red, vintage 1934 wine and asked me to taste it first to make sure it hadn't turned to vinegar. It was, without

exaggeration, the best wine I have ever had in my life, and I will almost certainly never drink anything that old again.

Lesson:

The lesson: in this job, you will be asked to do things you never trained for and never expected. As long as it's legal, you'd better be ready to say yes and figure it out. The moment you start deciding a task is "not my job," is the moment you start looking for a new one.

Release, Waiver, and Acknowledgement

The Board of Executive Protection Professionals (BEPP) collects these stories directly from the individuals who experienced them. BEPP does not, and cannot, independently verify the facts, dates, locations, or outcomes described in any submission. By signing below, the submitter makes the following affirmations and agreements as a condition of having their story considered for publication.

1. I affirm that this story reflects a situation I personally experienced, and it is not based on a third-party account. **Initials:** __JC__
2. I affirm that no operational security information, classified information, or confidential client information is included in this story. **Initials:** __JC__
3. I affirm that I have not used the real name(s) of any other individual(s) in this story without that individual's express written consent, and I understand BEPP is relying solely on my representation in this regard. **Initials:** __JC__
4. I understand and agree that BEPP has not independently investigated or verified the accuracy of the events, dates, locations, or details described in this story. **Initials:** __JC__
5. I represent that I have the right to share this story and that doing so does not violate any non-disclosure agreement, employment agreement, or confidentiality obligation to which I am bound. **Initials:** __JC__

I release, discharge, and hold harmless the BEPP, its officers, directors, members, employees, editors, and affiliates (collectively, "BEPP") from any and all claims, liabilities, damages, costs, or expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees, arising out of or related to the content of my submission, including but not limited to claims of defamation, invasion of privacy, or inaccuracy, whether such claims are brought against BEPP by me or by any third party.

I agree to indemnify BEPP against any third-party claim arising from my submission to the extent such claim results from inaccurate, unauthorized, or unlawful content that I provided.

I grant BEPP a non-exclusive, worldwide, royalty-free license to edit, reproduce, publish, and distribute my story, in whole or in part, in the book titled "No Kidding, There I Was" and in related print, digital, audio, or promotional formats, and I understand BEPP may edit my submission for length, clarity, grammar, or to further protect operational security or the identities of third parties.

I understand this submission is voluntary and that I will not receive monetary compensation for its use unless a separate written agreement is signed by both parties.

Acknowledgement and Signature

Person submitting the story: (This is for submission accountability only. Your name won't be used unless indicated in the Submission Information section)	James Cameron
Date of submission:	19 Aug 2026
Email: (in the event follow-up information is needed)	james@ep-board.org
Signature:	

Submission Instructions

If you have supporting materials you would like considered, such as photographs, that do not compromise operational security, client confidentiality, or the identity of any third party, you may include them as separate attachments to your email.

Please review your submission for spelling and grammatical errors prior to submitting.

Once you have completed this form and written your story, please submit it, along with the signed acknowledgement page, to stories@ep-board.org. Word or PDF formats of completed forms and all pages will be accepted.

Please use the subject line "EP Story Submission" so your submission can be properly logged and routed for review.

If you have questions about the submission process, this form, or the status of a story you have already submitted, you may direct them to the same email address, stories@ep-board.org.

Everyone whose submission is selected for inclusion in the book will receive a complimentary printed copy of "No Kidding, There I Was" The Real-Life Stories of Executive Protection Professionals if and when the book is released.