

Let there be no doubt: One day, the machines will rise up against us. When they do, here's how to survive the doomsday

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WHEN ROBOTS ATTACK

FEIGN AN ATTACK

"Robots classify things into categories," says Martin C. Martin, an associate in artificial intelligence at MIT. "If the world isn't in one of the categories, they get confused. Roll out tanks and they'll prep for a land war. Then attack with planes. They won't be able to respond."

GOUGE OUT THEIR EYES

"Destroy robot sensors first—they're the most vulnerable and important parts," says Daniel H. Wilson, author of *How to Survive a Robot Uprising*. "The most common sensors will be cameras, antennas that pick up satellite information and laser rangefinders—they shoot out laser light that bounces off objects in the environment. When you're shooting a robot, aim for one of these: If the robot can't see you, it can't attack you."

USE DECOYS

"Robots don't have real-world experience," Wilson says. "For example, they don't know how much things weigh by looking at them. If you throw something round at a robot, it won't know if it's a balloon or a bowling ball. Decoys will slow them down, and the more you have, the more effort the robot has to expend. So, throw leaves at them—they'll stop and try to process the path of each object, giving you time to try to get away."



UPRISING

● NUKE THE SKY

"An electromagnetic pulse, as seen in *The Matrix*, is based in reality: In 1958, the U.S. detonated a nuclear bomb above the Pacific," Martin says. "It stopped radios and damaged electronics from Hawaii to New Zealand. The trick is to detonate it 50 to 100 miles above the earth. It would incapacitate the robots."

● SPREAD DISEASE

"Write viruses for them," Martin advises. "Clog up their network. The viruses would copy themselves, taking up all the bandwidth. If the robots become tightly integrated, disrupting communications may all but disable them."

● SCORCH THE EARTH

"Robots figure out where to step by building a 3-D model of their surroundings," Martin says. "Flat terrain is easy to model, but on uneven terrain they can't tell if their feet will land flat or at an angle or if they will slide off a surface. Make the land as jagged as possible. A good plan would be to bomb the roads—twisted concrete and asphalt would be very hard for robots to model."

● EXPLOIT LAZINESS

"Robots often make simplifying assumptions or fudge perception," Martin says. "For example, they'll use GPS and maps instead of analyzing the ground itself. If you knock out GPS satellites, block off roads and open up new ones, you'll have them entirely confused." **FHM**