

North Carolina Justice Academy Concealed Carry Handgun Training General Outline

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Historical Note Regarding the concealed Carry Handgun Training

In 1995, the North Carolina Justice Academy (N.C.J.A.) was tasked with developing a training program to train Concealed Carry Instructors in the newly enacted law and to produce a "Model" training course manual which affectionately became known as the "Red Book" and an instructor training manual known as the "Yellow Book." These tasks were given to Reece Trimmer, the N.C.J.A. Legal Specialist, and to Steven Johnson, the Instructor/Coordinator responsible for the N.C.J.A. Firearms Programs. Once the training materials were developed, Reece and Steve did a series of training programs around the State called "Laws Governing Concealed Carry and the Use of Deadly Force." Since the inception of the Concealed Carry program in 1995, several people have been instrumental in making sure that the "Red and Yellow" books are current with the changes in North Carolina Firearms Laws as regulated by the North Carolina General Assembly. The North Carolina Justice Academy would like to thank the following individuals for their work in maintaining these training manuals: John J. Aldridge, R. Steven Johnson, Dave Shick, and Chad Thompson. Chad Thompson, whose biography appears below, is currently responsible for conducting the "train the trainer" program titled "Laws Governing Concealed Handguns and the Use of Deadly Force."

Chad Thompson

Chad Thompson is the Senior Firearms Instructor and designated School Director for the Specialized Firearms Instructor Training Program with the North Carolina Justice Academy. Chad has a B.S. degree in Criminal Justice from Trinity University. He has attended numerous training programs in Basic and Advanced SWAT, A.S.P. Instructor Training, General and Specialized Firearms Instructor Training, United Nations/U.S. State Department International Instructor Training, U.N. Close Protection/Executive Protection Training, Crucible Training Center Basic Training, armorer courses conducted by Beretta and Remington, Chad also has his Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate from the North Carolina Sheriff's Training and Standards Commission.

Chad is currently sworn as a deputy with the Sampson County Sheriff's Office. He has previously served with the Johnston County Sheriff's Office, Benson Police Department, Dunn Police Department, Roseboro Police Department, United Nations International Police, Kosovo, Serbia, and the United States Coast Guard Narcotics Interdiction Detachment. Chad served in the U.S. Coast Guard during both Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. His training topic areas include Specialized Firearms Instructor, Basic and Advanced SWAT, General Instructor, A.S.P. Instructor, Basic Law Enforcement Instructor, United Nations Special Operations Instructor, and North Carolina Concealed Carry-Handgun Instructor. Chad is also a member of the United States Practical Shooting Association, the National Rifle Association, and the International Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors.

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About the Authors

L. Reece Trimmer (In Memoriam)

L. Reece Trimmer was one of the original authors of the North Carolina Concealed Carry Handgun Training course. Originally from Pennsylvania, Reece moved to North Carolina to attend graduate school. A graduate of Williams College and Harvard Law School, Reece first practiced law in Pennsylvania and then served as the Police Attorney for the City of Durham prior to joining the North Carolina Justice Academy as the Senior Agency Legal Advisor. Reece authored numerous articles in the areas of Pepper Spray, Search Warrants, Use of Force, Civil Liability for FATS (Firearms Training System) Instructors, Domestic Violence, Pursuit Driving Legal Issues, Nonlethal Force Law, Deadly Force Law, and Legal Issues in Media Relations. Reece did extensive research and training in the areas of Civil Liability for Firearms Instructors, Physical Fitness Instructors, and Defensive Tactics Instructors. After leaving the North Carolina Justice Academy, Reece became the Legal Advisor for the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office. Reece served as a guest lecturer for the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Southeastern Center for Police Liability Management, the Administrative Officers Program at North Carolina State University, Wake Forest University School of Law, Southeastern Association of Internal Affairs Investigators, the Institute of Government at the University of North Carolina, and the North Carolina Association of Police Attorneys. Reece served as an expert witness in the areas of use of force and civil liability.

R. Steven Johnson

R. Steven Johnson was an original author of the North Carolina Concealed Carry Handgun Training course. A native of North Carolina, Steve is from Raleigh, where he attended North Carolina State University. Steve joined the staff of the North Carolina Department of Justice in 1972. He has been a sworn law enforcement officer since 1976 and continues to serve as a reserve officer. Steve holds certifications from the North Carolina Education and Training Standards Commission as a Firearms Instructor and a Concealed Carry - Handgun Instructor; from the National Rifle Association as a Submachine Gun Instructor and a Police Firearms Instructor. He has attended armorer's schools conducted by Smith & Wesson, Remington, Glock, SigArms, Colt, Beretta, H&K, Mossberg, and Springfield. Steve is currently a member of the North Carolina Law Enforcement Officers Association and the National Rifle Association. As an instructor for the North Carolina Justice Academy, Steve was responsible for the certification training of North Carolina Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors, Armed Security Instructors, Concealed Carry Instructors as well as training in such topic areas as sniper training, transitional pistol training, firearms for female officers, and many in-service firearms activities for entry or tactical teams. Steve has served as an expert witness in the areas related to the use of force. Steve continues to serve on the Board of Directors of the International Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors and is currently the Director of Special Projects for the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association. He also serves as a member of the Criminal Justice Education Training Standards Commission and the Private Protective Services Board.

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Title: Concealed Carry Handgun

Lesson Purpose: The purpose of this block of instruction is to explain to the student the aspects of the North Carolina Concealed Carry Handgun Law as it applies to the rights of the citizen to carry a concealed handgun and to teach and apply the fundamentals of safety and the basic marksmanship fundamentals.

Training Objectives: At the end of this block of instruction, the student will be able to perform the following objectives in accordance with the information received during the instructional period:

1. Demonstrate proficiency in the safe handling of the handgun to include loading, unloading, storing or securing, and firing the handgun.
2. Identify the places that handguns are not allowed to be carried even if the individual has a Concealed Carry Handgun permit.
3. Identify the major parts of the revolver or semiautomatic pistol.
4. Demonstrate proficiency in marksmanship fundamentals.
5. Explain the provisions under North Carolina Common and Statutory Law in which the use of deadly physical force would be justifiable.

Hours: Minimum of Eight (8) plus Handgun Qualification

Instructional Method: Lecture/Demonstration

Materials Required: Lesson Plan
Blackboard/Easel
Handgun/Ammunition
Range Equipment (eye and ear protection, targets)

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Testing Requirements: Written Exam
 Proficiency Exam (qualification)

References: Aldridge, John J. 2011. *North Carolina Firearms Laws*. Raleigh, NC: North Carolina Department of Justice.

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 Covery, Preston K. 1994. *Standards and Practices Reference Guide for Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors*. Laconia, NH: International Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors.

 Felter, Brian A. 1988. *Police Defensive Handgun Use and Encounter Tactics*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, Inc.

 Thompson, Chad. 2019. *Specialized Firearms Instructor Training Manual*. Salemburg, NC: North Carolina Justice Academy,

 Morrison, Gregory Boyce. 1991. *The Modern Technique of the Pistol*. Paulden, AZ: Gunsite Press.

North Carolina Administrative Code. 12 N.C.A.C. 09F .0102. 2004.

Parts List Manual. Springfield, MA: Smith & Wesson, 1994.

The Basics of Personal Protection. Washington, DC: National Rifle Association, 1988.

Prepared by: R. Steven Johnson
 Instructor
 North Carolina Justice Academy

 L. Reece Trimmer
 Legal Specialist
 North Carolina Justice Academy

CONCEALED CARRY HANDGUN TRAINING

Date Prepared: October 1995

Revised by: R. Steven Johnson
Adjunct Instructor
North Carolina Justice Academy

Date Revised: October 2006
December 2009

Revised by: R. Steven Johnson

Adjunct Instructor
North Carolina Justice Academy

Dave Shick
Associate Attorney General
North Carolina Department of Justice

Date Revised: November 2011

Revised By: Chad Thompson
Instructor/Coordinator
North Carolina Justice Academy

Date Revised: January 2013

Revised By: John J. Aldridge
Special Deputy Attorney General (retired)
North Carolina Department of Justice

R. Steven Johnson
Adjunct Instructor
North Carolina Justice Academy

CONCEALED CARRY HANDGUN TRAINING

Date Revised: August 2013

Revised By: John J. Aldridge
Special Deputy Attorney General (retired)
North Carolina Department of Justice

R. Steven Johnson
Adjunct Instructor
North Carolina Justice Academy

Chad Thompson
Instructor/Coordinator
North Carolina Justice Academy

Date Revised: August 2015

Revised By: Chad Thompson
Instructor/Coordinator
North Carolina Justice Academy

Date Revised: February 2016

Revised By: Chad Thompson
Instructor/Coordinator
North Carolina Justice Academy

Date Revised: December 2019

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I. Introduction

A. Opening Statement

North Carolina has in place a Concealed Carry Handgun law that allows qualifying citizens of our State the opportunity to obtain a permit to carry a concealed handgun. As a provision of this legislation, the individual must complete a required training program in the use of deadly force, carrying a concealed handgun, and demonstrate proficiency in the use of the handgun.

B. Student Performance Objectives

C. Reasons

With the right under law to carry a concealed handgun comes tremendous responsibility. The owner of a handgun must have complete knowledge of handgun safety, knowledge of the laws regarding the use of force, and the ability to use the weapon safely and in a responsible manner. Finally, and most importantly, is the ability to use good judgment in any facet of handgun operation and use, whether in self-defense, practicing the fundamentals of marksmanship, or basic gun handling.

II. Body

A. Legal Issues

1. North Carolina common law

a) Use of force to protect a person

(1) Justified self-defense

A citizen is legally justified in using deadly force against another if and only if:

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- (a) The citizen actually believes deadly force is necessary to prevent an imminent threat of death, great bodily harm, or sexual assault and
- (b) The facts and circumstances prompting that belief would cause a person of ordinary firmness to believe deadly force was necessary to prevent an imminent threat of death, great bodily harm, or sexual assault, and
- (c) The citizen using deadly force was not an instigator or aggressor who voluntarily provoked, entered, or continued the conflict leading to deadly force, and
- (d) Force used was not excessive - greater than reasonably needed to overcome the threat posed by a hostile aggressor.
- (e) Retreat

A citizen faced with an imminent threat of death or great bodily injury generally does not have a duty to retreat prior to using deadly force when all the other elements of self-defense are satisfied. Regardless, it may be advisable for a citizen to retreat to safety if feasible, as this may not only avoid the use of deadly force but may also remove the citizen from a situation that could result in the loss of their own life. However, a duty to retreat does exist where the citizen was the initial aggressor or instigator in the incident that caused him to eventually use deadly force in self-defense. If the aggressor completely withdraws from this confrontation and clearly communicates this to his adversary, the right to use deadly force in self-defense is restored if all the requirements for the use of deadly force in self-defense are still met. (John Rubin, *The Law of Self Defense in North Carolina*. UNC-Chapel Hill, 1996.)

(f) Explanation of Terms:

Imminent harm means “immediate danger” or is “about to” happen.

Great bodily harm is not defined; however, the statutory definition of “serious bodily injury” contained in the North Carolina Criminal Law provides guidance as to the type of injuries that may qualify as great bodily harm. “Serious bodily injury” includes injury that creates a substantial risk of death, or serious permanent disfigurement, coma, a permanent or protracted condition that causes extreme pain, or permanent or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ, or that results in prolonged hospitalization.

A “sexual assault” would include rape, sexual offense, or forcible crime against nature or attempts to do any such act. (N.C.P.I. Crim.308.70, F.N. 1)

*Not all sexual assaults justify the use of deadly force. Much of the law on justified self-defense in North Carolina was written before the Legislature redefined sexual offenses in this State. Basically, there are two categories of sexual offenses: 1) “rape” and 2) “sexual assaults.” Therefore, if it is not rape, it is sexual assault. Many sexual assault offenses do not meet the standard for inclusion in the justified self-defense formula. ONLY sexual assaults that have a risk of death or great bodily harm should be included.

Excessive Force:

A citizen has the right in self-defense to use only such force as reasonably appeared necessary under the circumstances to protect themselves from death or great bodily harm. In determining the amount of force necessary, and in order to avoid excessive force, the citizen should consider the size, age, and strength of the citizen as

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compared to the attacker, the fierceness of the * - * - * assault, if any, upon the citizen, whether the attacker possessed a weapon, and the reputation of the attacker for danger and violence, and any other circumstances relevant to this issue. (N.C.P.I. Crim. 308.45A)

Where an assault being made upon a citizen is insufficient to give rise to a reasonable apprehension of death or great bodily harm, then the use of deadly force by the citizen to protect himself from bodily injury or offensive physical contact is excessive force. (*State v Clay*, 297 N.C. 555 (1979).)

Aggressor: A citizen who is found to be an aggressor voluntarily provoking the conflict, or who used excessive force, can be convicted of voluntary manslaughter even though the use of deadly force complied with the other requirements of self-defense. An instigator, or person using excessive force, is not excused from all criminal liability but may be guilty of a lesser degree of homicide.

A citizen who is an aggressor voluntarily provoking a conflict leading to deadly force can avoid criminal responsibility for deadly force only if the aggressor attempts to withdraw from the conflict before using deadly force and gives notice of withdrawal to the adversary. "One enters a fight voluntarily if one uses toward one's opponent abusive language which, considering all of the circumstances, is calculated and intended to bring on a fight." (From N.C.P.I. Crim. 206.310) A citizen who provokes a fight through an unlawful assault would likewise be considered an aggressor. (John Rubin, *The Law of Self Defense in North Carolina*.)

(2) Deadly force in defense of others

A citizen may intervene and use deadly force in defense of another person when, under the facts and circumstances, it reasonably appeared necessary to save the other person from an imminent threat of death, great bodily harm, or sexual assault but only to the extent the other person was entitled to use deadly force in self-defense. Excessive force in defense of others is not allowed, and neither the intervener nor the person threatened can be an instigator voluntarily provoking the conflict for deadly force to be used. If you are not sure of the circumstances that initiated the action, it would be more prudent to contact a law enforcement agency or attempt to assist using less lethal means rather than immediately imposing the threat of deadly force.

(3) Deadly force **MAY NOT** be used:

(a) To stop a simple assault

While a simple assault can be truly terrifying, the law only allows the victim to resist force with equivalent force. Force used to resist a simple assault must be proportionate to the assault. Even a real and legitimate fear of greater injury, standing alone, does not justify the use of deadly force. When does a simple assault become an imminent threat of death? When can a victim use deadly force to repel an unarmed attacker? The exact point in time a simple assault becomes aggravated or deadly in nature is often unclear. Repeated blows to vital body areas, choking, continued beating on a helpless or weakened victim are some indicators.

Because the law requires retreat from a simple assault but does not require retreat from a murderous or felonious assault, an assault victim is once again faced with a decision: when does a

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simple assault become a murderous assault? No clear answer exists for the multitude of circumstances constituting an assault.

- (b) Because of the use of violent language

Violent language often leads to violent acts, but language alone does not justify deadly force.

- (c) Because you are a victim of past violence and fear future violence.

The law requires that there be an imminent threat of death or great bodily harm. The threat must be an immediate danger of death, not remote and uncertain in time and place. If the facts and circumstances are not reasonably apprehended as an immediate danger of death here and now, deadly force in self-defense is not allowed as a justified excuse for homicide.

- (d) Because a trespasser refuses to leave

Trespassers may be in violation of the law, but the law does not allow deadly force to end the trespass. While non-lethal force is allowed against a trespasser, deadly force is not. Old court cases establish a sequence for using force to eject trespassers: first, words must be used; second, if words do not work, then gentle hands may be laid on the trespasser; if gentle hands do not work, the owner may use whatever force is necessary to remove the trespasser but may not use force likely to kill or cause great bodily harm. A trespasser who refuses to leave should be considered "hostile," and it would be more prudent to call law enforcement than risk attack and injury by approaching and putting hands on a said trespasser. The prohibition against using deadly force to expel a trespasser does not apply

to a trespasser who is immediately threatening death, serious injury, or sexual assault.

- (e) To arrest a criminal or prevent a criminal's escape

North Carolina law does not give a citizen the right to make a citizen's arrest. Since the power to make a citizen's arrest does not exist, the right to use deadly force to effect an arrest or prevent escape is not given to citizens. No matter how serious the crime, a citizen cannot shoot to stop a fleeing criminal. Citizens have limited power to detain under North Carolina General Statute § 15A-404(c).

- b) Use of force to protect property

The law does not permit the use of deadly force solely to protect property, or to prevent theft, or to regain the stolen property. An owner can defend his or her property using reasonable and necessary force but not deadly force. An owner **CANNOT** shoot at a thief before, during, or after a theft. The same rule prohibits deadly force to prevent injury or vandalism to property.

A different rule applies if life is imminently threatened at the same time the property is taken. For example, an armed robbery is a theft through the use or threatened use of a deadly weapon. The victim is allowed to respond to the imminent threat to life of an armed robbery by using deadly force. Deadly force to prevent an armed robbery is the force used to protect life, not to protect property. If only property is threatened, deadly force cannot be used.

North Carolina does allow the use of "defensive force" up to and including deadly force against an individual who has unlawfully entered or is attempting to unlawfully enter a home, motor vehicle, or workplace (N.C.G.S. § 14-51.2), as discussed below.

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2. North Carolina statutory law

- a) Home, workplace, and motor vehicle protection; presumption of fear of death or serious bodily harm. (N.C.G.S. § 14-51.2 and § 14-51.4)

The lawful occupant of a home, motor vehicle, or workplace is presumed to have held a reasonable fear of imminent death or serious bodily harm to himself, or herself or another when using defensive force that is intended or likely to cause death or serious bodily harm to another if both of the following apply:

- (1) The person against whom the defensive force was used was in the process of unlawfully and forcefully entering or had unlawfully and forcibly entered a home, motor vehicle, or workplace, or if that person had removed or was attempting to remove another against that person's will from the home motor vehicle, or workplace.
- (2) The person who uses the defensive force knew or had reason to believe that an unlawful and forcible entry or unlawful and forcible act was occurring or had occurred.

The citizen using deadly force under this statute does not have a duty to retreat prior to using defensive force.

- b) The presumption set forth in the ABOVE section shall be rebuttable and does not apply in any of the following circumstances:

- (1) The person against whom the defensive force is used has the right to be in or is a lawful resident of the home, motor vehicle, or workplace, such as an owner or lessee, and there is not an injunction for protection from domestic violence or a written pretrial supervision order of no contact against that person.

- (2) The person sought to be removed from the home, motor vehicle, or workplace is a child or grandchild or is otherwise in the lawful custody or under the lawful guardianship of the person against whom the defensive force is used.
- (3) The person who uses defensive force is engaged in attempting to escape from or using the home, motor vehicle, or workplace to further any criminal offense that involves the use or threat of physical force or violence against any individual.
- (4) The person against whom the defensive force is used is a law enforcement officer or bail bondsman who enters or attempts to enter a home, motor vehicle or workplace in the lawful performance of his or her official duties, and the officer or bail bondsman identified himself or herself in accordance with any applicable law or the person using force knew or reasonably should have known that the person entering or attempting to enter was a law enforcement officer or bail bondsman in the lawful performance of his or her official duties.
- (5) The person against whom the defensive force is used
 - (a) has discontinued all efforts to unlawfully and forcefully enter the home, motor vehicle, or workplace and
 - (b) has exited the home, motor vehicle, or workplace.
- c) Self-defense and defense of others.

N.C.G.S. § 14-51.3 provides that a person is justified in the use of deadly force and does not have a duty to retreat in any place he or she has the lawful right to be if he or she reasonably believes that such force is necessary to prevent imminent death or great bodily harm to themselves or another.

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A citizen who lawfully uses defensive force in compliance with these statutes is immune from civil and criminal liability.

N.C.G.S. § 14-51.4. Justification for defensive force not available.

The justification described in N.C.G.S. § 14-51.2 and N.C.G.S. § 14-51.3 is not available to a person who used defensive force and who:

- (1) Was attempting to commit, committing, or escaping after the commission of a felony.
- (2) Initially provokes the use of force against himself or herself. However, the person who initially provokes the use of force against himself or herself will be justified in using defensive force if either of the following occurs:
 - (a) The force used by the person who was provoked is so serious that the person using defensive force reasonably believes that he or she was in imminent danger of death or serious bodily harm, the person using defensive force had no reasonable means to retreat, and the use of force which is likely to cause death or serious bodily harm to the person who was provoked was the only way to escape the danger.
 - (b) The person who used defensive force withdraws, in good faith, from physical contact with the person who was provoked and indicates clearly that he or she desires to withdraw and terminate the use of force, but the person who has provoked continues or resumes the use of force.
- d) Storage to protect minors (N.C.G.S. § 14-315.1)

Any person who resides in the same premises as a minor (defined as a person under the age of 18 years), who owns or possesses a firearm, and stores or leaves the firearm in a condition that the

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firearm can be discharged and in a manner that the person knew or should have known that an unsupervised minor would be able to gain access to the firearm, is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor if a minor gains access to the firearm without the lawful permission of the minor's parents or a person having charge of the minor and the minor:

- (1) Possesses it in violation of N.C.G.S. § 14-269.2(b) [Unlawful to possess a firearm on any educational property, public or private, of any kind];
 - (2) Exhibits it in a public place in a careless, angry, or threatening manner;
 - (3) Causes personal injury or death with it, not in self-defense; or
 - (3) Uses it in the commission of a crime.
- e) Permitting young children to use dangerous firearms (N.C.G.S. § 14-316)

"It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly permit a child under 12 years of age to have access to or possession, custody or use in any manner whatever, of any gun, pistol or other dangerous firearms, whether such weapon is loaded or unloaded unless the person has the permission of the child's parent or guardian, and the child is under the supervision of an adult. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor."

- f) Concealed Carry Handgun (N.C.G.S. § 14-415.10)

- (1) Definition of a handgun

A handgun is defined as a firearm that has a short stock and is designed to be held and fired by the use of a single hand.

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The definition of a handgun has two characteristics in this statute. First, the firearm must have a short stock. Second, the firearm must be designed to be held and fired by the use of a single hand. Revolvers and semiautomatic pistols are treated alike. The caliber of the firearm is not specified. While the length or configuration of the firearm's stock is not defined, presumably, it must be shorter than a standard rifle or shotgun. A judge might reasonably conclude that a standard rifle or shotgun is not **DESIGNED** to be held and fired with one hand, even if the rifle or shotgun has been cut down, so it can, in fact, be so held and fired. **(Federal and state firearms laws prohibit possession of a sawed-off shotgun or rifle.)** This law applies only to handguns. No other types of weapons (e.g., knives, clubs, or martial arts weapons) are within this definition.

(2) Concealment defined

The statute further requires the concealed weapon be about the person, which generally means it must be concealed either on the person or within an arm's reach or within ready access of the person.

(3) Required documentation

The permit issued to carry a concealed handgun must be in the possession of the permit holder at all times the person is carrying a concealed handgun off of their own premises. In addition, the statute, in N.C.G.S. § 14-415.11(a), also requires possession of valid identification, which is not defined. The application form to apply for a permit requires listing a driver's license number or State identification number if either document is used for identification in applying for a permit. Note again that carrying a concealed handgun off one's premises is not lawful unless both the actual permit and a second form of identification are also possessed at the time.

- (4) Places where permit does not authorize carrying a concealed handgun

Areas where the possession of a Concealed Carry Handgun permit does not authorize the carrying of a concealed handgun are listed later in this lesson plan, as well as other statutes that regulate the carrying of a firearm.

- (5) What to do if approached by a law enforcement officer
 - (a) DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DISPLAY THE HANDGUN.
 - (b) If in a vehicle, roll the window halfway down. At night, turn on the interior light. Place both hands on the steering wheel. Once the officer approaches the vehicle, notify the officer that you have a permit, that you are armed, and where the handgun is located.
 - (c) If not in a vehicle, DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DISPLAY THE HANDGUN. KEEP BOTH HANDS VISIBLE. As early as feasible, notify the officer that you have a concealed carry permit and are carrying a handgun.
 - (d) ONLY ATTEMPT TO REMOVE THE PERMIT OR THE HANDGUN ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE OFFICER.

3. Escalation of force

Escalation of force is merely the increase in the level of force based on that force that is being used against you. Force must be proportionate to the level of force used against you. For instance, if you are verbally assaulted, you cannot use deadly force to settle the argument. If we were to look at the various levels of force, the escalation would be something like this:

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Physical Presence

Verbal

Soft Hands

Hard Hands

Chemical (mace, O.C. spray)

Impact Weapons (stick, club)

Deadly Force

The increase in force does not need to follow these various levels. The level that is used against you and the imminent threat imposed against you will determine the lawful reaction to the situation.

4. Prohibited carry areas

There are a number of areas where the carrying of a concealed handgun is prohibited either by state or federal law regardless of the issuance of a Concealed Carry Handgun permit. In other words, **a concealed handgun permit does not allow a permittee to carry a weapon in these prohibited areas.**

- a) Any educational property, public or private, of any kind.
(N.C.G.S. § 14-269.2)

This prohibition applies in/on any school building or bus, school campus, grounds, recreational area, athletic field, or other property owned, used, or operated by any board of education or school board of trustees or directors for the administration of any school.

A person with a concealed carry handgun permit MAY possess a handgun in a closed compartment or container within the

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person's locked vehicle or a locked container securely affixed to the person's vehicle. The person may unlock the vehicle to enter or exit the vehicle, provided the handgun remains in the closed compartment at all times, and the vehicle is locked immediately following the entrance or exit.

The permittee may also possess the handgun on their person, as long as the permittee remains in the locked vehicle and only unlocks it to allow the entrance or exit of another person.

NOTE: It is a defense to a prosecution if the handgun were removed from the vehicle in response to a threatening situation in which deadly force was justified.

Private educational facilities may still prohibit the possession and carrying of a firearm on school grounds in accordance with N.C.G.S. § 14-415.11 (c)(8)

- b) Certain State property and courthouses. (N.C.G.S. § 14-269.4)

It is also unlawful under State law for any person to possess or carry a weapon not used for instructional or officially sanctioned ceremonial purposes in the State Capitol Building, Executive Mansion, Western Residence of the Governor, or on the grounds of these buildings, including any building used to house any court of the General Court of Justice.

NOTE: Concealed handguns may be carried at State-owned rest areas, rest stops along highways, and State-owned hunting and fishing reservations with a valid permit.

NOTE: Any person who has a concealed handgun permit may carry a concealed handgun on the grounds or waters of a park within the State Parks System as defined in N.C.G.S. § 113-44.9.

NOTE: Weapons may be secured in vehicles on State property.

“A person with a permit issued in accordance with Article 54B of this Chapter or considered valid under N.C.G.S. § 14-415.24

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who has a firearm in a closed compartment or container within the person's locked vehicle or in a locked container securely affixed to the person's vehicle. A person may unlock the vehicle to enter or exit the vehicle provided the firearm remains in the closed compartment at all times, and the vehicle is locked immediately following the entrance or exit."

- c) Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 106-503.2, the Commissioner of Agriculture is authorized to prohibit the carrying of firearms into the State Fairgrounds during the State Fair. Permittees may however, secure the weapon in their vehicle in the parking lot. Individuals that are listed in N.C.G.S. § 14-269(b)(1)(2)(3)(4) &(5) may carry on these grounds during the State Fair.
- d) Picket lines, demonstrations at private health care facilities. (N.C.G.S. § 14-277.2)

North Carolina law further makes it unlawful for any person participating in, affiliated with, or present as a spectator at any picket line, or demonstration upon any private health care facility to willfully or intentionally possess, or have immediate access to any dangerous weapon, regardless of whether they possess a concealed carry handgun permit.

- e) Areas of emergency and riot

Pursuant to the North Carolina Emergency Management Act, N.C.G.S. § 166A-19.31(b)(4), local governments may impose restrictions on dangerous weapons such as explosives, incendiary devices, and radioactive materials and devices when a state of emergency is declared but may not impose restrictions on lawfully possessed firearms or ammunition.

- f) Any federal property, including building or land as prohibited by 18 U.S.C § 922 or any other federal law. For detailed information on this federal law, persons are urged to contact the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, or their local U.S. Attorney's Office.

NOTE: Concealed handguns are allowed in Federal Parks in states in which the concealed carry permit is recognized.

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- g) On any private premises where notice that carrying a concealed handgun is prohibited by the posting of a conspicuous notice or statement by the person in legal possession or control of the premises. (N.C.G.S. § 14-415.11)
 - h) Any law enforcement or correctional facility, including State, county, municipality, university police, or company police. (N.C.G.S. § 14-415.11)
 - i) In an office of the State or federal government that is not located in a building exclusively occupied by the State or federal government. (N.C.G.S. § 14-415.11)
 - j) Anywhere while consuming alcohol or at any time while any alcohol or any controlled substance is in the blood (N.C.G.S. § 14-415.11), including improper use of prescription drugs.
5. Statewide Uniformity (N.C.G.S. § 14-415.23)

It is the intent of the General Assembly to prescribe a uniform system for the regulation of legally carrying a concealed handgun. To ensure uniformity, no political subdivisions, boards, or agencies of the State nor any county, city, municipality, municipal corporation, town, township, village, nor any department or agency thereof may enact ordinances, rules, or regulations concerning legally carrying a concealed handgun. A unit of local government may adopt an ordinance to permit the posting of a prohibition against carrying a concealed handgun in accordance with N.C.G.S. § 14-415.11(c) on local government buildings and their appurtenant premises. A unit of local government may adopt an ordinance to prohibit, by posting, the carrying of a concealed handgun on municipal and county recreational facilities that are specifically identified by the unit of local government. If a unit of local government adopts such an ordinance with regard to recreational facilities, then the concealed handgun permittee may, nevertheless, secure the handgun in a locked vehicle within the trunk, glove box, or other enclosed compartment or area within or on the motor vehicle. For purposes of this section, the term 'recreational facilities' includes the following

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- a) An athletic field, including any appurtenant facilities such as restrooms, during an organized athletic event, if the field has been scheduled for use with the municipality or county office responsible for the operation of the park or recreational area.
- b) A swimming pool, including any appurtenant facilities used for dressing, storage of personal items, or other uses relating to the swimming pool.
- c) A facility used for athletic events, including, but not limited to, a gymnasium.
- d) For purposes of this section, the term 'recreational facilities' does not include any greenway, designated biking or walking path, an area that is customarily used as a walkway or bike path although not specifically designated for such use, open areas or fields where athletic events may occur unless the area qualifies as an 'athletic field' as noted in 'a' above, and any other area that is not specifically described this section...."

6. Obtaining the concealed carry permit

In order to obtain a permit, the citizen must apply to the Sheriff's Office within their county of residence. The applicant will sign a release of mental health records as part of the application process, and effective October 1, 2015, no entity can charge a fee for the release of those records. The Sheriff shall issue a permit to an applicant if the applicant qualifies under the following criteria according to N.C.G.S. § 14-415.12.

- a) The applicant is a citizen of the United States or has been lawfully admitted for permanent residence as defined in 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(20), and has been a resident of the State of North Carolina 30 days or longer immediately preceding the filing of the concealed carry application. Proof of citizenship should be brought to the Sheriff's Office.
- b) The applicant is 21 years of age or older.

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- c) The applicant does not suffer from any physical or mental infirmity that prevents safe handling of a handgun.
- d) The applicant has successfully completed a Concealed Carry Handgun training course that has been approved by the N.C. Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission, and whose instructor is certified by this same Commission as a Concealed Carry Handgun Instructor. The applicant must submit the original certificate issued from the course to the Sheriff's Office as part of the application process.
- e) The applicant is eligible to own or possess or receive a firearm under the provisions of state or federal law.
- f) The applicant is not under indictment or against whom a finding of probable cause exists for a felony.
- g) The applicant has not been adjudicated guilty of a felony.
- h) The applicant is not a fugitive from justice.
- i) The applicant is not an unlawful user or addicted to marijuana, alcohol, or any depressant, stimulant, or narcotic drug, or any other controlled substance as defined in 21 U.S.C. § 802.
- j) The applicant is not currently or has not been previously adjudicated by a court or administratively determined by a governmental agency whose decisions are subject to judicial review to be, lacking mental capacity or mentally ill. Consultative services or outpatient treatment alone shall not disqualify an applicant.
- k) The applicant has not been discharged from the armed forces under less than honorable conditions. ("Honorable, General, and Entry Level Separation" are considered acceptable. Individuals receiving "Other Than Honorable, Bad Conduct Discharge, or Dishonorable Discharge/Dismissal" would not be eligible for a Concealed Carry Permit)

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- l) The applicant has not been adjudicated guilty of or received a Prayer for Judgment Continued or suspended sentence for offenses constituting a misdemeanor under the following specific statutes or any other crime of violence:
 - (1) Assault on a handicapped person (N.C.G.S. § 14-32.1)
 - (2) Simple assault (N.C.G.S. § 14-33(a)), within three years prior to the date on the application.
 - (3) Assault inflicting serious injury or using a deadly weapon. (N.C.G.S. § 14-33(c)(1)).
 - (4) Assault on a female (N.C.G.S. § 14-33(c)(2)).
 - (5) Assault on a child under the age of 12 (N.C.G.S. § 14-33(c)(3)).
 - (6) Assault inflicting serious injury or using a deadly weapon on a person in a personal relationship and in the presence of a minor. (N.C.G.S. § 14-33(d)).
 - (7) Assault by pointing a gun (N.C.G.S. § 14-34)
 - (8) Manufacture, sale, purchase or possession of teflon-coated bullets. (N.C.G.S. § 14-34.3)
 - (9) Criminal use of a laser device. (N.C.G.S. § 14-34.8)
 - (10) Domestic criminal trespass (N.C.G.S. § 14-134.3)
 - (11) Violation of court orders (N.C.G.S. § 14-226.1), within three years prior to the date on the application.

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- (12) Furnishing poison, controlled substances, deadly weapons, cartridges, ammunition or alcoholic beverages to inmates of charitable, mental or penal institutions, or local confinement facilities (N.C.G.S. § 14-258.1), within three years prior to the date on the application.
- (13) Carrying weapons on campus or other educational property (N.C.G.S. § 14-269.2,) within three years prior to the date on the application.
- (14) Carrying weapons into assemblies and establishments where alcoholic beverages are sold and/or consumed (N.C.G.S. § 14-269.3), within three years prior to the date on the application.
- (15) Carrying weapons on state property and courthouses (N.C.G.S. § 14-269.4), within three years prior to the date on the application.
- (16) Possession and/or sale of spring-loaded projectile knives (N.C.G.S. § 14-269.6), within three years prior to the date on the application.
- (17) Impersonation of a law enforcement or other public officer (N.C.G.S. § 14-277), within three years prior to the date on the application.
- (18) Communicating threats (N.C.G.S. § 14-277.1), within three years prior to the date on the application.
- (19) Carrying weapons at parades and other public gatherings (N.C.G.S. § 14-277.2), within three years prior to the date on the application.
- (20) Stalking (N.C.G.S. § 14-277.3)

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- (21) Exploding dynamite cartridges and/or bombs (N.C.G.S. § 14-283) (Except for a violation involving fireworks –N.C.G.S. 14-414), within three years prior to the date on the application.
- (22) Rioting and inciting to riot (N.C.G.S. § 14-288.2), within three years prior to the date on the application.
- (23) Fighting or conduct creating the threat of imminent fighting or other violence (N.C.G.S. § 14-288.4(a)(1)), within three years prior to the date on the application.
- (24) Looting and trespassing during an emergency (N.C.G.S. § 14-288.6), within three years prior to the date on the application.
- (25) Assault on emergency personnel (N.C.G.S. § 14-288.9), within three years prior to the date on the application.
- (26) Violations of city State of Emergency Ordinances (N.C.G.S. § 14-288.12), within three years prior to the date on the application.
- (27) Violations of county State of Emergency Ordinances (N.C.G.S. § 14-288.13), within three years prior to the date on the application.
- (28) Violations of State of Emergency Ordinances (N.C.G.S. § 14-288.14), within three years prior to the date on the application.
- (29) Child abuse (N.C.G.S. § 14-318.2)
- (30) Violations of the standards for carrying a concealed weapon (N.C.G.S. § 14-415.21(b)), within three years prior to the date on the application.

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- (31) Misrepresentation on certification of qualified retired law enforcement officers (N.C.G.S. § 14-415.26, within three years prior to the date on the application.
 - (32) Domestic violence protective order violations (N.C.G.S. § 50B-4.1)
 - (33) Has been adjudicated guilty or received a Prayer for Judgement continued or a suspended sentence for crimes involving an assault or a threat to assault a law enforcement officer, probation or parole officer, a person employed by the State or local detention facility, firefighter, emergency medical technician, medical responder, or emergency department personnel.
 - (34) Any person convicted of “misdemeanor crime of domestic violence” as defined in federal law at 18 U.S.C. § 922 (g) (8).
- m) The person is not free on bond or personal recognizance pending trial, appeal, or sentencing for a crime that would disqualify him/her from obtaining a concealed handgun permit.
 - n) The applicant has not been convicted of an impaired driving offense under any of the following General Statutes within the three years prior to the date on which the application is submitted:
 - N.C.G.S. § 20-138.1: Impaired driving.
 - N.C.G.S. § 20-138.2: Impaired driving in commercial vehicle.
 - N.C.G.S. § 20-138.3: Driving by a person less than 21 years old after consuming alcohol or drugs.
 - o) Domestic violence issues

A court in any domestic violence protective order can prohibit a party from possessing, purchasing, or receiving a firearm for a

time fixed in the order. Further, effective September 30, 1996, 18 U.S.C. § 921(a) was modified in the “Lautenberg Amendment” to prohibit the possession of firearms and ammunition by anyone convicted of a misdemeanor under federal or state law, which has, as an element, the use or attempted use of physical force, or the threatened use of a deadly weapon, committed by a current or former spouse, parent, or guardian of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabited with the victim as a spouse, parent, or guardian, or by a person similarly situated to a spouse, parent, or guardian of the victim.

7. Reciprocity

North Carolina law allows residents of other states who have a Concealed Carry Handgun Permit issued by their state to carry concealed handguns in North Carolina.

For North Carolina permittees who wish to carry in another state, you may obtain a current list of those states that honor the North Carolina permit by visiting the N.C. Department of Justice website at www.ncdoj.gov. Under the Crime & Law Enforcement section, a drop-down menu will appear. Click on Law Enforcement Training & Standards, click on Law Enforcement Liaison, and then click on Concealed Handguns Reciprocity. This will direct you to the latest information on those states that allow North Carolinians to carry concealed. Remember that while traveling in other states, you are subject to the laws of that State. Permittees should be aware that the use of deadly force laws may be different as well as those places where carrying concealed is prohibited. Consider contacting the Attorney General’s Office of the State in which you will be traveling for the current laws of that State.

8. Course requirements

The Concealed Carry course that an individual attends must meet several minimum standards as set forth by the North Carolina Administrative Code. Those requirements include:

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- a) The course must be a minimum of eight hours long plus the range qualification time.
- b) The legal block of instruction must be a minimum of two hours in length.
- c) A written legal examination is required. (The mandatory exam is included in the back of this manual)
- d) A shooting proficiency examination is required. The course of fire must be a minimum of 30 rounds with 10 rounds fired from the three-yard line, 10 rounds fired from the five-yard line, and 10 rounds fired from the seven-yard line.
- e) The Concealed Carry course must cover the following topics, or it does not meet the minimum state standards:
 - 1) Legal Issues
 - 2) Handgun Safety
 - 3) Handguns
 - 4) Marksmanship Fundamentals
 - 5) Carrying Concealed Safety Issues
 - 6) Presentation Techniques
 - 7) Cleaning and Maintenance
 - 8) Ammunition
 - 9) Proficiency Drills

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B. Handgun Safety

1. Four cardinal rules of safe gun handling

- a) TREAT ALL GUNS AS LOADED – until you have personally inspected the weapon.
- b) Point the muzzle in a safe direction at all times.
- c) Keep your finger outside the trigger guard and on the frame until you are ON TARGET and HAVE A LEGAL RIGHT TO FIRE and ARE GOING TO FIRE.
- d) Be sure of your target and what's around and beyond it.

These four basic rules should be applied to every aspect of gun handling. When storing a weapon, when handing the weapon to someone, or when loading or unloading, be sure of muzzle direction and trigger finger position. Handguns must be operational, and the operator must have an understanding of this operation. The handgun owner should read the owner's manual carefully in order to completely understand the operational characteristics of a specific make, model, or type of handgun. Always, always **THINK SAFETY**. The handgun can be used for self-protection; it should not be used for self-destruction.

2. Storage of the handgun

- a) Use of commercial trigger locks

Various commercial trigger locks are available that cover the trigger to prevent someone from using the weapon or firing it accidentally. These devices may not allow quick access to the weapon in a personal defense atmosphere. Read the manufacturer's procedure for placing the trigger lock on the handgun. Most manufacturers of trigger locks require the weapon to be UNLOADED prior to placing the trigger lock on the handgun.

b) Storage cases - hard and soft cases

Many different types of hard and soft cases are commercially available to store handguns. Many come with small locks to secure the weapon within the case allowing the weapon to be stored loaded. For defensive purposes, this may be time-consuming and is less than ideal for preventing theft.

c) Padlocks and other locking devices

For storage and safety purposes, padlocks can be used to safely secure the weapon. By locking a padlock around the top strap of a revolver, the cylinder cannot be closed. If the padlock is large enough, it can be placed behind the trigger and prohibit the rearward movement of the trigger. Some manufacturers make a cable and lock system that can be used on virtually any firearm. The cable can be passed through the magazine well and out the ejection port of the semiautomatic pistol to prohibit both loading and firing.

d) Breech locks

Commercial breech locks are now available for the different sizes of semiautomatic pistols. These locks are placed within the breech, then when the key is turned, extend into the chamber and cannot be removed.

e) Gun safes and cabinets

Many types of safes and cabinets are available, including wall safes, picture safes, or large storage weapons cabinets and safes. Access is slow as most are equipped with combination-type locks. Some of these are ideal for preventing theft but not for defensive purposes.

f) Remember the statute, Storage of Firearms to Protect Minors (N.C.G.S. 14-315.1) as previously discussed.

- g) Consideration of where to keep weapons in the home.

When determining where to store a handgun in the home, consideration must be given to several factors. First, are there minors in the home or are there likely to be minors visiting the home? Consideration of G.S. 14-315.1 may help in determining the type of access you will have to the firearm. Second, firearms, especially loaded ones, should be kept out of sight. While all firearms should be secure, secure can be defined as being on the person, in the same room as the person or even somewhere in the house when no children or unauthorized persons are present. Home invasions only take a matter of seconds. If a firearm is used for home protection it needs to be available in seconds that are going to be defined as high stress. This means a balance must be made concerning access of the firearm and security so no unauthorized persons can access the firearm. This *could* mean the firearm is loaded or unloaded and near the bed at night and locked up during the day. You should evaluate your living conditions using the gun safety rules, any applicable laws and balance them with your own personal protection needs.

3. Alcohol and firearms

ALCOHOL AND FIREARMS DO NOT MIX. Alcohol should not be used prior to or during the handling of a firearm. Case law reveals numerous incidents involving the discharge of a firearm where alcohol was a contributing factor.

4. Ammunition safety

Use only ammunition recommended for the weapon you have. Consult the owner's manual for information regarding the type of ammunition that may or may not be used in that specific weapon. Malfunctions can occur due to problem ammunition. The two more common problems are misfires and squib loads. A misfire is used to describe a situation where the primer fails to ignite or to ignite the powder charge. A misfire can be caused by an ammunition problem, a broken or worn firing pin, or the firing pin spring is dirty and cannot compress. A squib load is a

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term used to describe a cartridge or shell which produces velocity or sound much lower than normal. This is usually caused by a partially or totally missing powder charge or a charge that has been contaminated by lubricants or some other type of moisture. A squib load may result in the projectile becoming lodged in the barrel, which could create a hazard if another round were to be fired. If the weapon does not sound or feel as it normally does after firing a shot, check to make sure that the weapon is safe and that the barrel is free of any obstruction.

C. Handguns

The first things the student must learn are the basics of nomenclature, loading and unloading, and the cycle of operation of the weapon. While every weapon has some generic parts such as a trigger, etc., there are some very specific parts of the revolver and the semiautomatic pistol. It is essential that the handgun owner know these parts and understand their function. Loading and unloading procedures will vary not only between the pistol and the revolver but also among various types of each.

1. Revolvers

a) Nomenclature

- (1) Barrel
- (2) Front sight
- (3) Rear sight
- (4) Top strap
- (5) Hammer
- (6) Hammer spur
- (7) Cylinder

- (8) Cylinder thumb latch
- (9) Cylinder star
- (10) Extractor rod – often called an ejector rod
- (11) Trigger
- (12) Trigger guard
- (13) Grip
- (14) Back strap
- (15) Front strap

b) Loading and unloading

(1) Built-in safety features

In order for a single action revolver to fire, it must be cocked. Double action revolvers have a very heavy trigger pull, and the trigger must be pulled through completely. Most modern revolvers have a hammer block that prevents firing the weapon if the weapon is dropped or the hammer is hit. Some revolvers have a striker plate that must be in the up position to strike the firing pin. This plate can only be in the up position if the trigger is pulled. Check with your owner's manual or a factory-certified armorer to determine what type of safety features, if any, are found in your specific weapon.

(2) Holding the revolver while loading

When loading the revolver, hold the weapon in the left hand with the weapon pointed away from the body and

down approximately 45 degrees. The weapon should be held in the proximity of the belt buckle. The right thumb should press the cylinder release latch while the two middle fingers of the left hand apply pressure to the cylinder to open it. The cylinder is rotated with the left thumb while the weapon is supported in the palm of the left hand. Live rounds are loaded with the right hand. (This method may vary slightly with individuals who are left-handed.) For some single-action revolvers, the cylinder does not swing out, so the hammer must be pulled back to the half-cock position in order to allow the cylinder to rotate freely. Others have a break top, or the cylinder is removed by pulling the extractor rod forward. REMEMBER, ALWAYS KEEP THE FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER WHEN LOADING OR UNLOADING THE HANDGUN.

(3) Cylinder rotation

The cylinders on revolvers rotate either clockwise or counterclockwise. Colt, H&R, and Clerke rotate clockwise, while Smith & Wesson, Taurus, and Ruger rotate counterclockwise. (The S&W Bodyguard is an exception to this rule and rotates clockwise.)

(4) Use of loading devices (speed loaders, speed strips, etc.)

Speed loaders and speed strips are devices that may be used to load more than one round at a time. These devices are useful in eliminating loose ammunition in pockets, drawers, etc.

(5) Holding the revolver while unloading

To unload the weapon, place the weapon in the left hand (right-handed shooter) and point the weapon away from the body. Press the cylinder release latch with the right thumb and press the cylinder open with the two middle fingers of the left hand. Holding the weapon in the left

hand, point the muzzle up and press the extractor/ejector rod with the thumb of the left hand and allow the shell casings or live ammunition to fall out of the cylinder. With revolvers that have a loading gate and the cylinder does not swing out, the ejector rod is normally spring-loaded and will eject the rounds when the thumb presses on this rod. Remember on single-action revolvers that the hammer needs to be in the half-cock position to allow the cylinder to rotate freely.

REMEMBER TO KEEP THE FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER WHEN UNLOADING AND TO VISUALLY AND PHYSICALLY INSPECT THE WEAPON AFTER YOU HAVE UNLOADED IT.

(6) Use of the extractor rod

The extractor/ejector rod can be used in assisting with the removal of shell casings or ammunition from the weapon. Often gravity is enough to empty ammunition, but with fired shell casings, the expansion of the heated case may not allow it to fall from the cylinder freely.

(7) Visually and physically inspecting the revolver to ensure that it is clear

After unloading any weapon, you should always check the weapon, both visually and physically, to ensure that it is indeed clear from any live ammunition or shell casings. This final step is done to avoid any accidental or negligent discharges.

c) Cycle of operation

(1) Single vs. double action

Single action revolvers must be cocked in order to fire. Double action revolvers can be cocked and fired single action, or the trigger can be pulled with a long trigger pull to fire the weapon. The trigger pull for a double-action shot normally requires approximately 12 lbs. of

pressure on the trigger to affect this pull. The trigger pull for a single action pull is normally approximately 5 lbs. of pressure or less.

- (2) Operation of the hand, cylinder stop, hammer, hammer block, and trigger.

Most revolvers function in basically the same manner. As the trigger is pulled, the hand pushes on the ratchets of the cylinder to align the chamber with the barrel, and the cylinder stop engages with the cylinder stop notch on the cylinder to ensure that the chamber and barrel remain aligned as the weapon is fired. At the same time, the hammer is being cocked either manually or by the pulling of the trigger. The striker plate or firing pin safety block keeps the firing pin from striking the primer until the trigger has been pulled.

2. Semiautomatic pistol

a) Nomenclature

- (1) Frame/receiver
- (2) Slide
- (3) Barrel
- (4) Ejection port
- (5) Ejector
- (6) Extractor
- (7) Grip
- (8) Front strap

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- (9) Backstrap
- (10) Trigger
- (11) Trigger guard
- (12) Slide stop notch
- (13) Slide lock/slide release lever
- (14) Magazine catch or release
- (15) Magazine
- (16) Magazine well
- (17) Front sight
- (18) Rear sight
- (19) Safety (some models)
- (20) De-cocking lever (some models)
- (21) Takedown lever (some models)
- (22) Hammer (some models)

b) Loading and unloading

(1) Built-in safety features

Semiautomatic pistols may have a variety of built-in safety features depending on the manufacturer and the model. Such features as manual safeties, firing pin blocks, magazine disconnects, hammer blocks, trigger safeties, etc., are found on a variety of semiautomatic handguns. To determine what type of safety features your weapon may have, consult the owner's manual or a factory-certified armorer.

(2) Holding the pistol while loading

The weapon should be held in the dominant hand and pointed away from the body and down approximately 45 degrees or pointed at the target. REMEMBER TO KEEP THE FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER DURING ALL PHASES OF LOADING.

(3) Loading the magazine

Place ammunition into the magazine in the proper manner. Ammunition CAN be loaded backwards into the magazine so pay careful attention to the ammunition as you place it in the magazine. Learn to load by feel.

(4) Inserting the magazine

Hold the magazine in the support hand with the thumb and middle finger. The index finger should be along the front of the magazine, pointing up towards the exposed projectiles. Insert the magazine into the magazine well. You may hear a click as the magazine is seated into the magazine well. Pull gently on the bottom of the magazine to ensure that it is securely in place.

(5) Chambering the round

Once the magazine is secure in the magazine well, grasp the rear of the slide with the support hand. Using an overhand or underhand grip, pull the slide firmly to the rear and release. Do NOT ride the slide forward, as this can cause a malfunction. Allow the recoil spring the opportunity to function properly by simply releasing the slide once it has been pulled back as far as possible. This is called the slingshot method.

(6) Use of safeties or de-cocking levers

Depending on the type of weapon, you may then be required to engage a safety or decocking lever. Consult your owner's manual to ensure the proper use of these safety devices.

(7) Holding the pistol while unloading

Hold the weapon away from the body with the dominant hand, pointed in a safe direction. The weapon remains in the dominant hand at all times.

REMEMBER TO KEEP THE FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER, AND THE WEAPON POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION WHILE UNLOADING.

(8) Removal of the magazine

With the weapon still in the dominant hand, depress the magazine release with the dominant hand thumb and remove the magazine with the support hand. Some people may have to shift their grip slightly to be able to reach the magazine release.

(9) Clearing the chamber

Grasp the slide with the support hand and pull the slide back and release. Any round in the chamber should be ejected onto the ground. Do not attempt to catch the round in the support hand. Always remember to keep the hands clear of the muzzle and the ejection port.

(10) Visually and physically inspecting the pistol to ensure that it is clear

Once the weapon is unloaded, remember to visually and physically inspect the weapon to ensure that it is unloaded and to prevent the possibility of an accidental or negligent discharge. Grasp the slide, pull it rearward and hold or lock the slide back while inspecting the weapon.

c) Cycle of operation

(1) Single vs. double action

As with the revolvers, the single-action pistol must first be cocked in order to fire. Traditional double action semiautomatic pistols can be fired either double or single action. Some semiautomatic pistols can only be fired in what is often referred to as double action only mode. More popular polymer type pistols such as Glock, Smith & Wesson M&P and Springfield XD do not have external hammers but have internal strikers. Dependent upon the manufacturer they are called double action, single action or safe action.

(2) Feeding, chambering, locking, firing, unlocking, extracting, ejecting, cocking

These eight steps are usually the normal cycle of operation of the semiautomatic pistol. The round is fed from the magazine by being placed in the path of the slide. Chambering takes place as the cartridge is seated into the chamber. Locking occurs when the locking ribs

of the barrel are engaged with the locking recesses in the slide (procedure may vary with the weapon). This prevents the loss of gas pressure. Firing takes place as the trigger is pulled and the firing pin impacts the cartridge. Unlocking takes place after the firing of the round. Gases from the fired cartridge force the slide rearward. Extraction is the removal of the shell casing by the extractor as the slide moves rearward. The shell casing or cartridge hits the ejector throwing the shell out of the weapon via the ejection port. Cocking takes place as the slide moves rearward, forcing the hammer or striker rearward and possibly downward as the mainspring is compressed.

D. Marksmanship Fundamentals

1. Grip

a) One-handed grip

The weapon is held with one hand only. The webbing of the hand between the thumb and index finger should be high up on the 'tang' portion of the backstrap on the handgun. The pressure is exerted straight back from the three lower fingers towards the heel of the hand. You should not squeeze the weapon with the fingertips. This type of pressure can cause the weapon to shake when held out for more than a few seconds.

b) Two-handed grip

The initial grasp of the weapon is with the dominant hand. The support hand supports the primary grip of the dominant hand. The fingers of the support hand are placed over the fingers of the shooting hand and placed beneath the trigger guard. The thumbs should be side by side or on top of one another. Be careful not to wrap the support thumb around the back of the weapon when firing a semiautomatic weapon. Grip pressure should be no more than a firm handshake.

2. Stance

Regardless of the type of stance that you use, one rule does apply. The shoulders should always be over or in front of the hips. Never lean back as you shoot.

a) Isosceles

In the Isosceles stance, the feet are about or a little more than shoulder-width apart, knees slightly bent and the weight evenly distributed. The weapon is brought to the shoulder level as the two-hand grip is gained. The arms are straight forward from the shoulders, and the wrist and elbows are locked. The arms and chest appear to create an isosceles triangle, the weapon being the apex of the triangle.

b) Modified Isosceles

The Modified Isosceles stance is basically the same stance as noted above but with the dominate side foot brought straight back approximately one step. This increases both balance and the ability to turn the upper body further to the left and right.

c) Weaver

The Weaver stance is named for its inventor, Los Angeles County Deputy Jack Weaver, who began using this stance in competitive shooting in 1958. The stance is created by extending the support foot slightly forward, thus canting the entire body slightly, forming a defensive stance. The shooting arm is held up to eye level, and points to the target with the elbow flexed slightly. The support arm provides a supporting grip but is flexed sharply at the elbow. As the shooting hand and arm push out away from the body, the support hand and arm pull in toward the body, thus creating an isometric tension that helps to steady the handgun and reduce the amount of felt recoil. The legs are straight but not stiff or locked. The head is held straight, looking directly to the target.

d) Modified Weaver

When using the Modified Weaver stance, begin with a Weaver Stance and then simply lock the dominant arm straight out by locking the elbow. This allows the recoil to push into the shoulder versus attempting to create the isometric tension, as stated above. By locking the elbow of the gun arm, you are simply pulling back into the shoulder with the support hand.

REMEMBER, REGARDLESS OF THE STANCE, THE WEAPON IS ALWAYS BROUGHT TO THE EYES, NEVER THE EYES TO THE GUN.

3. Sight alignment/sight picture

Sight alignment is the relationship of the front and rear sights, while the sight picture is the relationship of the aligned sights to the target. Sight alignment is achieved by looking through the rear sight and focusing on the front sight. The front sight must be aligned even in height with the rear sight and centered within the rear sight. Once the sights are aligned place the aligned sights on the point of the target you wish to hit. The SECRET of good shooting is to maintain sight alignment and sight picture *while the shot is being fired*, not aligning the sights and then breaking the shot.

4. Trigger control

Trigger control is the manner in which finger pressure is applied to the trigger. The shooter should apply slow, steady, and even pressure on the trigger. The pressure should not be applied in a jerky manner. Once the finger begins to travel rearward, maintain the same speed of the trigger finger. When a weapon is fired single action, the trigger should merely be pressed. Remember that the force required to fire the weapon has been reduced by at least fifty percent. Jerking the trigger will result in the shot striking the target low and left for the right-handed shooter and low and right for the left-handed shooter.

5. Follow-through

Follow-through is a term commonly used in sports as every physical action has a follow-through. In shooting, especially when first learning marksmanship, this involves doing the same things for 1-3 seconds after the shot is fired and at the same time the shot is fired. Basically, holding the trigger against the frame as the recoil begins to subside instead of causing the trigger finger to fly off the trigger immediately.

6. Breath control

During the shooting cycle, the shooter cannot breathe normally as the rise and fall of the upper body while shooting will noticeably affect the accuracy if the target is a considerable distance from the shooter. Therefore, if shooting at a distance, breathing must be controlled. Find your natural respiratory pause at the inhale or exhale and hold your breath while the shot is fired. Holding of the breath too long can cause the eyes to water, the sights to get fuzzy, and the body to produce a slight tremor. Remember, if the target is up close, breathing is not an issue.

7. Shooting rhythm

Shooting rhythm depends on the consistency and skill of the shooter. Each element of delivering a shot must be done the same way each time, using the same cadence and length of time. Speed is gained only after safety and accuracy are developed. Speed comes with practice and becoming smooth with the techniques. Remember, speed is merely economy of motion.

8. Shooting positions

Many positions are available to the shooter depending on the type of shooting, the weapon, and the time allowed to fire. Such positions as bench rest, prone, sitting, and barricade may be used in various sporting events or practice sessions. For self-defense in an immediate threat situation, the point shoulder shooting position is probably the best alternative. Point shoulder shooting is a variation of the two-handed grip where the shooter merely brings the weapon to shoulder or eye level and

fires the shot by indexing the sights rather than aiming the weapon. A one-hand variation of this same technique can also be used by thrusting the weapon straight out from the body as it is brought to eye level. Other defensive stances may be the combat crouch position, hip shooting, or retention shooting. These last positions are normally used for very close combat situations and are of little use when distances are greater than seven yards.

E. Carrying Concealed Safety Issues

1. Carrying the handgun in a briefcase or luggage

Weapons carried in a briefcase or luggage should be secured in some manner, either in a holster or a carry case. When traveling by air and carrying a handgun in luggage, remember you must comply with T.S.A. regulations regarding the transportation of the weapon. When carrying a weapon in a briefcase, the type of weapon and the safety features with which the weapon is equipped may have some determination as to how the weapon is secured. For instance, if the weapon does not have some type of hammer block that prevents the weapon from firing when the hammer is struck, the loose weapon in a briefcase could hit the side of the briefcase or an object inside and cause a discharge. The weapon should be secured inside either a case or a holster in such a manner as to negate the possibility of such an accident. Holsters should be constructed in such a manner as to completely cover the trigger and trigger guard in order to prohibit items such as pens, pencils, mini flashlights, magic markers, etc., from getting inside the trigger guard and thus applying pressure to the trigger. Weapons carried in luggage merely for transporting should be unloaded. The weapon carried in luggage is not readily available for personal protection; therefore, it should be stored safely.

2. Carrying the handgun in a purse

Carrying the handgun in a purse is much like carrying the weapon in a briefcase. First, the safety features of the weapon need to be examined. Second, think about the use of the weapon. If it is for personal protection, then you should be concerned with immediate access, not fishing for it in the bottom of the purse. Third, what else is in the purse that could cause an accidental discharge? Keys, lipstick, pens, and pencils are all capable of getting inside an exposed trigger guard.

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Several holster companies offer purses with built-in holsters to prevent such things from happening.

3. Carrying the handgun on the person

a) Holsters and holster selection

Holsters should be selected for security as well as comfort. The trigger guard should be covered as much as possible. The type of weapon and the use of the weapon may dictate the availability of the holster. Holsters can be a cross draw or directional draw. Cross draw holsters are worn on the support side, while directional draw holsters are worn on the dominant side. Both types can be inside the pants or outside the pants. They can be equipped with belt loops, a paddle, or Velcro to secure it to the waistband. Ankle holsters are worn on the inside of the support ankle. Shoulder holsters can be vertical or horizontal. Fanny packs are normally used as cross-draw holsters. Other innovative holsters are ones carried in the small of the back, various pocket holsters carried inside the pants or jacket pockets, and the belly band holsters worn under clothing around the waist.

b) In a pocket or waistband

When the handgun is carried inside the pocket or waistband, some type of holster is highly recommended. It is all too easy to reach inside the pocket and grasp the weapon the wrong way or to snag the weapon on the clothing when trying to withdraw the weapon from the pocket or waistband. The weapon can easily fall out if jogging or running, and any handgun will quickly wear through the thin cotton in most pockets.

c) Location on the person

Consideration should be given to how the handgun is to be used and for what purpose. If used for self-defense or personal protection, the handgun should be easily accessible yet safe. In

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addition, handgun ownership does not make you proficient with the weapon or withdrawing the handgun from concealment. Learning to use the handgun properly is important, but learning to use the weapon in the manner it is to be carried is of paramount importance.

4. Carrying the concealed handgun in a vehicle

When carrying the concealed handgun in a vehicle, it must be readily accessible or within reach to satisfy the conditions of concealment. If the handgun is carried under the seat, consideration should be given to securing the weapon in a holster and securing the holster with Velcro or some other means to the floorboard in order to prevent the weapon from sliding further under the seat out of reach or sliding under the feet when the brakes are applied. When carrying the handgun in a console, consider any item that might tangle the handgun or any object that might interfere with the trigger if the handgun is not secured in a holster or pouch.

F. Presentation Techniques (Drawing the Handgun)

The presentation or draw is as essential in the personal protection arena as is the shooting of the weapon itself. The greatest shooter in the world is helpless if he or she is unable to access the weapon in a crisis situation. Practice is most important in learning to draw or present the handgun. Learning this skill takes time but DOES NOT REQUIRE AMMUNITION. Dry fire practice or practicing with an unloaded handgun is one of the simplest ways to learn to effectively present the handgun, and this practice IS SAFE.

1. Holsters and the presentation from the various types of holsters (i.e., ankle holsters, shoulder holsters, directional draw, cross draw, small of back, inside the pants)

When a holster is used, the draw is normally divided into four steps. These four steps are: Establish the grip, clear the holster, center the hands on the body and extend to the target. First, the grip is established in the holster. It is important that a good grip is established prior to removing the handgun from the holster, and if the handgun is carried concealed, you may have to clear a piece of clothing out of the way of the grip. This saves time since the grip should not have to be readjusted after getting it out of the holster.

Second, the weapon clears the holster. Third, the weapon is brought up along the centerline of the body as it is rotated towards the target. If a two-hand grip is used, it is established at this point. Finally, the weapon is extended toward the target. Regardless of the grip or the position of the holster, these four steps can be followed. Again, lots of practice is required to master these four steps from a specific holster type. When using an ankle holster, the shooter should first kneel down on the shooting side knee to access the holster. The four steps of the draw can then be followed. When using a shoulder holster, it should be secured to the belt or pants.

REMEMBER, THE FINGER NEVER ENGAGES THE TRIGGER UNTIL YOU INTEND TO FIRE. THE TRIGGER FINGER SHOULD LIE ALONG THE FRAME OF THE WEAPON DURING THE DRAW.

2. Fanny packs

When using a fanny pack, first open the pack by unzipping or pulling open the Velcro enclosure. This is done with a rapid jerk. It helps if the fanny pack is secured to the belt.

3. Presentation from a purse

Once the grip has been established on the weapon, the purse should either be secured by the support hand or simply dropped or thrown. Throwing the purse can, in fact, be a distraction. An assailant's eyes may be drawn to the purse as it comes towards him or her rather than the hands as the weapon is removed.

4. Presentation from underneath a coat, jacket, or clothing

In order to remove the weapon, the clothing must be pushed or pulled out of the way to both achieve a grip on the weapon and to ensure that when the handgun is drawn, it does not snag on any loose clothing that would prevent the use of the handgun in a defensive posture. One simple method is a drag where the four fingers of the hand hook at the centerline of the body and actually drag the clothing back around the weapon. Where and how the holster is worn will determine which hand is used. For a directional draw holster, the shooting hand hooks and

drags the clothing. For a cross-draw holster, the support hand hooks and drags the clothing as the shooting hand grasps the weapon. When using a belly band type of holster, the clothing is normally pulled up to reach the handgun, but it should be pulled tight against the body to prevent the pistol from snagging the clothing.

5. Recovery to the holster

When firing is complete, the weapon will be returned to the holster. The recovery or re-holster also has four steps. The first step is to scan or look around. Second, bring the gun to the ready position (muzzle pointed down approximately 45 degrees, triceps touching ribcage) and breathe. Third, make the weapon safe, i.e., engage the safety, decock, etc. Finally, return the weapon to the holster, preferably with only the gun hand. The eyes should not look at the holster to recover to the holster. Remember, you have removed the weapon from the holster because of a serious social encounter. The holster is not the threat, so continue to look where the threat was.

G. Cleaning and Maintenance

1. Field stripping

Field stripping is used merely to disassemble the weapon into its major components in order to clean, lubricate or inspect. Field stripping does not normally involve the removal of internal parts. Most revolvers are field-stripped by removing the yoke screw and taking the cylinder from the frame. Semiautomatic pistols are field-stripped by separating the frame and slide. On many models, the barrel can also be removed easily from the slide.

2. Proper cleaning procedures

- a) Ensure that the weapon is unloaded.
- b) Cleaning solvents

Use only those solvents recommended by the manufacturers and use in the manner prescribed in the directions on the label.

c) Cleaning brushes

Use only those types of brushes recommended by the manufacturer. Do not use a stainless steel brush on a blued weapon. Nylon brushes can be used for cleaning many parts of the handgun. Quality phosphor bronze brushes may be required to remove powder or lead residue.

3. Lubrication

Manufacturer's recommendations should be followed in determining the type of lubricant to use. Most firearms manufacturers will recommend a type of oil that best fits their product. In addition, if you are buying a commercial lubricant, read the label to determine if it can be used on a handgun. Do not use WD-40 or similar products as a lubricant on handguns. The manufacturer will also note the amount of lubricant and the lubrication points on the weapon. Be careful that the lubricant does not come in contact with the ammunition. Most lubricants are penetrating and can cause the powder and primer to fail if they come into contact with the oils. Each weapon will have lubrication points. Semiautomatic pistols are normally lubricated on the slide rails, the recoil guide, and the barrel. The manufacturer may also recommend lubrication at other movement points, such as a trigger or hammer. Revolvers are normally lubricated on the extractor rod and the yoke, as well as any other points as recommended by the manufacturer.

4. Steps in cleaning a handgun

FOLLOW THE PROPER STEPS TO UNLOAD THE HANDGUN. PHYSICALLY AND VISUALLY INSPECT THE HANDGUN TO ENSURE THAT IT IS UNLOADED.

Field strip the weapons as prescribed by the owner's manual.

Clean the barrel with a dry brush. Clean the revolver cylinder with a dry brush.

Use a solvent to further clean the barrel and revolver cylinder. Use a clean patch to wipe out any additional residue.

Use lubricant as dictated by the manufacturer.

5. Function check

A function check is performed each time a handgun is cleaned and should be a part of every inspection. The function check varies according to the type of weapon and the features of that specific weapon. For a revolver, ensure that the cylinder locks properly, the hammer locks back when cocked and will not fall with a small amount of thumb pressure, the trigger pulls freely and dry fires the weapon, the thumb latch allows the cylinder to open, and the extractor/ejector rod moves freely. For a semiautomatic, ensure that the magazine releases freely, the slide locks back with a magazine in the weapon, and the slide does not lock back with the magazine out. If the weapon is equipped with a safety or decocking device, these devices should function properly. The trigger and hammer should function properly. Check the manufacturer's recommendations when deciding how best to function check your specific weapon.

H. Ammunition

1. Use only the proper ammunition for the weapon you utilize. Do not exceed factory specifications on the ammunition you use.

2. Ammunition types

a) Rimfire - the priming mixture is loaded around the rim of the cartridge. This type of primer is used in .22 and .17 caliber.

b) Center-fire - the primer is located in the center of the shell casing.

3. Ammunition components

a) Case - the container for the other components of the cartridge normally made of brass or aluminum. Some brass cases are nickel-plated to enhance extraction. Steel casings are often produced in some European countries.

- b) Primer - the ignition component of a cartridge.
- c) Propellant or powder - the chemical mixture that is ignited by the primer that generates gas which propels the projectile.
- d) Projectile - the bullet. The following terms are commonly referred to in describing the bullet: ball, wadcutter, semi-wadcutter, hollow point, jacketed hollow point, semi-jacketed hollow point, full metal jacket, total metal jacket, flat point, and lead round nose. Most projectiles are composed of lead with a copper jacket. New ammunition is now being produced that is "lead-free" meaning the projectile is composed of tungsten, spun copper or some metal other than lead.

I. Proficiency Drills

The drills below reflect several types of proficiency drills that may be used to demonstrate proficiency and knowledge of the weapon, handling the handgun, and firing the handgun.

1. Verbalization and handling drills

- a) Pick up the handgun and properly hand it to another individual.
- b) Check a handgun to ensure that it is safe.
- c) Demonstrate how to properly load the handgun.
- d) Demonstrate how to properly unload the handgun.
- e) Verbalize at least two methods to properly store the handgun.
- f) Verbalize the cycle of operation of your handgun.
- g) Demonstrate the one-handed grip.

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- h) Demonstrate the two-handed grip.
- i) Demonstrate a stance.
- j) Name the major parts of your handgun.

2. Shooting proficiency drills

The following shooting proficiency drills can be used both to practice and to determine the level of proficiency an individual possesses. Stress can be introduced into the drills as the level of competency increases. Stress can be introduced by adding a time factor, brief physical exercise to increase the heart rate, loud noises such as shouting, horns, sirens, whistles, etc.

- a) One hand - single shot drills from the ready position (1 ft. to 7 yds.)
- b) One hand - multiple shot drills from the ready position (1 ft. to 7 yds.)
- c) One hand - present and shoot single and multiple shots (1 ft. to 7 yds.)
- d) Two hands - single shot drills from the ready position (1 ft. to 7 yds.)
- e) Two hands - multiple shot drills from the ready position (1 ft. to 7 yds.)
- f) Two hands - present and shoot single and multiple shots (1 ft. to 7 yds.)
- g) Reaction shooting vs. precision shooting (1 ft. to 7 yds.)
- h) Stress drills

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NOTE: Shooting drills may be conducted at a target approximately 12" x 12" in size. A variety of silhouette or bullseye style targets can be purchased from the various target manufacturers. The distance at which an individual is no longer capable of keeping all of their rounds in the target may be recognized by that individual as their point of limitation when firing the weapon.

3. Testing: proficiency
 - a) Complete the required written or oral exam on the legal issues of self-defense and the provisions of the carrying concealed handgun law.
 - b) Demonstrate proficiency at firing the handgun with a structured course of fire.

III. Conclusion

A. Summary

In attending this program, the student has only been introduced to the many aspects of handgun ownership. Skill comes only with practice, but skills are of little value when not combined with knowledge of the law and the ability to use sound judgment.

B. Questions from Class

C. Closing Statement

Proficiency with a handgun does not come from merely carrying that handgun. Proficiency comes with knowledge, with practice, and with safe and responsible handling. Use of the handgun in a defensive situation should be a last resort with the knowledge that your use of the weapon is within the law and that you have the ability to use the weapon properly. The handgun used improperly can be just as deadly to the owner.

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