



## PART 6

Title 55

Chapter 13

§ 1311 1.f.

# Cleaning & Maintaining Your Handgun

## Using The Range

### Range Safety

©2021 Louisiana Concealed Carry School  
*All Rights Reserved*

The content of this presentation shall not be copied, accessed, nor transmitted to other entities, parties or individuals, or otherwise conveyed, implemented or utilized in any manner, including electronically, except with specific, written authorization of Louisiana Concealed Carry School.



5

STAGE	SCORE	TOTAL
1		
2		
3		
TOTAL		

36 ROUNDS TOTAL: NO TIME LIMIT

100% Hits in Silhouette Area

STAGE 1

12 Rounds at 6 Feet

STAGE 2

12 Rounds at 10 Feet

STAGE 3

12 Rounds at 15 Feet

*LOUISIANA STATE LAW REQUIRES A SAFE RELOAD AT EACH STAGE . . .*

# TYPES OF CARTRIDGE MALFUNCTIONS

- **MISFIRE**
- **HANGFIRE**
- **SQUIB LOAD**



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
EDUCATION & TRAINING DIVISION

# MISFIRE

**A *MISFIRE* IS THE FAILURE OF A CARTRIDGE TO IGNITE WHEN THE PRIMER OR CASE RIM IS STRUCK BY THE FIRING PIN.**

## **CAUSES:**

- **DEFECT IN THE CARTRIDGE**
- **DEFECT IN THE PISTOL**



# HANGFIRE

**A *HANGFIRE* IS A PERCEPTIBLE DELAY IN THE IGNITION OF A CARTRIDGE AFTER THE PRIMER OR CASE RIM HAS BEEN STRUCK BY THE FIRING PIN. THIS DELAY MAY LAST SEVERAL SECONDS.**

***WHEN A CARTRIDGE FAILS TO FIRE IMMEDIATELY, IT WILL NOT BE KNOWN IF THE PROBLEM IS A MISFIRE OR HANGFIRE. BECAUSE A HANGFIRE CONDITION CAN CAUSE THE PISTOL TO FIRE AFTER A SUBSTANTIAL DELAY, THE PISTOL SHOULD BE KEPT POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION FOR AT LEAST 30 SECONDS BEFORE THE ACTION IS OPENED TO REMOVE THE CARTRIDGE.***



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
EDUCATION & TRAINING DIVISION

# SQUIB LOAD

**A SQUIB LOAD IS A CARTRIDGE DEVELOPING LESS THAN NORMAL PRESSURE OR VELOCITY UPON IGNITION. A SQUIB LOAD CAN CAUSE A BULLET TO FAIL TO EXIT THE MUZZLE AND LODGE IN THE BORE.**

**IF SIGNS OF A SQUIB LOAD ARE ENCOUNTERED:**

- REDUCED NOISE
- REDUCED MUZZLE FLASH
- REDUCED RECOIL

***STOP FIRING IMMEDIATELY*, SAFELY OPEN THE ACTION AND CHECK THE BORE FOR OBSTRUCTIONS.**



# SQUIB LOAD

©Betty Wendt





# Cleaning and Maintaining Your Handgun



# Cleaning and Maintaining Your Pistol

- A gun regularly fired accumulates
  - Dirt
  - Powder residue and
  - Other foreign matter
    - All which can make it more prone to
      - Stoppage
      - Wear
      - corrosion

# Cleaning and Maintaining Your Pistol

- Even a firearm left on a shelf UNTOUCHED—or in a drawer can accumulate sufficient dust and dirt to affect functioning.
  - Responsible gun owners understand that removing such material is critical to ensure gun reliability and readiness.
  - A gun that is properly maintained at regular intervals will function more reliably, shoot more accurately, and last longer than one whose care is neglected

# Cleaning and Maintaining Your Pistol

- Guns must have
  - Regular cleaning
  - Regular inspection
  - Regular lubrication
  - Periodic gunsmith checkup

# Cleaning and Maintaining Your Pistol

- Every gun owner should have a kit consisting of:
  - Cloth patches
  - A cleaning rod and cleaning rod attachments, including a bore brush and tips to hold patches
  - A small brush for cleaning gun crevices
  - Gun solvent (bore cleaner)
  - Gun oil and
  - A soft cloth
- Kits containing all of these are commercially available at gun shops and hardware stores

# Cleaning and Maintaining Your Pistol

- Be sure that any such kit or any individual cleaning rod, jag (a tip designed specifically to hold a cleaning patch) or bore brush is the proper size for your pistol's caliber.
- Also select patches of the proper size.
- Use **safety glasses** to protect eyes from:
  - Solvents
  - Spring loaded parts that may be inadvertently released from your gun

# Cleaning and Maintaining Your Pistol

- Also use thin rubber gloves to protect the skin from exposure to solvents, lubricants, firing residues and lead particles
- Ensure ventilation in gun cleaning area
- No
  - Eating
  - Drinking
  - Smoking
    - While cleaning or performing maintenance

# STEPS TO CLEAN YOUR FIREARM

- Ensure that the gun is unloaded
  - Remove all ammo from the room that you are in
    - Double check.
- Disassemble the gun according to the instruction in the owner's manual for the gun.
  - If you do not have the owner's manual, you can usually obtain one from your gun's manufacturer
    - Also, a gunsmith may be able to show you how to disassemble your gun



# STEPS TO CLEAN YOUR FIREARM

- Attach the bore brush to the cleaning rod and moisten it with the gun cleaning solvent.
  - If possible, use a dropper or spray to put solvent onto the brush
    - Avoid dipping the brush in the solvent, as this contaminates the clean solvent with dirt and grit that may be on the brush
- Push the brush all the way through the bore from the chamber whenever possible, then pull it back through.
  - Do not try to reverse direction with the brush still in the bore.
    - Run the brush through the bore about 10-15 times, adding solvent to it as necessary.

# STEPS TO CLEAN YOUR FIREARM

- Attach the jag to the cleaning rod and push a patch moistened with solvent through the bore.
  - This patch will come out quite dirty with the material that was loosened by the solvent and the bore brush.
- Run several dry patches through the bore.
  - These should come out progressively cleaner, until virtually no fouling is visible.
    - If patches keep coming out somewhat dirty, repeat the cleaning process as outlined above.
      - Visually check the bore for any remaining fouling, lead or powder residue.

# STEPS TO CLEAN YOUR FIREARM

- In cleaning a revolver, the cylinders are cleaned with the bore brush and patches using much the same technique as is employed in cleaning the bore.
  - Once the bore is clean, residue must be removed from other gun surfaces.
- Use a solvent soaked patch, cotton swab or toothbrush as appropriate, to loosen and remove powder residue or other matter from working surfaces.

# STEPS TO CLEAN YOUR FIREARM

- On a semi automatic pistol, such surfaces include the interior of the slide, the slide and frame rails, and the exterior barrel surface.
- On a revolver, such surfaces include the crane, frame and any action parts that are accessed by the removal of the stocks.

# STEPS TO CLEAN YOUR FIREARM

- Finally, reassemble the pistol and wipe it off with a soft, lightly oiled cloth.
  - A cloth diaper works well for this.

# Lubricating Your Firearm

- Cleaning usually removes lubrication from working surfaces.
- It is essential to re-lubricate the firearm after it has been cleaned.
- The owner's manual for your firearm will likely offer instructions on the proper method of lubrication.

# Lubricating Revolvers

- In general, lubricate revolvers in the areas of:
  - Crane
  - Ejector rod
  - Cylinder latch
  - Around sides of hammer and trigger
- With stocks removed, you may also squirt oil into actions areas to smooth the trigger pull.

# Lubricating Semi-Automatics

- In general, semi-automatics should be lubricated on:
  - The slide and frame rails
  - At the muzzle (where the barrel engages the slide)
  - And in the barrel locking area.
  - Also apply a small amount of oil to the sides of the trigger and hammer where they enter the frame and drip a little lubricant into action areas.
  - If you desire, you may put a very light film of oil on the exterior surface of the magazines to prevent rust.



# CRITICAL!!!!

- IT IS CRITICAL TO NOT ALLOW OIL TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE CARTRIDGES CARRIED WITHIN THE MAGAZINE
  - OIL ON CARTRIDGE CASES CAN PENETRATE TO THE PRIMER, MAKING ITS IGNITION UNRELIABLE, AND MAY HAVE OTHER HARMFUL EFFECTS ON GUN FUNCTIONING, AS WELL.

# CRITICAL!!!!

- Use only lubricants designed expressly for firearms.
  - Over time some lubricants may become gummy, impairing gun functioning OR
  - May be too thin or runny to provide lasting protection.
- Also, firearms that are used in climates that are extremely hot, cold, wet or dusty often have special lubrication needs, as do firearms that will be stored for extended periods.

# CRITICAL!!!!

- Avoid over lubricating your pistol
- Avoid lubricating certain areas:
  - All oil should be removed from the bore prior to firing the gun.
  - Excess oil can penetrate wood stocks causing deterioration.
  - Too much oil on the exterior of a pistol can soak into a holster and penetrate it, causing softening of the leather.
    - Many leather holsters are made to snugly fit pistols.
    - Softening of leather can cause safety concerns on re-holstering—especially around trigger.

# After Cleaning and Maintenance Check Functioning

- When re-assembling, be aware of parts that do not fit together as they should.
- After the handgun is reassembled, dry fire it a few times to ensure functioning.
- With a revolver, swing the cylinder out and test the action of the extractor rod.
- Rack the slide of the semi-automatic and ensure that safety mechanisms APPEAR TO BE PROPERLY FUNCTIONING.
  - Look with your EYES . . . AND
  - Listen with your EARS . . .
    - A handgun that sounds subtly different may be signaling a problem.

# After Cleaning and Maintenance Check Functioning

- When live firing at the range, be aware of any changes in the gun's function or feel.
- Gradual changes can result from a buildup of dirt, powder residue, congealed lubricant, etc.
  - Buildup of dirt
  - Powder residue
  - Congealed lubricant
- Sudden tendency of a gun to misfire, jam or change size or location of its groups can signal a broken part or other serious mechanical problem.
  - See a gunsmith.

# After Cleaning and Maintenance Check Functioning

- In addition to your regular maintenance, it is a good idea to have a gunsmith to check your gun at least annually (depending on your shooting habits).

# Range Safety



# SAFETY IS Fundamental In All Shooting Activities

- **No matter where you are at**
  - Practicing at the range
  - Cleaning your gun
  - Around your home
  - In your vehicle
  - Out in public





# Fundamental In All Shooting Activities

## **SAFETY FIRST**

- **ALWAYS** keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.
- **ALWAYS** keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
- **ALWAYS** keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.

# Fundamental In All CLEANING Activities

**NO AMMO**  
**WHEN CLEANING**  
**HANDGUNS**

# Fundamental In All CLEANING Activities

**PERIOD .**

# Fundamental In All CLEANING Activities

**NO AMMO**

**ANYWHERE**

**WHEN CLEANING  
HANDGUNS**

# Fundamental In All CLEANING Activities

**PERIOD .**

# NRA RULES FOR SAFE GUN HANDLING

- **ALWAYS** KEEP THE GUN POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION
- **ALWAYS** KEEP YOUR FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER UNTIL READY TO SHOOT
- **ALWAYS** KEEP THE GUN UNLOADED UNTIL READY TO USE



# Never Use Alcohol or Drugs Before or While Shooting

- Alcohol and many drugs can impair normal mental and physical bodily functions, sharply diminishing your ability to use a gun safely.
  - These substances must never be used before or while handling or shooting guns.

# Never Use Alcohol or Drugs Before or While Shooting

- Note that these effects are produced not just by illegal or prescription drugs
  - Many over the counter medications have considerable side effects which may be multiplied when certain drugs are taken together or with alcohol.
  - Read all medication labels or consult your physician or pharmacist for possible side effects.
  - If the label advises against driving or operating equipment while taking the medication, you should also avoid using a firearm while taking it.



# Use ONLY the Correct Ammunition for your Gun

- Some pistol cartridges come in loads that have the same external dimensions but operate at different pressure levels.
- The gun owner must know which of these loads are safe to fire in his or her gun.



# AT THE RANGE > > > ACTION OPEN >>> EMPTY

- **When we walk into the range . . .**
  - **REVOLVERS . . .**



# AT THE RANGE > > >ACTION OPEN>>>EMPTY>CLIP OUT

- **When we walk into the range . . .**
  - **SEMI-AUTOS**



# Hearing and Eye Protection—Whether You are Shooting—or NOT!!! (If you are at the range)

- **Wear Ear Protection**
  - The sound of a gunshot can damage unprotected ears.
- **Wear Eye Protection**
  - Gun discharges can emit debris and hot gas that could cause eye injury. Eye protection is highly recommended whenever you are around live ammunition that is being fired.



# GENERAL RANGE SAFETY RULES

- **KNOW AND OBEY ALL RANGE RULES**
- **KNOW WHERE OTHERS ARE AT ALL TIMES**
- **SHOOT ONLY AT AUTHORIZED TARGETS**
- **STOP SHOOTING IMMEDIATELY IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED A MALFUNCTION**



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
EDUCATION & TRAINING DIVISION

# HYGIENE GUIDELINES

- **WHILE SHOOTING OR CLEANING A GUN, REFRAIN FROM EATING, DRINKING, SMOKING OR PLACING HANDS CLOSE TO THE MOUTH**
- **AFTER SHOOTING OR CLEANING A GUN, WASH HANDS AND FACE THOROUGHLY WITH SOAP AND COLD WATER**
- **CHANGE AND WASH CLOTHING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER SHOOTING OR CLEANING A GUN**



## REVIEW PROPER PROCEDURES FOR

- **MISFIRE**
- **HANGFIRE**
- **SQUIB LOAD**

# FOR ANY PROBLEM DURING RANGE EXERCISES

- **STOP FIRING IMMEDIATELY!!!**



**FIRING**



FOR ANY PROBLEM DURING RANGE EXERCISES

- **KEEP THE GUN POINTED DOWN RANGE**



**DOWN  
RANGE**

FOR ANY PROBLEM DURING RANGE EXERCISES

- **RAISE THE NON-SHOOTING HAND!!!**



# QUESTIONS/PROBLEMS ON THE FIRING LINE

**A SHOOTER HAVING ANY QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS DURING ANY RANGE EXERCISES SHOULD:**

- STOP FIRING IMMEDIATELY**
- KEEP THE GUN POINTED DOWNRANGE**
- RAISE THE NON-SHOOTING HAND TO SIGNIFY THERE IS A PROBLEM--RANGE PERSONNEL WILL PROVIDE ASSISTANCE**



# RANGE COMMANDS

## ***LOAD***

**STUDENTS MAY LOAD THEIR PISTOLS**

## ***COMMENCE FIRING***

**STUDENTS MAY BEGIN FIRING WHEN READY**

## ***CEASE FIRING***

- **CALLED BY ANYONE OBSERVING AN UNSAFE SITUATION**
- **ALL SHOOTING STOPS IMMEDIATELY**
- **SHOOTERS TAKE FINGER OFF TRIGGER, KEEP GUN POINTED IN A SAFE DIRECTION, AND WAIT FOR INSTRUCTIONS FROM RANGE OFFICER**



## RANGE COMMANDS

- APPROACH THE LINE COMMAND
  - Take your unloaded handgun with open action to the line and place it on the bench.
  - Keep it unloaded until the load command is given.

# RANGE COMMANDS

- LOAD COMMAND
  - Load your handgun
    - Remember that you must fire a total of 12 rounds AT EACH DISTANCE.
    - You must also demonstrate a safe reload at some point during these 12 rounds.
      - At each stage

# RANGE COMMANDS

- **COMMENCE FIRING** or “**FIRE**”
  - You may begin safely firing your handgun on this command.
  - All safety rules must be applied at this point.

# RANGE COMMANDS

- **CEASE FIRING or “STOP FIRING”**
  - You must STOP all shooting immediately when this command is given.
  - Even a shooter who is in the process of squeezing the trigger must stop, remove the finger from the trigger, while keeping the muzzle pointed in a safe direction, and wait for further instruction.



# RANGE COMMANDS

- **CEASE FIRING**
  - Anyone observing an unsafe situation may and should call “CEASE FIRING.”

# OTHER RANGE COMMANDS

- UNLOAD
- CYLINDERS OPEN
- MAGAZINES OUT
- SLIDES BACK
- GUNS ON THE BENCH

# Items You May Need at the Range

- When you go to the range take the following items:
  - Targets
    - Types of Targets
  - Masking Tape
    - Tape over shots to save target expense