

# **South Carolina Concealed Weapon Permit Course Instructor Lesson Plan**

## **Introduction**

This course is designed to satisfy the requirements to receive a Concealed Weapon Permit (CWP) in South Carolina. The course material is divided into five sections, which may be rearranged according to student requirements, and which may take an estimated 8 to 10 hours to present.

## **Course Outline**

**Section 1: Pistol Knowledge and Safe Gun Handling and Storage.**

**Section 2: Legal Aspects of the South Carolina CWP. Avoiding Confrontation.**

**Section 3: Ammunition Knowledge, Fundamentals of Pistol Shooting, and Pistol Maintenance.**

**Section 4: Shooting Positions, Range Safety, and Fundamentals Reinforcement.**

**Section 5: Live Fire Exercises.**

## SECTION 1: Pistol Knowledge and Safe Gun Handling and Storage

Learning objectives: As a result of this training exercise, participants should be able to:

1. Understand the course objectives and any requirements for the lessons.
2. Identify the principal parts of a pistol and the types of actions and demonstrate how they function.
3. Name, explain, apply, and adopt the rules for safe gun handling.
4. Demonstrate how to handle pistols in a safe manner.
5. Understand the importance of and be able to apply safe firearm storage measures.

Facility: Classroom

Training Aids:

1. *SC CWP Course Outline-Student* – one per student.
2. Pistol Instructional Wall Charts
4. A semi-automatic pistol, a single-action revolver (optional), and a double-action revolver.
5. Dummy cartridges for the pistols mentioned above. No live ammunition can be present in the classroom at any time. Dummy cartridges must be clearly marked.
6. Notepads, pens, and pencils – one each per student.
7. The students must NOT bring any ammunition, dummy or live into the classroom.

CONTENT	INSTRUCTIONAL NOTES
<p><b>A. Course Orientation</b></p> <p><b>1. Welcome students to the course.</b></p> <p><b>2. Course Goal</b></p> <p><b>3. Course lessons and schedule</b></p> <p><b>4. Special considerations</b></p> <p><b>5. Orientation to facilities</b></p> <p><b>6. Review student experience level</b></p> <p><b>7. Review classroom rules</b></p> <p><b>B. Lesson Introduction</b></p> <p><b>C. Safety rules. Discuss the major causes of gun accidents: <u>Ignorance</u>—lack of knowledge and <u>Carelessness</u>—having knowledge but failing to apply it.</b></p> <p><b>1. SLED's Four Cardinal Rules of Firearm Safety:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Treat all firearms as if they are always loaded.</li><li>b. Always point all firearms in a safe direction.</li><li>c. Keep your finger outside the trigger guard until the firearm is pointed at the target and you have decided to fire.</li><li>d. Be sure of your target and what is beyond it.</li></ol>	<p>1. Introduce yourself and any additional instructors.</p> <p>2. Explain that the course will provide information on the basic knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for owning and using a pistol safely.</p> <p>3. Provide course overview and the times and locations of future activities.</p> <p>4. Review special matters unique to the course and when special materials may be necessary.</p> <p>5. Restrooms, water fountains, exits, etc.</p> <p>6. Who has owned firearms? What is their level of experience? Any competitive shooters?</p> <p>7. NO AMMUNITION. Practice safe gun handling at all times.</p> <p>B. Review learning objectives of the lesson</p> <p>C. Present the basic gun handling safety rules. Use wall charts where appropriate. Discuss each rule individually. Provide examples. Have students take turns explaining each rule.</p>

#### **D. Revolver Knowledge**

**A revolver is a pistol that has a rotating cylinder containing a number of firing chambers. The action of the trigger or hammer will line up a chamber with the barrel and firing pin.**

**A revolver consists of three major components: the frame, the barrel, and the action.**

**1. Frame—backbone to which all other parts are attached.**

- a. Grip panels—usually composed of wood, rubber, or molded plastic and are attached to the lower portion of the frame.
- b. Trigger guard—protects the trigger to reduce the possibility of accidental discharge (AD).
- c. Rear sight—used with the front sight when aiming.
- d. Backstrap—rear vertical portion of the frame that lies between the grip panels.

**2. Barrel—metal tube through which the bullet passes.**

- a. Bore—the inside of the barrel.
- b. Rifling—spiral lands and grooves cut into the bore. The rifling imparts a spin on the bullet that stabilizes the bullet in flight.
- c. Muzzle—front end of the barrel where the bullet exits.
- d. Caliber—distance between the lands measured across the inside diameter of the bore. Caliber is measured in hundredths or thousandths of an inch or in millimeters.
- e. Front sight—used with the rear sight in aiming.

**3. Action—a group of moving parts used to load, fire, and unload a pistol.**

- a. Trigger—when pulled, it activates the hammer.
- b. Hammer—causes the firing pin to strike and fire the cartridge. The hammer spur is a thumb-gripping surface on the hammer.
- c. Cylinder—holds ammunition in individual chambers that are rotated into firing position by the action of the trigger or hammer.
- d. Cylinder release latch—releases the cylinder and allows it to swing out for loading and unloading.
- e. Ejector—removes cartridges from the cylinder when activated by the ejector rod.
- f. Ejector rod—activates the ejector.

**4. Explain the difference between single-action and double-action revolvers.**

- a. Single-action revolver—the trigger performs one action: releasing the hammer. The hammer must be manually cocked with the thumb.
- b. Double-action revolver—the trigger performs two tasks: it both cocks and releases the hammer. Most double-action revolvers can also be fired in a single-action mode by cocking the hammer with the thumb. Some are double-action only.

D. Review the various parts of a revolver and how they work. When picking up a revolver, always point the pistol in a safe direction, keep your index finger off the trigger, swing the cylinder open, and immediately check to make sure that it is unloaded. When checking any firearm to ensure that the chamber(s) is empty, involve the students by having one of them also check to make sure the gun is unloaded. The instructor should use this strategy every time he or she picks up a gun. Carefully point to each revolver part and describe its function. Display “Handgun Parts” wall chart. Have students follow along and find parts on their own revolvers.

- b. Explain that some revolvers do not have a visible hammer and are commonly referred to as “hammerless,” even though a hammer may be part of an internal firing mechanism.

## E. Semi-automatic Pistol Knowledge

**A semi-automatic fires a single cartridge each time the trigger is pulled, automatically extracts and ejects the empty case, and inserts a new cartridge into the chamber.**

**The *semi-automatic pistol*, like the revolver, consists of three major components: the frame, the barrel, and the action.**

### 1. Frame

- a. Grip panels
- b. Trigger guard
- c. Rear sight
- d. Backstrap
- e. Safety—a mechanical device designed to reduce the chance of an accidental discharge (AD). Because a safety is a mechanical device that can fail, the prevention of an accident is always the responsibility of the gun handler.

- f. Slide stop—locks the slide in an open position.

**2. Barrel—as with the revolver, the barrel in a semi-automatic is a metal tube through which the bullet passes.**

- a. Bore—the inside of the barrel.
- b. Chamber—unlike the revolver, the semi-automatic has a single chamber, which is located at the rear of the barrel. This chamber will hold the cartridge at the instant of firing. (In contrast, the revolver has multiple chambers, which are located in the cylinder.)

- c. Rifling—spiral lands and grooves cut into the bore. The rifling imparts a spin on the bullet that stabilizes the bullet in flight.

- d. Muzzle—front end of the barrel where the bullet exits.

- e. Caliber— distance between the lands measured across the inside diameter of the bore. Caliber is measured in hundredths or thousandths of an inch or in millimeters.

- f. Front sight—unlike the revolver, the front sight on a semi-automatic is not always located on the barrel but is sometimes (along with the rear sight) located on the slide. Discuss other possible sight locations with the students.

### 3. Action

- a. Trigger
- b. Hammer

- c. Slide—On some models, the slide fits around the barrel. On others, it is located at the rear of the barrel. When the pistol is fired the slide moves rearward. The slide is returned to a closed position by the slide spring.

E. Review the various parts of a semi-automatic pistol and how they work. When picking up a semi-automatic pistol, always point the muzzle in a safe direction, keep your index finger off the trigger, and immediately check to make sure the pistol is unloaded. In order to check to see that the pistol is unloaded, remove the magazine and pull the slide back into the open position. Visually and physically inspect the chamber to make sure that the chamber is empty. Remember to involve a student in this process.

Point to the different parts of a semi-automatic pistol. Explain the similarities and differences between revolvers and semi-automatics. Display “Handgun Parts” wall chart. Have students follow along and find the parts on their own semi-automatics.

- b. Explain that some semi-automatics do not have a visible hammer and are commonly referred to as “hammerless,” even though a hammer or striker may be part of an internal firing mechanism.

- c. Briefly describe the functions of a slide. The slide has three primary functions.

- It extracts the cartridge case from the chamber and ejects it from the pistol.
- It cocks the hammer (in most models).

- d. Magazine—a storage device designed to hold cartridges ready for insertion into the chamber.
- e. Magazine release button—a device that releases the magazine so that it can be removed from the pistol.

**4. Types of semi-automatic actions: single-action, double-action, and double-action only**

**F. Operating Revolvers and Semi-Automatic Pistols**

1. Single-action revolver (if appropriate)
  - a. Loading procedure
  - b. Cocking procedure
  - c. Uncocking procedure
  - d. Unloading procedure
2. Double-action revolver
  - a. Loading procedure
  - b. Cocking procedure
  - c. Uncocking procedure
  - d. Unloading procedure
3. Semi-automatic pistols
  - a. Loading and cocking procedure(s)
  - b. Uncocking procedure
  - c. Unloading procedure

**G. Firearm Storage**

1. Storage must prevent access by unauthorized persons.
2. Normally, store firearms and ammunition separately.
3. Must account for deterioration (more about this during ammunition section).
4. If not stored for personal protection, should be unloaded.
5. A loaded firearm must have special storage precautions. Consider a trigger lock, a lockable case, or other positive device.
6. You must be concerned with visitor's access as well as that of a resident.

**H. Summarize Lesson**

- It moves the top cartridge from the magazine into the chamber.

**4. Briefly discuss the three different types of actions found on semi-automatic pistols.**

F. Explain, demonstrate, and discuss how to load, cock, uncock, and unload revolvers and semi-automatics. No live ammunition is to be used, only clearly marked dummy cartridges. Show by example how to properly handle firearms.

3. Remind students that semi-automatic pistols vary in uncocking procedures. It would be nearly impossible to describe all of the possibilities. The best source of information for proper uncocking procedures is the instruction manual for the pistol or a knowledgeable person.

G. Review the basic principle of firearm and ammunition storage: Storage must prevent access by unauthorized persons. Emphasize that hiding the firearm usually is not adequate. Children are inquisitive. Have literature describing various storage devices. Emphasize that every child should be taught: "If you see a gun, STOP! DON'T TOUCH IT! LEAVE THE AREA. TELL AN ADULT."

H. Highlight the most important points.

## SECTION 2: Legal Aspects of Concealed Carry. Avoiding Confrontation.

Learning Objectives: As a result of this training exercise, participants should be:

1. Aware of federal and state laws that pertain to the purchase, ownership, transportation, use, and possession of handguns.
2. Aware of the federal and state laws that pertain to the use of a firearm for self-defense.
2. Aware of the means of avoiding criminal attacks.

Facility: classroom

Training aids:

1. Copies of current materials provided by SLED, related statutory and case law of South Carolina.
2. Copies of federal laws relevant to handgun use.

CONTENT	INSTRUCTIONAL NOTES
<p><b>A. Review Previous Lesson</b></p> <p><b>B. Review Safety Rules</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Treat all firearms as if they are always loaded.</li><li>b. Always point all firearms in a safe direction.</li><li>c. Keep your finger outside the trigger guard until the firearm is pointed at the target and you have decided to fire.</li><li>d. Be sure of your target and what is beyond it.</li></ol> <p><b>C. Federal Law</b></p> <p>Persons who cannot legally own or possess firearms:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Persons who have renounced their U.S. citizenship.</li><li>2. Individuals who have been dishonorably discharged from military service.</li><li>3. Individuals who have been convicted of a felony.</li><li>4. Unlawful users of narcotics or drugs.</li><li>5. Anyone with one of several types of mental illnesses or anyone who has been committed to a mental institution or has been adjudicated mentally ill.</li><li>6. Illegal aliens. (Registered aliens can legally own firearms.)</li><li>7. Persons convicted of crime of domestic violence or subject to a restraining order.</li></ol> <p><b>D. State Law</b></p> <p><b>1. Review requirements for permit:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. SC resident present in South Carolina with the intention of making a permanent home in South Carolina or military personnel on permanent change of station.</li><li>b. Suitably training – SLED approved course; SLED approved instructor; exemptions for military and LEO.</li><li>c. Vision requirement – 20/40.</li><li>d. Age requirement – 21.</li><li>e. Non-resident Real Property owner</li></ol> <p><b>2. Review Section 23-31-215 J, K, and L. Permit holder's responsibilities:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Must have permit ID card when carrying a concealable weapon.</li></ol>	<p>A. Briefly review major points of previous lesson.</p> <p>B. Highlight the importance of safe gun handling. Guns are unforgiving—once fired, they can't be unfired, no matter how sorry you may be.</p> <p>C. Review who can and cannot possess a firearm. Review federal safe transportation laws relating to firearms. Point out firearms cannot be carried into federal facilities.</p> <p>D. Hand out copies of the current SC CWP laws. List those people who can legally carry pistols. Indicate that generally, a private citizen must have a permit in order to carry except in those special situations listed.</p> <p>1. Section 23-31-215. Review application requirements.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Applicant furnish South Carolina's drivers license with application, or photo ID issued by state in which applicant resides, or photo ID from federal agency.</li><li>b. This is very serious. SLED has prosecuted instructors for not giving adequate training and revoked permits. Exemptions: NRA, Police, Military with proof of training.</li><li>e. Non-resident must provide proof of property ownership – certified document from county assessor.</li></ol> <p>a. Keep permit with your driver's license.</p>

b. When carrying a concealable weapon, holder must inform a law enforcement officer and present ID card when officer identifies himself and requests ID or driver's license.

- c. Must report loss or theft of permit ID.
- d. Surrender permit if revoked.
- e. Notify SLED of change of permanent address.

**3. Interactions with law enforcement officers.**

a. When stopped by a law enforcement officer while armed, keep both hands on the steering wheel, advise the officer that you are a CWP holder and are armed (see above), and follow the officer's directions.

b. When in a deadly force confrontation which results in holding the assailant at gunpoint while waiting for the police to arrive, you should do exactly as the officer directs. Do not do anything that could be perceived as a threat. Keep your hands visible. Identify yourself as a CWP holder, and explain the situation briefly to the officer.

**4. Carrying in a vehicle**

a. Secured in closed glove compartment, closed console, of luggage compartment (trunk or in luggage space behind rearmost seat in SUV, station wagon, or truck.)

b. CWP holder may have firearm on or about his person, under the seat, or in any open or closed storage compartment within the vehicles passenger compartment.

**5. Review Section 23-31-215 M, Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, and 14. Places where you cannot carry a concealable weapon.**

- a. Law enforcement, detention, or correction facility
- b. Courthouse or courtroom.
- d. Polling place on election day.
- e. Office or business meeting of governing body of a county, public school, municipality, or special purpose district.
- f. Into a school or college athletic event and not related to firearms.
- g. Day care or pre-school facility.
- h. Place where the carrying of firearms is prohibited by federal law.
- i. Church or other established religious sanctuary unless express permission is given by the person in charge.
- j. Hospital, medical clinic, doctor's office, any facility where medical services or procedures performed except with express permission of employer.
- k. Into a private residence without permission.
- l. Any place where carrying is prohibited by proper sign, unless written permission of owner. What is a proper sign? See Sec. 23-31-235.

**The following are the most serious offenses:**

m. Premises of private or public school, college, university, technical college, other post-secondary institution without express permission of persons in charge. (Premises includes parking lots).

Exceptions: CWP holder may enter the parking lot with a handgun in a vehicle, provided that: the gun is in the glove compartment, console, or trunk (luggage

b. Only when you are carrying to you need to present permit I.D.

3. Explain how to interact with law enforcement officers during a traffic stop and after self-defense incident.

4. Review changes

5. Provide SLED information and review.

a. Misdemeanor - \$1,000 and/or 1 year in jail. CWP Revocation 5 years.

b. (Same as 4a)

c. (Same as 4a)

d. (Same as 4a)

e. (Same as 4a)

f. (Same as 4a)

g. (Same as 4a)

h. (Same as 4a)

i. (Same as 4a) Express permission should be written.

j. (Same as 4a) Express permission should be written.

k. Misdemeanor \$1,000 and/or 1 year imprisonment.

l. Misdemeanor - \$200 or 30 day imprisonment.

Read or go through Sec. 23-31-235.

Show sample of proper sign.

m. Felony - \$5,000 and/or 5 years.

Express permission should be written.

Discuss exceptions for CWP holders.

compartment), NOT on the CWP holder's person, and the vehicle is locked if the CWP holder exits the vehicle.

n. Inside publicly owned building of any kind except interstate highway rest areas. Also concealed carry is permitted in parks, under the jurisdiction of State Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism.

o. Inside an establishment licensed for on-premises consumption of alcohol is no longer prohibited provided that: the property is not posted with a proper sign; the permit holder does not drink on premises; if asked to leave, the permit holder must leave on request.

An owner or agent of a posted facility may give written permission to enter a posted facility.

6. Review Section 23-31-400. Using a Firearm While Under the Influence of Alcohol or a Controlled Substance.

a. Definition of "use of a firearm."

b. Blood alcohol test and its meaning

c. Single exception—persons lawfully defending themselves or their property.

7. Section 16-23-410. It is unlawful to point or presents a loaded or unloaded firearm at any person.

### **E. South Carolina Case Law**

#### **1. SELF DEFENSE**

a. Four elements required to merit self defense:

i. Must be without fault in bringing on difficulty.

ii. Must actually believe he is in imminent danger of loss of life or serious bodily injury or actually was in such danger.

iii. Reasonable or prudent man of ordinary firmness and courage would have believed the same and acted the same to save himself from serious bodily harm or losing life.

iv. No other probable means of avoiding the danger.

b. Where duty to retreat is not applicable: (List those places currently applicable per information provided by SLED.)

c. Protection of Persons and Property Act of 2006 recognizes castle doctrine and extends lawful use of deadly force to person's dwelling, residence, or occupied vehicle. No duty to retreat if the person is in a place where he has a right to be, including his place of business, and the person is not engaged in unlawful activity, and the use of deadly force is necessary to prevent death, great bodily harm, or the commission of a violent crime.

#### **2. DEFENSE OF OTHERS**

a. "alter ego" rule

b. If the person who is defended could have legally applied self-defense measures, then the person who intervenes is also protected.

#### **3. RESISTING A LAWFUL ARREST**

There is no right to resist a lawful arrest.

#### **4. CITIZEN'S ARREST**

a. Felony—if personally viewed or reasonable cause.

b. Misdemeanor—if viewed and breach of peace.

#### **5. DEFENSE OF PROPERTY**

One can use only the force that is necessary or apparently necessary to a reasonably prudent man.

n. Felony - \$5,000 and/or 5 years imprisonment  
(Discuss) Parking lots and premises okay on state buildings.

Discuss – other parks

o. Misdemeanor - \$2,000 and/or 2 years imprisonment. 5 year permit revocation.

7. A firearm is not used to "scare" persons who make us uncomfortable.

E. Provide current SLED information on case law.

Read the handout word for word.

b. Point out the alternatives. "No duty to retreat" does not imply confrontation is always the wisest course of action.

c. H4301-2006: Protection of Persons and Property Act defines new rules where no duty to retreat.

2. Point out problems. Often may not know if person was without fault in bringing on the difficulty.

4. Point out problems with unviewed felony—if later found incorrect, then arrest was unlawful.

5. Excessive force in defense of property is punishable.



**F. Liability and responsibility**

1. Never fire at a target you have not properly identified.
2. Keep firearms out of the reach of children and unauthorized adults.
3. Make moral and ethical decisions before carrying a firearm.

**G. Alternatives to use of force—avoiding confrontation**

1. Home Security
  - a. Security Systems
  - b. Dealing with strangers
  - c. Door peep holes
  - d. Exterior and interior lighting
  - e. Shrubbery
  - f. Change locks and keys in new home or apartment
  - g. Lock doors when you are home
2. Phone Security
  - a. Strangers
  - b. Answering machines messages
  - c. Cellular phone “privacy.”
3. Automobile Security
  - a. Keys ready
  - b. Be aware
  - c. Key security
  - d. Lock doors when inside
  - e. Stay in your car
  - f. Keep it gassed up
  - g. Consider a cellular
  - h. No hitchhikers
4. Physical Security
  - a. Maintain your space
  - b. Be aware
  - c. Be confident
  - d. Avoid outside ATMs at night
  - e. Avoid stairwells in parking garages
  - f. Caution if normal lights not working

**H. Summarize Lesson**

F. Point out that each gun owner is responsible for the safe landing of every round fired.

G. Review and discuss alternatives to the use of force. Proper preparation of home and personal safety awareness can prevent attacks.

H. Review:

## SECTION 3: Ammunition Knowledge, Fundamentals of Pistol Shooting, and Pistol Maintenance

Learning objectives: As a result of this training exercise, participants should be able to:

1. Identify handgun ammunition components and their functions.
2. Identify the proper handgun ammunition and its intended use.
3. Identify and demonstrate the fundamentals of shooting a handgun.
4. Identify materials needed to clean a handgun.
5. Demonstrate how to clean a handgun safely.

Facility: classroom

Training aids:

1. Empty cartridge cases and components, a variety of calibers and manufacturers. NO LIVE AMMUNITION.
2. Empty handgun ammunition boxes.
4. Wall charts.
5. Cleaning kit

CONTENT	INSTRUCTIONAL NOTES
<p><b>A. Review Previous Lesson</b></p> <p><b>B. Review Safety Rules</b></p> <p><b>C. Lesson Introduction</b></p> <p><b>D. Ammunition</b></p> <p><b>1. The four components of a pistol cartridge</b></p> <p>a. Case—a metal cylinder (usually made of brass) that is closed at one end and contains the other three components.</p> <p>b. Primer—an impact sensitive chemical compound used for ignition.</p> <p>c. Powder Charge—a fast-burning chemical compound used as a propellant.</p> <p>d. Bullet—the projectile.</p> <p><b>2. Rimfire and center-fire cartridges</b></p> <p>a. Rimfire cartridge—the primer is contained inside the rim of the case's base.</p> <p>b. Center-fire cartridge—the primer is contained in a small metal cup and is in the center of the case's base.</p> <p><b>3. Firing sequence of a cartridge</b></p> <p>a. Firing pin strikes and ignites the primer.</p> <p>b. The flame generated by the primer ignites the powder charge.</p> <p>c. Powder burns very rapidly and produces a high volume of gas.</p> <p>d. The gas propels the bullet out of the barrel at a high rate of speed.</p> <p><b>4. Cartridge designation and identification.</b></p> <p>a. The shooter must always be sure to load the proper cartridge into the pistol.</p> <p>b. The shooter should match the cartridge designation stamped on the pistol with the cartridge designation printed on the ammunition box and the</p>	<p>A. See summary of previous lesson.</p> <p>B. Emphasize that all safety rules will be followed.</p> <p>C. Review learning objectives for the lesson.</p> <p>D. Absolutely NO LIVE AMMUNITION.</p> <p>Discuss the four components of a pistol cartridge. Use wall charts and diagrams. Refer to cartridge diagram in handbook. Present display of ammunition components.</p> <p>1. Discuss the difference between a bullet and a cartridge. Cartridges are commonly and erroneously called bullets.</p> <p>2. Discuss differences</p> <p>4. Show the cartridge designation on a center-fire pistol, and empty ammunition box of the appropriate caliber, and a fired cartridge case of the same caliber.</p> <p>a. Emphasize differences among 9 mm, magnum, +P and +P+.</p> <p>b. Suggest each student review the manual for his handgun or consult the manufacturer. Many gun manufacturers will send free manuals. Some manuals can</p>

cartridge designation stamped on the bottom of a center-fire cartridge.

c. Plus-P (+P) cartridges—are loaded to a higher pressure than standard cartridges. Plus-P-Plus (+P+) cartridges are loaded to higher pressures than Plus-P cartridges. NATO cartridges are sometimes loaded to higher pressures than +P+ cartridges.

#### **5. Storing ammunition**

a. Ammunition should be stored in a cool and dry area. Avoid storing ammunition in extremely high temperature areas such as an attic or the trunk of a car.

b. Always keep the ammunition in the factory box or carton.

c. Wipe fingerprints off cartridges. Perspiration may cause corrosion.

d. Ammunition should be stored in a place where children and other unauthorized persons will not have access to it.

e. Ammunition should not be exposed to water or to solvents, petroleum products, bore cleaner, ammonia, or other chemicals. These materials can cause the primer and/or powder charge to deteriorate and result in a cartridge malfunction.

#### **6. Cartridge malfunctions**

a. Misfire—a failure of the cartridge to fire after the primer has been struck by the firing pin.

b. Hangfire—a perceptible delay in the ignition of a cartridge after the primer has been struck by the firing pin. When a cartridge fails to fire immediately, it will not be known at first whether the problem is a misfire or a hangfire. In non-self-defense situations, keep the pistol pointed in a safe direction because a hangfire situation might exist and the cartridge could still fire. Wait at least 30 seconds before opening to remove the cartridge.

c. Squib load—development of less than normal pressure or velocity after the ignition of a cartridge. If anything unusual is noticed when a shot is fired, such as a difference in recoil or noise, the shooter should stop firing immediately. Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction and unload the pistol. Check to be sure that the chambers are empty. Then, with the action open, visually inspect the barrel to be sure that it is not obstructed. Squib loads can result in a bullet failing to exit the barrel. The firing of another shot down an obstructed barrel could cause serious injury or damage.

#### **E. Review Safe Gun Handling Rules.**

##### **F. Dominant Eye**

1. Focus on distant object with both eyes open.
2. Extend arms with hands together forming hole between thumbs.
3. Look at the object through the hole. Bring the hands close to the face while still observing the object. When the hands reach the face, the hole will be directly in front of the dominant eye.

#### **G. Fundamentals of Pistol Shooting**

##### **1. Position**

- a. Two-handed standing

be downloaded from the manufacturer's website.

- c. Explain differences between +P, +P+, and NATO

5. Store separately from firearms.

E. Make sure all safety rules are followed.

F. Discuss the dominant eye and its importance in shooting. The pistol shooter should aim with the dominant eye. Establish the dominant eye for each student by using the exercise described on page 57 in the handbook. It is recommended that the shooter use the hand on the same side of the body as the dominant eye.

G. Discuss the fundamentals of pistol shooting and why they are important. The fundamentals should be performed every time a person fires a shot.

- a. Position needed for the CWP qualification.

## **2. Grip**

- a. Keeping the gun pointed in a safe direction and the index finger off the trigger, use the non-shooting hand to place the pistol in the shooting hand.
- b. Fit the “V” formed by the thumb and the index finger of the shooting hand as high as possible on the backstrap.
- c. Align the backstrap of the pistol frame with the wrist and forearm.
- d. Grip the pistol using the base of the thumb and the lower three fingers of the shooting hand. The pressure of the grip must be directed straight to the rear. Hold the pistol as firmly as possible but without exerting so much pressure that the hand shakes.
- e. Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot. The index finger should lie along the side of the frame or on the outside of the trigger guard.
- f. The thumb should lie relaxed along the side of the frame at a level above the trigger finger.
- g. Uniformity is the most important feature of the grip. You should grip the pistol the same way each time you hold the pistol.
- h. The support hand thumb should be aligned with and on the same side as the gripping hand thumb, and all fingers should wrap securely around the grip covering the grip hand fingers.

## **3. Breath control**

- a. In order to minimize body movement, your breath must be held while firing a shot.
- b. Before each shot, take a breath, let enough air out so you are comfortable, and hold the remaining breath while firing the shot.
- c. If your breath is held too long, muscle tremors may start. Point the gun in a safe direction, take your finger off the trigger, put the gun down, relax, take a few breaths, and then begin the firing cycle again.

## **4. Sight Alignment**

- a. Proper sight alignment—the top of the front sight is even with the top of the rear sight, and there is an equal amount of space separating the front sight from the sides of the rear sight.
- b. The eye can focus on only one object at a time. It cannot keep the rear sight, the front sight, and the target in focus simultaneously. The shooter must concentrate on the front sight. The front sight should appear sharp and clear, the rear sight should look less sharp, and the target should look somewhat blurred.
- c. Sight picture—obtained by achieving the proper sight alignment and then putting the aligned sights into their proper relationship with the target.
- d. No shooter can hold the pistol in a firing position without some motion. This motion is called the “arc of movement.” The shooter should try to maintain proper sight alignment while maintaining a minimum arc of movement.
- e. Proper sight alignment is the key to accurate shooting. Any misalignment of the front sight with the rear sight introduces an angular error, the effect of which is multiplied with distance.
- f. Ideally, it is best to keep both eyes open while

- a. Use plastic training guns for classroom demonstration.

aiming. More total light is available to the eyes and depth perception is better. Facial contortions and muscle tension are also minimized.

g. Sight adjustment—when adjusting metallic sights, always move the rear sight in the same direction that you want your shots to appear on the target. Only adjust the sights after you have achieved a good group.

### **5. Trigger Squeeze**

a. The index finger is placed so that the trigger is halfway between the tip of the finger and the first joint.

b. The trigger is squeezed straight to the rear in a smooth, continuous manner without disturbing sight alignment. Don't speed up or slow down the pressure or apply the pressure in a start-and-stop manner.

c. You should not be able to predict the instant that the gun will fire.

d. Each shot should come as a surprise.

e. Trigger squeeze and sight alignment must be done simultaneously while maintaining a minimum arc of movement.

### **6. Follow-through**

a. Follow-through—continuing to do everything that was being done at the time the shot was fired.

b. Follow-through prevents any unnecessary movement before the bullet exits the barrel.

### **7. Conclusion**

**The two most important fundamentals in pistol shooting are sight alignment and trigger squeeze.** The other four fundamentals all combine to assist in achieving proper sight alignment and trigger squeeze.

## **H. Caring for the Pistol**

### **1. Cleaning**

a. Equipment and supplies: solvent, brushes, patches, cleaning rods, toothpicks, etc.

b. Cleaning procedure

### **2. Handgun repairs**

### **3. Review Storage Requirements**

a. Store guns and ammunition so that they are not accessible to unauthorized persons.

b. Guns and ammunition should be stored separately.

c. Guns and ammunition should be stored in a cool, dry area.

### **I. Summarize Lesson**

H. Briefly introduce this topic by discussing the importance of taking proper care of the pistol through preventive maintenance. Emphasize that no ammunition should be present during the cleaning operation at any time, in class or at home.

1. Review equipment and supplies needed and have examples. Review procedures. Demonstrate how to properly clean a revolver and a semi-automatic pistol. Emphasize that a pistol should be cleaned after each use, whenever exposed to dirt or moisture, and periodically.

2. Emphasize that the cleaning process provides a good opportunity to examine the handgun for mechanical problems. Gun repairs should be done by an experienced gunsmith.

Emphasize the need for security, especially if there is any possibility that children might be in the building or area where firearms are stored (not just residents, but visitors too). Mention gun storage devices such as cabinets, safes, lock boxes, trigger locks, etc. Review the instructions for young children: "If you see a gun, STOP! DON'T TOUCH IT. LEAVE THE AREA. TELL AN ADULT."

I. Review Key Points:

## SECTION 4: Shooting Positions, Range Safety, and Fundamentals Reinforcement

Learning objectives: As a result of this training exercise, participants should be able to:

1. Demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and attitude necessary to safely shoot a handgun from the two-handed standing position.
2. Identify the criteria for selecting a handgun.
3. Demonstrate the knowledge, skill, and attitude necessary to shoot a handgun safely on the range.
4. Properly score a pistol target.
5. Understand the criteria for selecting a pistol.
6. Identify several ways to pursue pistol-shooting activities after the course.

Facility: Classroom and/or range

Training aids:

1. Student's qualification pistols.
2. Wall charts
3. Targets

CONTENT	INSTRUCTIONAL NOTES
<p><b>A. Review Previous Lesson</b></p> <p><b>B. Lesson Introduction</b></p> <p><b>C. Range Safety</b></p> <p>    <b>1. Range layout (firing points, firing line, preparation area, etc.)</b></p> <p>    <b>2. Range personnel</b></p> <p>    <b>3. Range operating procedures</b></p> <p>        a. "Load." The students may load their pistols only after this command has been given.</p> <p>        b. "Commence firing." Each student may begin firing when he is ready.</p> <p>        c. "Cease firing" means stop shooting immediately. Even a shooter who is in the process of squeezing the trigger must stop, remove his finger from the trigger while keeping the muzzle pointed in a safe direction, and wait for further instructions from the range officer. These instructions may include such commands as: "Unload. Cylinders open. Magazines out. Slides back. Guns on the bench."</p> <p>            i. The "cease firing" command can be used during normal range procedures or in an emergency situation.</p> <p>            ii. The "cease firing" command is not restricted to use by the range officer. It should be used by anyone observing an unsafe situation and should be immediately obeyed by everyone on the range NO MATTER WHO CALLS IT OUT.</p> <p>        d. A student who has any type of problem with his pistol should take his index finger off the trigger, point the gun in a safe direction, and raise his or her hand for assistance from one of the range personnel.</p> <p>    <b>4. Range rules--typical range rules are:</b></p> <p>        a. Eye and ear protection are required for everyone on the range.</p>	<p>A. See summary of previous lesson.</p> <p>B. Review learning objectives for this lesson.</p> <p>C. If in a classroom, lay out range as before.</p> <p>2. Discuss range officers and their functions</p> <p>3. Review range operating procedures and range commands mentioned in the text. Make sure students are familiar with range commands and what they mean.</p> <p>a. Emphasize that this command only authorizes the students to load their pistols—nothing else. Students must still keep their fingers off the triggers.</p> <p>b. Some range officers check for readiness with: "Is the range ready? Ready on the left? Ready on the right? All ready on the firing line." Then they give the command: "Commence firing."</p> <p>4. Review any rules specific to the range.</p>

- b. Firearms are to be pointed downrange at all times when they are not holstered.
- c. No gun handling behind the firing line while anyone is downrange.
- d. Do not bend down on the firing line.

#### **D. Review Gun Safety Rules**

##### **SLED Four Cardinal Rules of Firearms Safety:**

- **Treat all firearms as if they are always loaded.**
- **Always point all firearms in a safe direction.**
- **Keep your finger outside the trigger guard until the weapon is pointed at the target and you have decided to fire.**
- **Be sure of your target and what is beyond it.**

#### **E. Other Safety Rules**

1. Be sure the gun is safe to operate.
2. Know how to use the gun safely.
3. Use only the correct ammunition for the gun.
4. Wear eye and ear protection as appropriate.
5. Never use alcoholic beverages or drugs before or while shooting.
6. Store guns so that they are not accessible to unauthorized persons.
7. Be aware that certain types of guns and many shooting activities require additional precautions.

#### **F. Two-Handed Standing Position**

##### **1. Establish the two-handed standing position.**

- a. Study position.
- b. Practice position without pistol.
- c. Practice position with pistol.

- d. Align position with target.

##### **2. Dry fire pistol at target.**

E. Discuss these additional gun safety rules which should also be observed when using or storing a gun.

F. Demonstrate the two-handed standing shooting position. Explain to the students that both hands are used to grip and support the pistol.

1. Be sure to follow the steps outlined in the left column.

a. Demonstrate the Isosceles position. Describe two different types of two-handed grips for semi-automatic and revolver. Briefly describe the “Weaver” stance.

b. Assist students in attaining the proper position.

c. Check the following:

- Grip
- Feet—shoulder width apart with body weight distributed evenly.
- Legs—slightly bent.
- Back—bent slightly backward.
- Head—erect.
- Arms—fully extended.
- Pistol brought to eye level.
- Shooter should be relaxed and comfortable.

d. Make sure that the pistol points naturally to the center of the target. Discuss natural point of aim.

2. Make sure all fundamentals are practiced. Emphasize sight alignment and trigger squeeze. Point out to the students that nobody can hold the pistol perfectly still. Tell the students to keep the sights aligned while maintaining a minimum arc of movement. Remind the students to squeeze the trigger straight to the rear and wait for the hammer to fall.

### **G. Scoring Targets**

1. Bullet holes outside the black or off the target are zero.
2. Bullet holes within the black, or touching the black, are counted.
3. Must have 35 out of 50 hits in the black to qualify.

### **H. Selecting a Pistol**

**1. Review the laws in your area** concerning the purchase, ownership, use, possession, and carrying of a pistol. Penalties for firearm violations can be severe.

#### **2. Types of pistols:**

- a. .22 target pistols—very accurate, have little recoil, and use inexpensive ammunition.
- b. Center-fire pistols—available in a variety of calibers and can be used for personal protection, hunting, competitive shooting, etc.

#### **3. Guidelines for purchasing a pistol:**

- a. Determine the intended use for the pistol.
- b. Decide how much money to spend.
- c. Find out if the ammunition is easily obtainable.
- d. Study various makes and models.
- e. Seek the advice of a knowledgeable person.
- f. Be sure that the pistol fits the user's hand properly.
- g. Consider the pistol's simplicity of operation and ease of cleaning.
- h. Obtain information about the pistol's manufacturer.
- i. Find out if the pistol has a record of trouble-free dependability.
- j. Find out if the pistol has a warranty and guarantee.
- k. Purchase the pistol from a reputable dealer.

### **I. Proper concealment techniques, drawing from concealment**

1. Concealment holsters: belt, inside the waistband, shoulder, ankle, wallet, purse
2. To draw from concealment, move clothing away, use shooting grip to draw from holster, pull gun up, rotate, join other hand for two-handed grip, extend.

### **J. Maintaining Skills**

### **K. Review**

### **L. Written Test**

### **M. Prepare for Next Lesson—Live Fire Exercises**

G. Briefly describe how to score a target.

Also describe how CWP qualification targets will be scored and what is required to receive a passing score. Have examples of shot targets.

H. Review the information that the students should know when purchasing a pistol.

1. Refer to Section 2 of this lesson plan.

I. Demonstrate proper concealment holsters and techniques, and how to safely draw from concealment.

J. Provide encouragement to practice regularly

K. Review

L. Hand out written exams. Provide quiet area for students to take exams.

Grade exams, record scores.

M. List all equipment and supplies that will be required:

- Eye protection
- Ear protection
- Firearm and belt holster
- Ammunition
- Recommended clothing, baseball type cap
- Water



## SECTION 5: Live Fire Exercises

Learning objectives: As a result of this training exercise, participants should be able to:

1. Demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and attitude necessary to safely shoot a handgun from two-handed standing position in a live fire situation.
2. Complete the training for a CWP in South Carolina.

Facility: Range

Training aids:

Provided by student:

- Eye protection
- Ear protection
- Belt holster
- Handgun(s)
- Sufficient ammunition to complete instruction

Provided by instructor:

- Targets
- Record forms
- Stopwatch

CONTENT	INSTRUCTIONAL NOTES
<b>A. Review Previous Lessons</b>	A. Review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• General Safety Rules</li><li>• Range Safety Rules</li><li>• Extended Safety Rules</li></ul>
<b>B. Lesson Introduction</b>	B. Review learning objectives
<b>C. Two-Handed Position</b>	C. Students may use their choices of the positions and grips discussed. Refer to Section 4 of this lesson plan for specifics on positions.
1. Dry fire exercise	1. Reinforce fundamentals.
2. Single shot exercise	2. Have students load and fire one cartridge at a time at least five times.
3. Five shot exercise	3. Have students load five rounds and shoot for group, resting between shots. Repeat this exercise at least twice.
<b>D. Qualification course</b>	D. Have students shoot CWP qualification course per current SLED requirements.
<b>E. Course Summary</b>	E. Course conclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Summarize major points of the course. Encourage students to practice regularly.</li><li>• Record scores. Issue certification to those students who have satisfactorily completed both the written and the shooting qualification with scores of 70% or better.</li><li>• Encourage them to tell their friends about the course.</li><li>• Thank them for their participation.</li></ul>