# HANDGUN SAFETY TRAINIG

A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR OPERATING PISTOLS AND REVOLVERS



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# Handgun Safety Training with American Concealed

At American Concealed, we're dedicated to safe and responsible concealed carry. We provide online trainings that meet some states' requirements for permit applications, as well as accuracy and self-defense programs.

A veteran-owned business, we focus on tactical training, current news, and building a community of responsible gun owners. We promote safe and responsible gun ownership and all of our publications and website content is focused on training regularly and improving skills over time.

Carrying a concealed handgun requires knowledge and dedication. Every handgun owner should have a basic understanding of the function of a variety of firearms. Learning basic shooting fundamentals and how to safely operate handguns is a great way to show respect for firearms.

This book provides some of the basic fundamental information necessary to safely handle and carry a concealed handgun. It provides descriptions of handguns, their parts, and how to safely handle a concealed firearm.

The best way to learn new information is to watch a certified and experienced instructor while following along with a book. It helps to not only watch the instructor and read about the new information, but you'll also need to practice the movements and drills regularly.

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# Handgun Safety Training

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# How to Use This Book

hank you for choosing to improve your Concealed Handgun Safety Training and increase your knowledge of concealed carry. For the best results, use this book and, if you want a full course, watch the American Concealed Handgun Safety Training DVD.

This book covers most of the information addressed in the video. It was created to reinforce the strategies and lessons and help you to build your own knowledge. Inside this book, you'll find additional articles and pictures that will give you extra information and insight.

The review questions that are included are not required but are helpful for adding to your understanding of the information. If you watch the American Concealed Handgun Safety Training video with your family, use the discussion questions to talk about ways your family can respect and safely handle firearms. There is also space provided for taking notes.

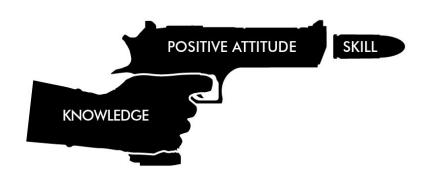
# **Handgun Safety Basics**

n this section, the basic elements of handgun safety are covered. All firearms should be treated with great care and respect. They are dangerous weapons and failing to treat them the right way can result in injury or death. Learn these basics and practice them every time you encounter a firearm.

One of the most important things to know about carrying a concealed handgun is knowing how to identify a **Cleared Firearm**. Get in the habit of clearing your firearm frequently and know how to handle other firearms you encounter in a similar way.

There are **Three Elements of Firearm Safety**. Learn them and keep them in mind anytime you carry your concealed handgun.

- A Positive Attitude
- Knowledge
- Skill



The **Four Rules of Gun Safety** should be practiced at all times. Knowing and teaching these rules to others can keep you and your loved ones safe when handling a firearm.



- Rule #1 Treat every firearm as if it's loaded.
- **Rule #2** Keep your finger off of the trigger until you're ready to fire.
- **Rule #3** Never point a firearm at anything you are not willing to destroy.
- **Rule #4** Before your decision to fire: be sure of your target, your target's environment, and other safety hazards.

**Ignorance and carelessness are frequently the reason for accidents.** Avoid these by learning how to prevent accidents before they happen.

### Ways to Prevent Firearm Accidents:

- Be sure the firearm is safe to operate.
- Know how to use the firearm safely.
- Use only the correct ammunition.
- Wear eye and ear protection as appropriate.
- Never use alcohol or drugs when you have a firearm with you.
- Always store your firearms so they are not accessible to unauthorized people.
- Never handle a firearm in an emotional state such as depression or anger.
- Do not display your firearm unless you intend to use it. Don't ask, don't tell, don't show.
- Keep your firearm unloaded until you're ready to use it.

### Keep Children Safe

Another very important part of handgun safety is learning how to keep children safe when guns are present in any environment. Children don't often know how to respect guns and, without proper instruction, can really hurt themselves or others.

- A permit holder needs to be a positive role model for their children.
- Children should be taught the difference between television, toys, and real life.
- Children should be taught what to do if they come across a firearm without an adult present.
  - A. Stop and don't touch it.
  - B. Everyone leave the area.
  - C. Go get an adult.

# **Revolvers and Semi-Automatic Pistols**

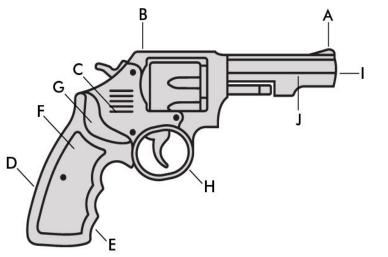
n this section, the parts of both revolvers and semi-automatic pistols are introduced. It is essential to learn the names and locations of each part, as well as how its function works to fire the gun. Take time to review the parts of your firearm and how they function.

Gun owners must know the difference between **Double Action** and **Single Action firearms**. They each have their own features and benefits to consider. Learn which type you carry and how to handle it safely and effectively.

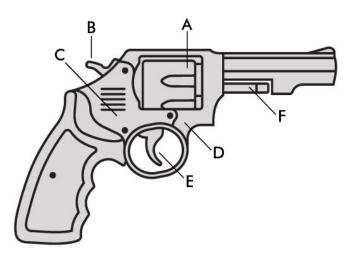
- **Double Action** The trigger has two functions. Pulling the trigger pulls the hammer back and also allows it strike forward, firing the gun.
- **Single Action** In order to fire the gun, the hammer must be pulled back before each shot. The trigger only as one single action, and that is to release the hammer to fire.

It's important to know the **Basic & Action Parts of a Double Action Revolver**. Learn their names and locations in order to perform basic maintenance of your firearm and know the functions of how the gun fires.

The Basic Parts



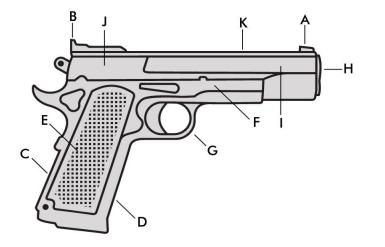
- A. Front Sight
- B. Rear Sight
- C. Action (within the frame)
- D. Back Strap
- E. Front Strap
- F. Grip Panels
- G. Frame
- H. Trigger Guard
- I. Muzzle
- J. Barrel



- The Action Parts
- A. Cylinder
- B. Hammer
- C. Hammer Spur
- D. Cylinder Release Latch
- E. Trigger
- F. Ejector Rod

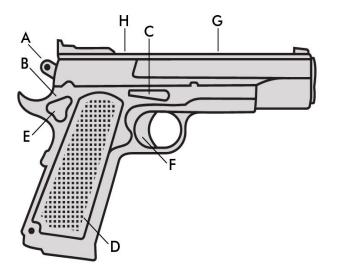
### CHAPTER 2

No matter what type of gun you use, it's important to also learn the **Basic & Action Parts of a Semi-Automatic Pistol**. That way, you'll be familiar with any firearm you encounter.



### The Basic Parts

- A. Front sights
- B. Rear Sights
- C. Back Strap
- D. Front Strap
- E. Grip Panels
- F. Frame
- G. Trigger Guard
- H. Muzzle
- I. Barrel
- J. Action (within the frame)
- K. Slide



- The Action Parts
- A. Hammer
- B. Hammer Spur
- C. Safety
- D. Magazine
- E. Magazine Release
- F. Trigger
- G. Slide
- H. Slide Stop

# Learn to Do It Safely

n this section, you'll learn how to complete some basic tasks with your handgun while maintaining a safe environment for yourself and others. Review these suggestions and practice them regularly.

### How to Safely Clear a Revolver

- 1. Pick up the firearm with your finger along the base, not on the trigger
- 2. Slide the cylinder release latch forward (or press inward) with the thumb while bringing the other hand behind the cylinder.
- 3. Press the cylinder out.
- 4. Keep the pointed down range and at a downward angle to keep the cartridges in.
- 5. Visually inspect the open cylinder.
- 6. Physically inspect the open cylinder.

### How to Safely Clear a Semi-Automatic Pistol

- 1. Pick up the firearm with your finger along the base, not on the trigger.
- 2. Place one hand under the magazine. Press the magazine release and remove the magazine.
- 3. Visually and physically inspect the magazine.
- 4. Put the base of your palm along the slide, extend your thumb to the front part on the top of the slide, and place your fingers along the other side of the slide.
- 5. Place your other hand on the grip and push down.
- 6. Match the notch with the lever to lock the slide in place.
- 7. Visually inspect the firearm and ejection port for obstructions.
- 8. When the firearm is clear, pull back the slide to release the lever and let it move forward.

### How to Safely Clean Your Firearm

- 1. Review the firearm's owner's manual for cleaning instructions. Clean your gun after every use to ensure that it performs at its peak level.
- 2. Remove the magazine, slide, spring, and barrel.
- 3. Use a cleaning kit with brushes, oil, patches, cleaning rods to thoroughly clean the firearm based on the owner's manual instructions.

# Ammunition for Revolvers and Semi-Automatic Pistols

ou should know about the different types of ammunition as well as the firing sequence. There are two parts to each cartridge, the casing and the bullet. There are two types of casing you may encounter as well as a few different types of bullets.

**Centerfire casing** -the primer is located in a cup near the center of the casing, and can be reloaded and used again.

**Rimfire casing**- the primer is located in a rim along the outside of the casing.

There are several types of bullets...

- Full Metal Jacket
- Ball
- Hollow Point

... and they have a few different parts to consider.

- Fluting
- Powder
- Primer

The firing sequence has several stages. A series of reactions takes place in a fraction of a second.

- 1. The cartridge enters the chamber.
- 2. Firing pin strikes the primer sending a spark into the powder.
- 3. The explosion creates enough pressure to push the bullet out of its casing and down the barrel.
- 4. The bullet enters the rifling, which creates ballistic spin.
- 5. A loud bang occurs when the bullet exits the barrel.

### Cartridge Malfunctions and How to Handle Them

There are **three types of cartridge malfunctions** to be aware of. Each one has a different cause and requires a different action.

- **Misfires** You hear a clicking sound upon trigger pull. Keep gun pointed downrange, stay in shooting position for 30 seconds, remove cartridge, place in water for disposal later at an appropriate location.
- **Hangfires** You hear a clicking sound upon trigger fire, but after a short amount of time (usually between 10-30 seconds) the gun fires. There is a delay between the strike of the primer and the firing of the round. Keep your gun pointed downrange. Do not continue to fire. A hangfire is not a misfire.
- **Squib Loads** A cartridge does not fire properly due to incorrect or poor quality powder. These can be identified by either lack of muzzle flash, lack of recoil, or lack of sound. Wait 30 seconds. Do not fire another round. Unload remaining rounds and inspect for defects.

Proper **care and storage of ammunition** is important for making the most of your ammunition and keeping it safe to use.

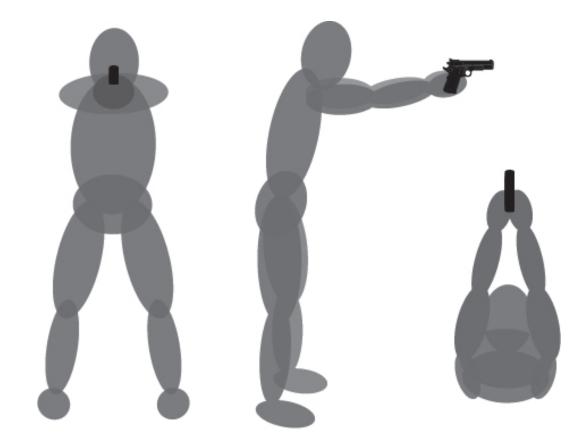
- Keep ammunition in the box that it was in when you purchased it.
- Store in a cool dry place with very little change in temperature or humidity.
- Beware of how oils from fingers or leather can affect cartridges.
- Never put cartridges in water, solvents, petroleum products, ammonia, gun oil, or other cleaners. These can be corrosive to the casing.

# **Basic Shooting Fundamentals**

n this section, several fundamental concepts of shooting a handgun are covered. Every shooter should be aware of how to hold their body when firing because even small changes can affect accuracy and physical strength.

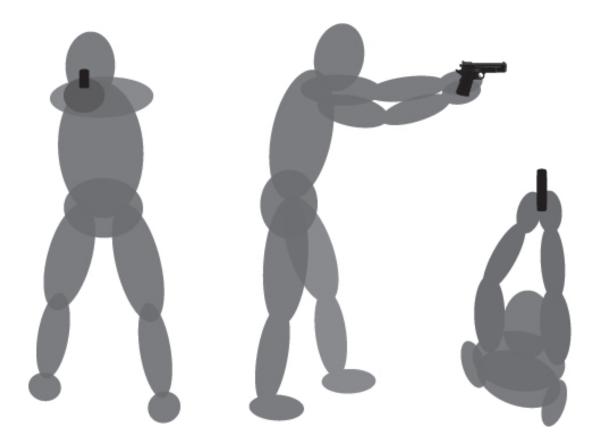
- 1. Breathing can change the aim of the barrel, so breathe slowly and evenly without holding your breath.
- 2. Use the pad of your finger to squeeze the trigger. This should be the only movement in your entire arm while shooting.
- 3. After the first shot, return your firearm and hands back to your original position in a good follow through. This increases second shot accuracy.
- 4. Use a grip that is solid but comfortable. Thumbs can cross or side-by-side, depending on your preference.
- 5. Extend your shooting arm and pull back with your supporting arm for increased control.
- 6. Maintain a solid, comfortable stance.

Review the following diagrams to learn about two well-known firing stances, Weaver and Isosceles.



### **Isosceles Stance**

- Feet shoulder width apart
- Knees slightly bent
- Lean forward slightly
- Squarely face the target



### Weaver Stance

- Face downrange with your dominant foot in the back.
- Hips and shoulders at a 45 degree angle.
- Support arm is bent at a 90 degree angle.
- The stance minimizes the target area for anyone returning fire.

Use proper sight alignment. This may vary depending on the type of firearm and your preferences. If you're using laser sights be sure to align your open sights first. Don't rely on the laser only, since it can be inaccurate in some environments.



- **Center Hold Position** Focus on the front sight, match the top of the front sight with the top of the rear sight between the notches. Focus on the bullseye and center of the target.
- Six O'Clock Position- Align the sights as in the Center Hold position but place the focus on the bottom of the bullseye.

# How to Carry a Concealed Firearm

here are many options when it comes to carrying concealed. A varietv of holsters and available, bags are and all gun owners should be familiar with the benefits and drawbacks of each option.

One of the main principles of concealed carry is to keep the firearm hidden from view at all times. Only the carrier should know about the weapon. The weapon should only be drawn if there is a critical need and armed self-defense is necessary.

When others know about your weapon, an unpredictable element is introduced to into the situation. Some may be intent on stealing your handgun. Others may treat you or the situation differently if they know you are a gun owner.

**Concealed Carry Rule 1:** Consider your build, your clothes, and your daily activities when deciding how to carry concealed. It is essential that you practice carrying and your draw sequence with a variety of outfits and accessories. Be aware of the weather or any new additions that may need adjustment such as a backpack, winter coat, or belt.

**Concealed Carry Rule 2:** Try on different types of holsters and concealed carry bags to find what works best for you. A concealed carry holster should not move or be uncomfortable as you go through your daily activities. It should be easy to access but remain concealed at all times.

**Concealed Carry Rule 3:** Know the state and local laws about transporting your concealed handgun. If you're traveling between states, read up on reciprocity and how each state regards concealed carry.

# **Discussion & Review Questions**

Read and answer these questions based on what you've learned while watching the Handgun Safety Training video.

### Short Answer

- 1. List two ways that a gun owner can be a positive role model for children.
- 2. Describe the differences between a single action and double action firearm.
- 3. You are practicing at the range and you experience a misfire. You pull the trigger and only hear a clicking sound. What would you do in this situation?
- 4. List one benefit of the Weaver shooting stance and one benefit of the Isosceles shooting stance.
- 5. List three types of concealed carry holster.

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# **Discussion & Review Questions**

### **Multiple Choice**

- 6. Which of the following is a popular shooting stance?a. Weaver Stance b. Bunny Stance c. Raptor Stance d. Professional's Stance
- 7. Which is NOT a common cartridge malfunction?a. Misfire b. Monkeywrench c. Hangfire d. Squib Load
- 8. Which of the following is one of the three rules of firearm safety?a. Eat a healthy diet b. Don't carry in the rain c. Have a positive attitude

### Discussion

- 9. Why is important that a concealed handgun remain concealed at all times?
- 10. Why is it important to have a positive attitude while carrying concealed?

# Four Moves to Practice at the Range

he best handguns and the best holsters can't help you in a crisis situation if you haven't put in the practice to make them effective. Sure, it takes time and extra effort to head to the firing range frequently to stay in firing shape, but the payoffs can be immense in a combat scenario. It requires some extra money spent on targets and ammunition and maybe a firing range membership, but the confidence you'll bring to a conflict is priceless.

When you get to the range, don't just spend your time fiddling with new gadgets you bought or chatting with shooting buddies, get down to business and maximize your time. Spend time getting familiar with your various handguns. Get comfortable with how they feel to hold and fire. Contrary to what some may think, it isn't all about the gun, either. How you position your body and how you handle movement while firing are essential elements to self-defense with a firearm.

### Practice loading and reloading your pistol repeatedly.

Start slowly, making sure that each movement that is required is efficient, then pick up speed. It never hurts to imagine yourself in a combat situation. As much as possible, keep your eyes up and your handgun trained on the target. Keep your magazines in a familiar place on your belt or holster and get smooth and comfortable with finding them without looking.

### Practice various movements.

The movements required to move from a resting position to a ready position and then to a firing position are essential to practice. Attackers aren't going to present themselves politely at times when you are positioned in a firing stance.

The conditions could be very hasty, confusing, and panicked. The light may be low, you may be carrying a briefcase, or have children alongside you. Take these possible scenarios into account when you practice at the range.

Considering the close range in which you'll probably engage an attacker, maintain a distance of around 7-10 feet from your target. Practice transitioning from a relaxed position to locating your firearm and eventually sighting it on the target. **Repeat this as many times as necessary to get comfortable**. Adjust your holster and ammunition as much as needed for maximum efficiency.

### Consider setting up multiple targets.

Frequently, attackers are not alone and may have a plan for overtaking their target. Keep in mind that unloading your entire magazine on one target can have deadly consequences. Practice using your shots most effectively and maximizing the number of hits per target.

### Fire on the move.

A self-defense scenario is never slow and stationary. No attacker will wait for you to move first, nor will they allow you time to get comfortable. The act of firing while moving will take time to master, but it is worth the effort. Move from side to side with your pistol trained on the target. Undeniably, you'll be trying to remove yourself from the dangerous situation, so practice firing while backing away from your target. You may sound strange to the others at the range, but don't be afraid to practice yelling or verbally notifying the imagined attacker that you have a gun and intend to use it. Crisis situations are seldom peaceful and quiet affairs.

As the saying goes, "Practice makes perfect." Using your practice time at the range pays off in many ways. Consider the outcomes if you are caught in a self-defense scenario and are unable to find your backup ammunition or fumble with your pistol at a crucial moment. Regular practice is essential to staying safe when armed with a handgun.

## Three Questions Every Gun Owner Should be able to Easily Answer

f you're carrying concealed, or just thinking about it, you should be prepared for anything. You have decided to protect yourself and others with your handgun should the need arise, so it pays to be sure you know what it takes. Every gun owner should be able to answer these questions without hesitation.

### 1. In what locations do I carry concealed?

The more often you carry concealed, the more comfortable you'll be. But you can no longer just grab your gun and go. Depending on where you live, there are a variety of places where you guns are forbidden. Review your state and local laws about schools, college campuses, and government offices. Know the locations of "Gun Free Zones" in your community.

You never know just what situations you might encounter during the day. But, you can prepare as best you can. Think about what types of people you might encounter or the stores you'll be shopping in during the day. Be aware of your surroundings and situations that might require you to protect yourself.

# 2. Am I familiar with state and local laws concerning transporting and carrying a concealed weapon?

There's a lot more to carrying concealed than a handgun and holster. You must have a good understanding of the laws and regulations that apply to you as a gun owner. Become familiar with the state laws concerning guns and concealed carry. Find out how to transport your gun in your car when you're going to and from the range.

Regulations vary from state to state as to where it can be kept and how the gun should be secured.We're all taught that members of law enforcement are in place to protect and serve, but carrying concealed can add a different element to the conversation.If it's just a routine traffic stop or if it's after you've used your firearm for protection, you must know just how to act and what phrases to use when you come into contact with law enforcement. Become familiar with your legal rights and just what you can say and do with law enforcement present. It could end up saving you from lots of frustration and legal fees.

### 3. When was the last time I practiced shooting, loading, and cleaning my handgun?

Keeping up with regular cleaning and maintenance of your guns has a few benefits. Regular cleanings obviously keep your handgun in peak performance by eliminating any dirt or particles that may result from frequent carry. It also helps you to become more familiar with the mechanics of your gun so that you're better able to fix minor problems yourself and teach others the same skills. Regular practice is one of the essential elements of gun ownership. Practice keeps your confidence high and your physical skills sharp. When the situation calls for armed self-defense, your handgun should be an extension of yourself.Regular trips to the range alone or with friends are the only way to keep improving your aim, draw, and technical skill.

If you had any trouble answering any of these questions, take some time and get familiar with the facts. A responsible and trained citizen armed for self-defense go a long way to keeping our country a safe place to live.

# **Can Gun Locks Prevent Shooting Accidents?**

Petroit police have called the December 29 death of a nine -year -old boy in an accidental shooting. Details about how the boy found and discharged the gun are still unclear, but the incident still plays on the conscious of many gun owners. When police arrived on the scene that chilly night in Michigan, the boy had a gunshot wound to the face and was dead when he arrived at the hospital. Other children and teens were in the house but they are still too traumatized to give police an accurate description of what happened. The boy's stepfather stepped out of the house for a short time and returned to terrible tragedy.

Photos of the scene show yellow police tape floating in the cold air and the solemn faces of investigating officers. Incidents like this accidental death of a child should inspire gun owners to reexamine the safety measures they have in place to protect their loved ones from harm.

Gun locks are a good way to keep your firearms safe at home. These locks are for additional safety, not to substitute for locked storage. Two popular locks for handguns are available, the trigger lock and the cable lock. For any gun lock, the locked gun should not be loaded.

The Trigger Lock rests around the trigger and guard. It requires a key or combination to access the trigger of the firearm. Double check that the gun is not loaded, then secure the lock. A small bar should enter behind the trigger and prevent it from discharging the gun. Review the instructions again to be sure that it was installed correctly. Trigger locks that are incorrectly installed can actually make the gun more dangerous.

A Cable Gun Lock is another safety option. For autoloading pistols, double check that the gun is not loaded, remove the magazine, and lock the slide. The cable runs up the magazine well and out the ejector port. For a revolver, run the cable through the barrel or the open cylinder chamber to make the gun impossible to load and fire.

Cable gun locks and trigger locks should be used to add an extra level of safety to a firearm that is already unloaded and out of reach of children. They should not be used to secure your gun case or car safe or to deter thieves. There are many more secure and solid options for safely storing your firearms in a locked container.

Don't let disaster finally make you consider adding safety options to the guns in your home. The loss of a child's life to accidental gun firing is a tragic event. Respect the power of the handguns in your home by making them safe and secure.

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# Conclusion

un owners who choose to carry concealed have a responsibility to themselves and others to remain in good practice and have a working knowledge of multiple types of firearms.

The best way to keep your shooting skills sharp is to practice frequently. Head to the firing range regularly to practice loading and unloading your handgun. Shoot from different positions and practice your draw sequence to remain quick and effective.

Your mental preparations are just as important. Keep a positive attitude as you carry concealed. Discuss the implications and the responsibility that come along with carrying a concealed handgun for personal safety. Learn and follow the federal, state, and local laws concerning firearms.

Carrying a concealed handgun is one of the best ways to make everyone safe. Carrying concealed requires extensive training and knowledge, and those who choose to do it are one of our nation's greatest assets.

# **Additional Information**

Thank you for reading American Concealed's Handgun Safety Training Ebook. When you're ready to learn more about safe and effective concealed carry, visit our website, americanconcealed. com and look through our other training guides.

Join our growing community of gun owners and concealed carry permit holders by signing up for our free email newsletter and following us on Facebook. You'll receive the latest news, tactical tips, and coupon codes for trainings and new books. NOTES



# A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR OPERATING PISTOLS AND REVOLVERS

Increase your ability to safely operate handguns of all types using expert training tips and safety principles.

- Learn the parts of a semi-automatic pistol and revolver and how to care for them.
- Prepare for handling common misfires and malfunctions.
- Discover basic shooting skills like grip, stance, and sight alignment.

"Despite having some prior gun safety training through the US Navy, I learned several things through the video that I didn't know before, and I feel substantially more educated on the subject of gun safety, care, and handling. See you on the range." -Chris

"I just watched the video and took the test, and was really surprised at how much I did not know. It was very informational. I will definitely put what I learned into practice, not just me but my family as well. Thanks." -Thomas K. Barnes, Jr.

"Enjoyed the course. It was well taught, to the point, and easy to understand. I would recommend it to anyone seeking a Concealed Carry Permit." -Fred Whittaker