

Firearm Safety Courses

INSTRUCTORS

Craig Lewis is a police officer with over eleven years of experience. Lewis has been trained as a firearms instructor by the Alaska Department of Public Safety and is certified by both the Department of Public Safety and the Alaska Police Standards Council. He is a primary firearms instructor for the UAF CTC Law Enforcement Academy, teaching both handgun and shotgun courses.

Lewis' training has included the usage, maintenance, and manipulations of many different types of firearms, principals of adult learning, firearms safety, and procedures for running a safe instructional shooting range. Lewis is additionally certified as an Alaska Emergency Medical Technician-I instructor and as an armorer for Remington, Glock, Sig Sauer, and Colt firearms.

Scott Adams is a police officer with over twenty years of experience. He has been trained as a firearms instructor and is certified by the Alaska Police Standards Council. He served as the primary firearms instructor for his department for many years, and is a primary firearms instructor for the UAF CTC Law Enforcement Academy. Adams teaches handgun and shotgun courses for the Law Enforcement Academy.

SUITABLE FIREARMS

A relatively large projectile that offers deep penetration against dense bone structure and thick hide and tissues is required; a shotgun loaded with slugs is perhaps the most commonly thought of "bear gun," second only to a large-bore revolver. A large-bore magnum rifle will offer the best terminal performance. Ammunition selection is more important than caliber; hard-cast lead bullets offer the desired penetration in most all chamberings.

Suitable handgun calibers:

10mm Auto (with appropriate ammunition)

.357 Magnum (with appropriate ammunition)

.41 Magnum (with appropriate ammunition)

.44 Magnum or larger (.454 Casull, .460 Smith & Wesson, .480 Ruger)

Suitable shotguns:

Remington or Mossberg manufacture loaded with 12 gauge rifled slugs. Brenneke brand slugs are preferred due to the hardness of the alloy.

Suitable rifle calibers:

.30-06 or larger (.300 Winchester Magnum, .338 Federal Magnum, .375 H&H or similar)

.45-70 Government

.450 Bushmaster; .458 SOCOM.

Rifle ammunition should be of hunting variety or hard-cast lead projectiles.

FIREARM REQUIREMENTS

Long guns must have a good quality sling, solidly attached sighting systems, and functional mechanical safeties. Handguns must have solidly attached sighting systems and a quality holster. Holsters must securely retain the firearm, completely cover the trigger guard, and prevent the trigger from being pulled while the firearm is in the holster. Shoulder holsters may not be used on the range due to safety concerns working in close proximity with other students.

Classes will be divided based on firearm type: shotguns and rifles will train together, and handguns will train on their own.

The best firearm is one that will be carried consistently and can be shot effectively and accurately.

FIREARMS SAFETY RULES

1. All guns are always loaded.
2. Never let the muzzle cover anything you are not willing to destroy.
3. Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on the target and you have decided to fire.
4. Be sure of your target, as well as the surroundings and beyond.

RULES FOR NON-FIRING MANIPULATIONS

1. Muzzle in a safe direction.
2. Trigger finger straight and away from the trigger guard.

CURRICULUM

Safety—firearms safety rules, handling and storage considerations, conditions of carry, sling and/or holster use. Cover applicable Misconduct Involving Weapons statutes.

Maintenance—field disassembly and basic cleaning; lubrication; keeping weapons functional in the field.

Usage—loading and unloading; zeroing; shooting drills; malfunction clearances.

Proficiency test—Alaska Department of Natural Resources Bear Safety Qualification (shotguns/rifles to 20 yards; handguns to 10 yards).

SCHEDULE

0900 hours (9:00 am) Classroom (NO LIVE AMMUNITION)

Introductions, schedule, facility briefing, safety briefing, firearm inspections

Alaska Misconduct Involving Weapons statutes—peace officer notification requirements, storage and alcohol considerations, prohibited possession areas

Dry fire and manipulations; introduce shooting positions; disassembly and cleaning

LUNCH

1230 hours (12:30 pm) – Range

Sling/holster usage and practice; field carry positions and practice

Dry fire from positions; loading and unloading practice

Zeroing—discuss trajectory, mechanical offset, mechanical accuracy

Live fire zero—shooter's choice, suggested 25 yards for pistols, 75 yards for shotguns, and 100 yards for rifles

Controlled pairs; shooting from positions (body and braced)

Loading drills (proactive; emergency)

Qualifications

1700 hours (5:00 pm) – Finish (estimated)

STUDENT EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

Firearm and cleaning equipment

Sling/holster

Ammunition—minimum 60 rounds long guns, 100 rounds handguns (suggest bringing extra)

Eye and ear protection

Brimmed hat

Water and snacks

Sunscreen, insect repellent

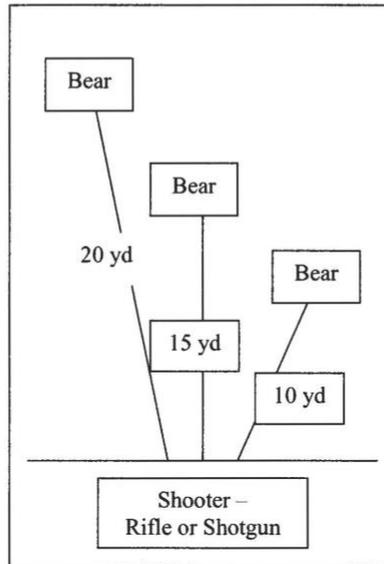
Rain gear

Knee pads (optional)

QUALIFICATION COURSES (Alaska Department of Natural Resources)

i. Rifle or Shotgun, stationary target test

Three bear targets, one each at 20 yards, 15 yards and 10 yards
Targets should be offset, to the left or right, so that the shooter can see each target



Time 10 seconds

Start with the firearm at the guard in Condition 2. (empty chamber, action closed, **hammer down** and safety on)

When the time is started, run the action of the firearm and fire one round at each bear target, starting at the 20 yard target and move towards the 10 yard target. A total of three shots will be fired.

After the shots are fired the shooter will reload the magazine of the firearm and be prepared for any possible follow-up shots. Reloads will not be part of the qualification time.

The shooter must place a minimum of one hit in two of the three 10 inch circular target zones, of this three-target drill, to qualify.

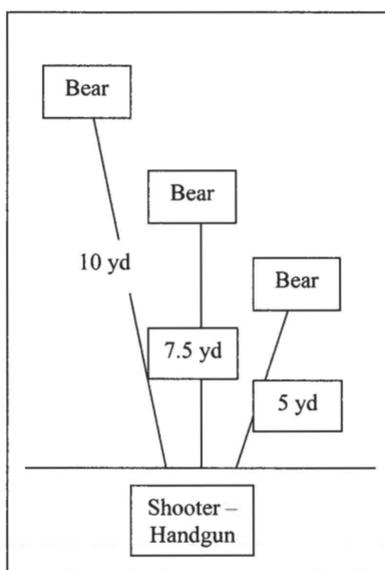
Two successful consecutive completions of this course will qualify the shooter as a Long Gun Carrier.

The bear target will be the “charging” bear, with a 10 inch circular center of mass zone, that is currently in use.

The firearm will be handled in a safe manner AT ALL TIMES. Unsafe handling of the firearm will result in disqualification of the shooter.

ii. Handgun, stationary target test

Three bear targets, one each at 10 yards, 7.5 yards and 5 yards
Targets should be offset, to the left or right, so that the shooter can see each target



Time 10 seconds

Start with the handgun in the holster that will be used in the field. All retention devices snapped or closed.

At the start of this course of fire the shooter will safely and efficiently draw the handgun from the holster. When both hands are on the handgun the time will start.

When the time is started fire one round at each bear target, starting at the 10 yard target and move towards the 5 yard target. A total of three shots.

After the shots are fired the shooter will bring the pistol to the ready position (trigger finger off the trigger and straight along the frame of the handgun, the handgun pointed below the level of the closest bear), scan the bear and the area for any additional dangers and be prepared to deliver follow-up shots as needed. If no follow-up shots are needed, reload the handgun and return to the ready position. Re-holster the handgun.

The scan and reload will not be part of the qualification time

The shooter must place a minimum of one hit in two of the three 10 inch circular target zones, of this three-target drill, to qualify

Two successful consecutive completions of this course will qualify the shooter as a Handgun Carrier

The bear target will be the "charging" bear, with a 10 inch circular center of mass zone, that is currently in use.

At all times the firearm will be handled in a safe manner. Unsafe handling of the firearm will result in disqualification of the shooter.

c. Scoring:

A bullet that cuts the line receives the higher score.

2. Course of Fire - The following activities will be included in the Range Training and Qualification:

- a. Demonstrate and allow practice use of non-lethal deterrents when applicable and allowed by Range Rules.
- b. Dry practice.
- c. Live Fire practice.
- d. Qualification.

3. Other Standards - Firearms Training Instructors and Range Qualifications Technicians will successfully complete the Firearms Training Instructor and Range Qualifications Technician Certification Course. Instructors will participate in at least one class over any three-year period to maintain proficiency.

