

New Jersey State Police
Firearms
Safety & Awareness
Interim Training



Important Notes

The NJSP, in conjunction with the Office of the Attorney General, is working to establish a new comprehensive training program for applicants who are applying for, or renewing, a permit to carry a handgun, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 58-4(g)(1) and (g)(2). See also N.J.S.A. 2C:58-4(d)(3). In addition to online materials and firing range requirements, the newly developed training will include an in-person classroom component, where applicants will learn first-hand from authorized certified instructors the principles of lawful and safe handling and safe storage of firearms. The live component will be standardized across the state to ensure all applicants are provided the same meaningful opportunity to receive a permit to carry. Until such time that the new training is implemented, and in order to comply with the law, this document on safe handling and use, as well as the training materials on use of deadly force shall be taught by a certified firearms instructor to all applicants. Certified firearms instructors remain responsible for ensuring that applicants for permits to carry handguns are properly trained and proficient before attesting to the applicant's competence on the prescribed certification form.

The material and content being presented to the viewer is intended to provide general safety awareness guidelines regarding the safe care and handling of firearms. It is not intended to supersede or be in lieu of any manufacturer guidelines, recommendations or instruction provided by a competent certified Firearms Instructor. Please refer to the NJ Criminal Code 2C to ensure compliance with all matters related to the care, handling, and transportation of firearms.



Safety

International Rules of Firearms Safety

“These rules are in place to lessen the possibility of accidental injury.”



International Rules of Firearms Safety

1. Treat every firearm as if it were loaded until positively ascertained otherwise by you.

Ensure to visually and physically inspect the chamber of the weapon to establish that it is clear and safe from any live rounds or debris.



The cardinal rule of firearm safety is that every gun must be treated as if it were loaded.



International Rules of Firearms Safety (continued)

2. Never point a firearm at anything or anybody that you do not intend to shoot, or in a direction where an unintentional discharge may do harm.



International Rules of Firearms Safety (continued)

3. Never place your finger on the trigger until ready and justified to fire.

Trigger Finger Discipline: Build tactile sensation. Keep your trigger finger oriented high on the frame of the weapon at all times, unless you are ready and justified to fire.



International Rules of Firearms Safety

4. Be sure of your threat, surroundings and beyond.

You are responsible for all of your rounds including those that miss your intended target.



“Everyone is part of the safety paradigm.”

Safety Acknowledgement



Additional Rules of Firearms Safety

- **Muzzle Discipline (Laser Rule):** Be cognizant and aware of where your muzzle is always oriented. Treat the end of the barrel as if it had a laser through it and you **do not** want the laser to make contact with an unintended target
- *Never* hand a loaded weapon to someone in a non-combat situation



**“The world is 360°.
There is no down
range.”**



Safety

*The best safety device is between your ears
– think safety first at all times!*



Home Safety Guidelines

- All firearms should be ***unloaded and made safe*** prior to storage in a household
- Secure the firearm in a safe place (locked and unloaded), follow manufacturer guidelines on how to properly utilize the trigger lock device to render the weapon ***inoperable***
- Ensure that the ammunition and magazines are locked and secured in a ***separate*** location from the firearm
- Educate your family as to its dangers
- **Do Not** show children how to load the weapon
- **Do Not** store firearm in an easy access area (under pillow, under mattress, in nightstand. Should be kept in a locked container, drawer, or other location as far out of a child's reach as possible)



Home Safety Guidelines (continued)

- General guidelines are to render the weapon *inoperable* and *inaccessible* when storing them
- Children: (Have a plan on how to educate them and properly store the firearm and follow it)
- N.J.S.A. 2C:58-15 “*A person who knows or reasonably should know that a minor is likely to gain access to a loaded firearm at a premises under the person’s control commits a disorderly persons offense if a minor gains access to the firearm...*”



Semiautomatic Handgun and Revolver Nomenclature



Purpose

- To provide general knowledge of different types weapons
- Please refer to the respective firearm manufacturer for specific nomenclature and operating procedures. In addition, refer to a certified firearms instructor for instruction on how to operate a firearm



Semiautomatic

- Handheld firearm in which depressing the trigger, when the magazine and chamber are loaded, will:
 - Fire the chambered round
 - Extract and eject the spent shell casing
 - Cock the weapon
 - Load and chamber a round from the magazine



Semiautomatic (continued)

- Trigger must be pressed for each round to be fired
- All semiautomatic handguns are similar by design, however most *disassemble differently*



Semiautomatic Handgun Nomenclature

- Receiver
- Magazine
- Magazine Release
- Barrel
- Slide
- Slide Stop Lever
- Firing Pin
- Safety(s)
- Hammer or Striker
- Trigger Guard
- Trigger
- Sights
- Grip
- Ejection Port
- Recoil Spring
- Bore, Lands, Grooves
- Extractor
- Ejector





Making a Semiautomatic Safe

1. Safety (if applicable)
2. Point the weapon in safe direction
3. Remove the source of ammunition (magazine)
4. Lock the slide to the rear
5. Visually and Physically check the chamber



Safety

Rendering a semiautomatic handgun safe

DO NOT TRAP ROUND

Safely allow for the round to eject onto the floor, do not attempt to catch



Revolver

Handheld firearm in which the cartridges are inserted in individual chambers in a cylinder, which is mounted behind the barrel.

The cylinder revolves to bring the chamber and cartridge in line with the firing pin.



Revolver

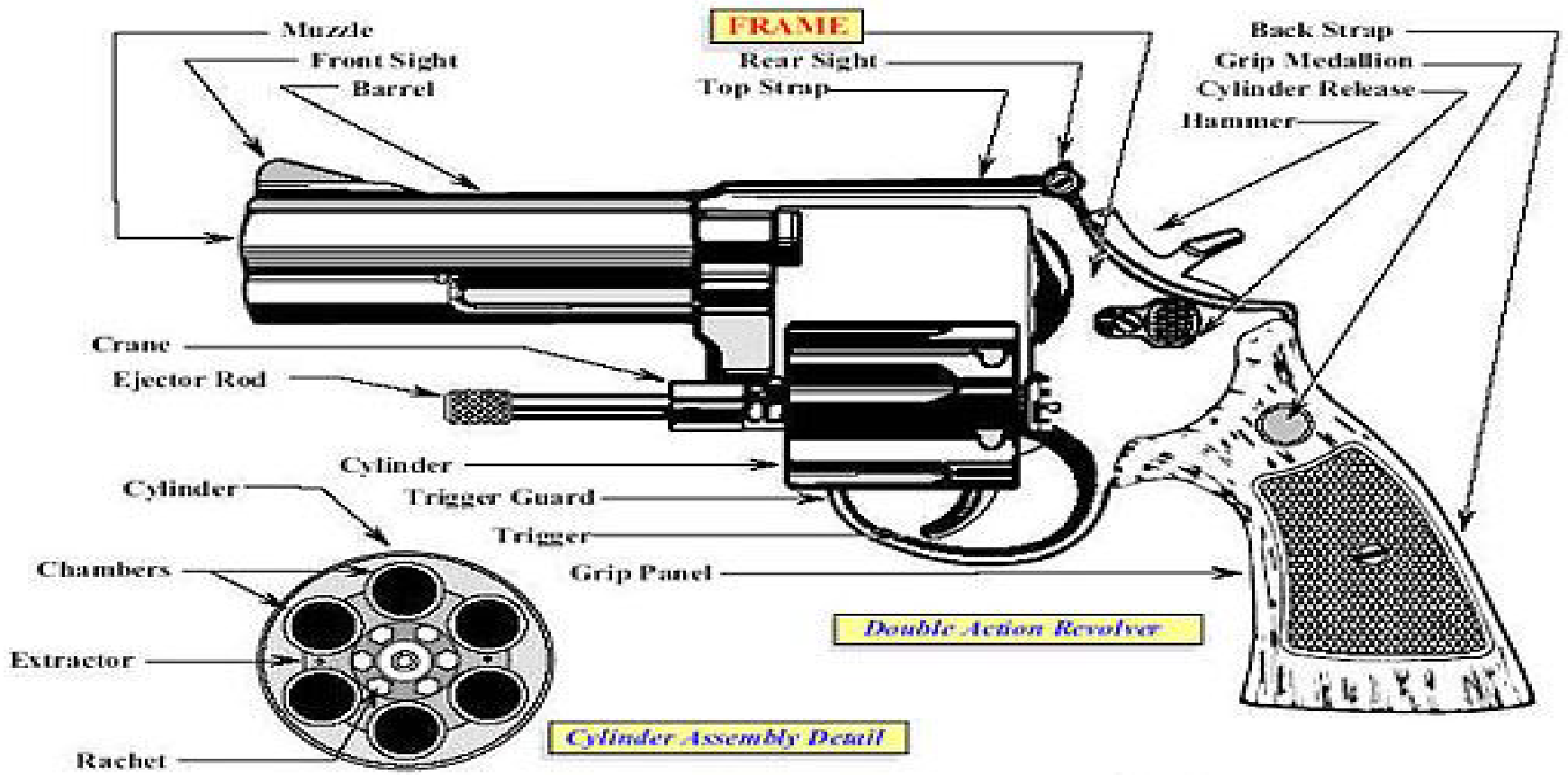
- Cylinders generally swing out to the left
- May have an exposed or hidden hammer
- Double action
- Colt cylinders rotate clockwise
- Ruger and Smith & Wesson cylinders rotate counterclockwise



Revolver Nomenclature

- Muzzle
- Front Sight
- Barrel
- Frame
- Rear Sight
- Top Strap
- Crane
- Ejection Rod
- Cylinder
- Trigger Guard
- Trigger
- Grip Panel
- Back Strap
- Cylinder Release
- Chambers
- Extractor
- Ratchet





Cylinder Assembly Detail



Making a Cocked Revolver Safe

- Non-shooting hand thumb is placed between hammer and frame (weapon pointed in safe direction)
- Press trigger and release hammer onto thumb
- Remove finger from trigger
- Remove thumb from between hammer and frame
- Gently lower the hammer



Notable NJ Criminal Statutes related to Firearms

2C:24-4 (Endangering the Welfare of a Child)

2C: 39-6g (Transporting a Firearm within NJ)

2C:58-15 (Loaded Firearm easily accessible to minor)



Notable NJ Criminal Statutes related to Firearms

2C:58-4.6 – Prohibited Places (3rd degree crime to enter a prohibited place with a firearm). See *Koons/Siegel v. AG/NJSP* case for current status of the prohibited places law. As of July 1, 2023, the following are included in the prohibited places under N.J.S.A. 2C:58-4.6:

government buildings
courthouses/buildings used for court administrative proceedings
state, county, municipal jails/prisons, juvenile detention centers
state-contracted half-way houses
polling locations during election
w/in 100 ft of public gatherings/demonstrations
schools, colleges, universities, other education institutions, and school buses
child care/daycares
nursery schools, pre-schools, zoos, summer camps
parks, beaches, recreation facilities, and playgrounds owned by the state, county, or local gov't
youth sports events
libraries and museums
homeless shelters/children's shelters
community residences for people w/developmental disabilities, head injuries, or terminal illness, and other DHS licensed residential settings
places that serve alcohol
cannabis retailers
entertainment facilities (theaters, museums, racetracks, concert venues)
casinos
energy plants
airport or public transportation hubs
healthcare facilities and addiction/mental health treatment centers
DHS, DCF, or DOH regulated addiction or mental health facilities (non-healthcare)



Notable NJ Criminal Statutes related to Firearms

N.J.S.A. 2C:58-4.5 – Restrictions on Lawful Carrying

It is a 4th degree crime to openly carry, regardless of liability insurance. See *Koons/Siegel v. AG/NJSP* case for applicability of the liability insurance provisions. As of July 1, 2023, the liability provision is enjoined.

N.J.S.A. 2C:58-4.4 – Safe Carry Requirements:

(a) Lawful holders of a permit to carry a handgun cannot:

1. use or consume alcohol, cannabis, or CDS while carrying a handgun;
2. be under the influence of alcohol, cannabis, or CDS while carrying a handgun;
3. carry outside of the holster or carry in public in a holster that does not meet the carry permit requirements (2C:58-4); (4) carry more than 2 firearms at one time; or
4. engage in unjustified display of a handgun.

Violation of the above is a 4th degree and constitute sufficient grounds for permit revocation.

(b) If an individual is stopped or detained by LE while lawfully carrying a handgun in public or in a vehicle, the individual must:

1. immediately disclose they are carrying a handgun or that it is stored in the vehicle (violation is a 4th degree); and
2. display the lawful carry permit (violation is a DP for first offense and \$100 fine (4th degree for subsequent offenses).
3. An individual who has a permit to carry and is carrying at the time they are detained as part of a criminal investigation, the individual must provide their handgun to the officer upon the officer's request (violation is a 4th degree).**

