



# Idaho Sheriffs Association Handgun Safety Course

## Introduction

Welcome to the online Idaho concealed weapons license handgun safety training program presented by the Idaho Sheriffs Association. The ISA and sheriffs believe in, and take an oath to uphold, the Constitutions of the State of Idaho and the United States of America. This includes supporting your statutory right to apply for a concealed weapons license. And we believe that your sheriff, as your elected chief law enforcement officer of the county, is the best suited for this training. Furthermore, Sheriffs support the constitutional right of law abiding citizens to bear arms in a safe and responsible manner.

Idaho's concealed weapons license covers firearms and other deadly weapons such as dirk, dirk knife, bowie knife, dagger or any other weapon, device, instrument, material or substance that is designed and manufactured to be readily capable of causing death or serious bodily injury. A deadly weapon does not apply to any knife, cleaver or other instrument that is intended by the person to be used in the processing, preparation or eating of food, or any knife with a blade four inches or less, or any taser, stun-gun, pepper spray or mace.

This course focuses on firearms, specifically handguns, however pertains to all deadly weapons. Completion of this training satisfies the Idaho educational requirement for obtaining a basic concealed weapons license. In [Idaho Code 18-3302](#), you will find the complete criteria you must meet to obtain your concealed weapons license or to legally carry a concealed weapon without a license.

## How Does the Online Course Work?

There are 6 lessons in this course. Once you have read a lesson you will be tested until you answer all the questions correctly. You then must click on the Mark Complete button to get credit for the lesson prior to moving to the next lesson. You may advance to the next page once the Mark Complete button has been pressed. After a lesson is marked complete the system will save your place and you may resume later or from another device.

## What You Will Learn in This Course:

- Lesson 1: Concealed Weapons License qualifications, issuance and revocation process.
- Lesson 2: The legal responsibilities and liability of firearms ownership.
- Lesson 3: Overview and explanation of laws regulating the use of force on another.
- Lesson 4: When is an Idaho CWL not required?
- Lesson 5: Where is carrying a concealed handgun prohibited?

- Lesson 6: Handgun Safety:
  - The cardinal and fundamental rules of firearm safety
  - Restricting access to firearms
  - Performing safety checks
  - Safe storage of the firearm
  - Safe storage of ammunition
  - Ammunition consideration
  - Purchasing a handgun
  - Concealed carry equipment considerations

Throughout this course you will find links to more information. For example, an Idaho statute may be briefly explained in the presentation, but to read the Idaho statute in its entirety you will need to click on the available link.

Once you have successfully finished the training program you will be prompted to:

1. Purchase your certificate, which will then be mailed to you within 3 business days.
2. Sign both copies.
3. Cut it into two sections;
  - One copy is to take with you to your appointment at your local Sheriff's Office.
  - One copy is for your records.

**That will conclude your handgun safety training requirements for obtaining an Idaho concealed weapons license.**

# Lesson 1:

## CWL Qualification and Process

Idaho is a “shall issue” state. That means if you meet all the statutory requirements, the sheriff must issue you a concealed weapons license (CWL). If you do not meet all the qualifications, that will result in your application being denied, [I.C. 18-3302\(11\)](#).

Idaho has two types of CWL’s, basic ([I.C.18-3302](#)) and enhanced ([I.C.18-3302k](#)). This course provides the necessary training for the basic only. The enhanced, Idaho Code 18-3302K requires taking an eight-hour personal protection course offered by the NRA or an equivalent course that includes firing 98 rounds of ammunition and instruction on Idaho law regarding firearms and the use of deadly force. The use of deadly force portion of the course must be taught by a licensed Idaho attorney or a certified Idaho law enforcement officer. Most states recognize the basic Idaho CWL however a few require the enhanced CWL for reciprocity. If you are interested in taking a course that qualifies you for the enhanced CWL please contact your local sheriff’s office or search online.

**Once you have decided to apply for a CWL, your local sheriff’s office will go through a series of steps to determine if you meet all the requirements. Those steps are listed below:**

1. Application is presented to the sheriff’s office. You must appear in person.
2. The application is reviewed for completeness and to ensure that you meet minimum requirements.
3. You will be fingerprinted and the appropriate fees will be collected. Your records will then be submitted to the Idaho State Police.
4. Your information is entered in to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) indicating that you have applied for a CWL.
5. The sheriff’s staff will complete a full background check to confirm that you meet all the requirements.
6. A CWL will be issued within 90 days by the Sheriff’s Office or, if they determine you are not qualified, you will be sent a notice of denial.
7. NCIC will be updated showing that you have a CWL or that the application was denied.
8. If approved, you will be notified to return to the sheriff’s office to obtain your temporary CWL and a photo will be taken at that time. Your permanent CWL will be mailed to you.



## Background Checks

A Sheriff may require additional information on the application such as place of employment and previous states where the applicant has resided as necessary to conduct a thorough investigation into the applicant's qualifications to obtain a CWL. The sheriff may refuse to accept an application that is not complete.

I.C. 18-3302 provides a list of criteria that disqualifies a person from obtaining a concealed weapons license. An Idaho CWL is available to all U.S. citizens and legal aliens residing in the United States. A license to carry concealed weapons shall not be issued to any person who:

- Is under 21 years of age (with the exception that an 18 to 20-year-old can carry concealed with an enhanced license under **Idaho Code 18-3302K**); or
- Is formally charged with a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year;
- Has been adjudicated guilty in any court of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year;
- Is a fugitive from justice;
- Is an unlawful user of marijuana or any depressant, stimulant or narcotic drug, or any controlled substance as defined in 21 U.S.C. section 802;
- Is currently suffering from or has been adjudicated as having suffered from any of the following conditions, based on substantial evidence:
  - Lacking mental capacity as defined in section [18-210](#), Idaho Code;
  - Mentally ill as defined in section [66-317](#), Idaho Code;
  - Gravely disabled as defined in section [66-317](#), Idaho Code; or
  - An incapacitated person as defined in section [15-5-101](#), Idaho Code.
- Has been discharged from the armed forces under dishonorable conditions;
- Has received a withheld judgment or suspended sentence for a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year, unless the person has successfully completed probation;
- Has received a period of probation after having been adjudicated guilty of, or received a withheld judgment for, a misdemeanor offense that has as an element the intentional use, attempted use or threatened use of physical force against the person or property of another, unless the person has successfully completed probation;
- Is an alien illegally in the United States;
- Is a person who having been a citizen of the United States has renounced his or her citizenship;
- Is free on bond or personal recognizance pending trial, appeal or sentencing for a crime which would disqualify him from obtaining a concealed weapons license;
- Is subject to a protection order issued under chapter 63, title 39, Idaho Code, that restrains the person from harassing, stalking or threatening an intimate partner of the person or child of the intimate partner or person, or engaging in other conduct that would place an intimate partner in reasonable fear of bodily injury to the partner or child; or

- Is for any other reason ineligible to own, possess or receive a firearm under the provisions of Idaho or federal law.

To obtain a CWL, you must provide a driver's license or state identification card or some other identification that satisfies the sheriff as to your identity. Contact your local Sheriff's Office and ask about what types of ID they will accept.

If you are not disqualified by any of the above requirements you may contact your local Sheriff's Office and determine what documentation you will be required to bring to your appointment. You can access an application from the Idaho State Police or Idaho Sheriffs Association website at [www.idahosheriffs.org](http://www.idahosheriffs.org).

## **Revocation of a CWL**

Once you have a CWL it can be revoked by the sheriff for anything that would disqualify you from obtaining a CWL as set out in **Idaho Code 18-3302**. Additionally, a license can be revoked for fraud or intentional misrepresentation in obtaining the license or the misuse of a license, including lending or giving a license to another person, duplicating a license or using a license with the intent to unlawfully cause harm to a person or property.

## **Qualification and Process Test**

Question 1: Can a 23-year old male visiting Idaho carry a concealed handgun without a license?

Yes            No

Question 2: Can an adult resident of Idaho carry a firearm if they have a restraining order against them?

Yes            No

Question 3: Can a person regularly smoke marijuana and carry a concealed weapon?

Yes            No

Question 4: As a legal adult resident of Idaho can you carry a concealed weapon on a college campus?

Yes            No

## **Results**

\_\_ of \_\_ questions answered correctly

Your time: 00:00:00

You have reached 4 of 4 points, (100%)

- If you scored 100% the 'Click here to Continue' button will take you to the next lesson.

However, if you scored less than 100% the 'Click here to Continue' button will repeat the quiz. If you are having trouble you might want to [click here](#) to return to the lesson.

[Click Here to Continue](#)

# Lesson 2:

## Legal Responsibility & Liability Accountability

Firearm ownership and carrying a concealed handgun are serious responsibilities.

- You are solely responsible for the safe handling, storage, retention and use of your firearm.
- You could be civilly sued for any damage or injury that occurs as a result of the use of your firearm or use of your firearm by another. For example:
  - Through negligent supervision where a child is unsupervised and the child has access to firearms.
  - Through negligent entrustment where a parent has allowed the child to use a dangerous instrument, such as a handgun, without reasonable care. For example, when a child has not been instructed on proper gun safety and has injured another.



A parent can be held liable for harm caused by their child if the parent directed, encouraged or ratified the conduct.

Owners are accountable for how their firearms are used. At all times:

- **Be Responsible.** You are responsible and may be held criminally liable if damage or injury occurs as a result of your failure to use a reasonable standard of care when handling your firearm.
  - [Idaho Code 18-4006\(2\)](#) Involuntary Manslaughter; in the perpetration of or attempt to perpetrate any unlawful act, other than those acts specified in section [18-4003\(d\), Idaho Code](#); or in the commission of a lawful act which might produce death, in an unlawful manner, or without due caution and circumspection; or in the operation of any firearm or deadly weapon in a reckless, careless or negligent manner which produces death.
- **Pay Attention and Be Sure of Your Surroundings.** When handling a firearm, pay strict attention to what you are doing and what is going on around you.
- **Ensure Safety.** Make certain that the firearm is unloaded and secure when not being used.
  - According to the Gun Violence Archive, unintentional firearm discharges caused the deaths of 2,015 people in 2017 and 61,331 total injuries and deaths occurred whether accidental or intentional.
  - Some reports indicate that 2/3 of accidental shootings happen in the home and firearms are the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of unnatural death for children.

- Most self-inflicted or unintentional firearm injuries occur with guns that originate either from the owner's home or the home of a friend or relative. Read the study from David Grossman, MD, MPH, [HERE](#).

### **Legal Responsibility and Liability Accountability Test**

Question 1: If you leave a loaded handgun on the coffee table in your living room and a minor child picks it up and discharges the gun are you liable for damages or injuries?

Yes            No

Question 2: When you pick up a handgun should you routinely check to see if its loaded even if you handled the same gun two hours before?

Yes            No

Question 3: Do most accidental firearms discharges happen outside the home?

Yes            No

### **Results**

\_\_ of \_\_ questions answered correctly

Your time: 00:00:00

You have reached 4 of 4 points, (100%)

- **If you scored 100% the 'Click here to Continue' button will take you to the next lesson.**

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[Click Here to Continue](#)



# Lesson 3:

## Use of Force

In this Lesson you will learn about Idaho law regarding the Use of Force upon another person. First, you need to understand some general terms and definitions.

**Use of Force** is the use of physical force you may use upon another person that would otherwise constitute an offense. This ranges from offensive physical contact to assault and murder.

**Physical Force** includes, but is not limited to, the use of an electrical stun gun, tear gas, mace, punching, kicking, striking, or pushing.

**Deadly Physical Force** means physical force that, under the circumstances in which it is used, is readily capable of causing death or serious physical injury, such as the use of deadly and dangerous weapons.



Your actions will be judged using the standard of **Reasonableness**. Decisions of liability are made from the objective facts as they are known at the time of the event and from the perspective of a reasonable person. Essentially, would a person with your experience and training placed in the same situation make the same decisions as you did at the

time? Hindsight is not supposed to be used in determining reasonableness.

[I.C. 18-3302\(b\)](#), **Deadly weapon** means any instrument, article or substance specifically designed for and presently capable of causing death or serious physical injury, such as a gun or knife, or any other weapon, device, instrument, material or substance that is intended by the person to be readily capable of causing death or serious bodily injury. *For example, if someone was in close proximity to you and is in possession of a baseball bat, stick, heavy flashlight or lamp and said they were going to hit you in the head with the object, the object could be considered a Deadly Weapon.*

[Idaho Code 18-1401](#) defines **burglary** as when a person enters any house, room, apartment, tenement, shop, warehouse, store, mill, barn, stable, outhouse, or other building, tent, vessel, vehicle, trailer, airplane or railroad car, with the intent to commit any theft or any felony.

[Idaho Code 18-4009](#), **Justifiable Homicide** is an action taken;

- When resisting any attempt to murder any person, or to commit a felony, or to do some great bodily injury on another person;
- When committed in defense of habitation, a place of business or employment, occupied vehicle, property or person, against one who manifestly intends or endeavors, by violence or surprise, to commit a felony or enters in a violent, riotous or tumultuous manner for the purpose of doing violence to any person inside;
- When committed in the defense of family or another person when it is reasonable to believe the offender is committing a felony or plans to do great bodily injury to someone.
- When necessarily committed in attempting, by lawful ways and means, to apprehend any person for any felony committed, or in lawfully suppressing any riot, or in lawfully keeping and preserving the peace.

[Idaho Code 19-202](#) states you may use such degree and extent of force as would appear to be reasonably necessary to prevent the threatened injury. Reasonableness is to be judged from the viewpoint of a reasonable person placed in the same position and seeing and knowing what the person then saw and knew without the benefit of hindsight.

- A person may use physical force upon another person in self-defense or in defending a member of his family or another person, or in defending his property.
- The defense of self or another doesn't require a person to wait until he ascertains whether the danger is apparent or real. A person confronted with such danger has a clear right to act upon appearances such as would influence the action of a reasonable person.
- In the exercise of self-defense, a person need not retreat from any place a person has a right to be and can stand their ground and defend himself and others.
- A person using force or deadly force in defense of habitation, place of business or employment or occupied vehicle as defined in section [18-4009, Idaho Code](#), is presumed to have acted reasonably and had a reasonable fear of imminent peril of death or serious bodily injury if the force is used against a person whose entry or attempted entry is unlawful and is made or attempted by use of force, or in a violent and tumultuous manner, or surreptitiously or by stealth, or for the purpose of committing a felony, [Idaho Code 19-202A\(5\)](#).

### **Deadly physical force can be used:**

- When a person is committing or attempting to commit a felony involving the use or threatened imminent use of physical force against a person.
- When a person is committing or attempting to commit a burglary in a dwelling.
- When a person is using or about to use unlawful deadly physical force against a person.

For example, you are in a parking lot and see a man kicking another unconscious man in the head. You may use the amount of force necessary to stop the man from kicking the other in the head, including deadly force, but only if you feel further kicking may cause serious physical injury to or the death of the victim.

### Note:

In [Tennessee v. Garner](#), the United States Supreme Court held that a police officer must also be able to articulate the following when using deadly force:

1. You must feel that, more likely than not, the person poses a threat of causing serious physical harm to you or another.
2. There must be an immediate danger to you or others.
3. You must feel that, more likely than not, the person has committed a crime involving the use or threatened use of serious physical harm.
4. If feasible, issue a verbal warning before using deadly force.

Although the police have a higher bar to reach before they can use deadly force it is important to note nonetheless that the use of deadly force is serious business and will be carefully reviewed by law enforcement and prosecutors in making their final determination on the use of force.

[Idaho Code 19-202A \(3\)](#) states in any prosecution for the unlawful use of force, including deadly force, or the attempted or threatened use of force contrary to title 18, Idaho Code, the burden is on the prosecution to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the use of force, attempted use of force or threat to use force was not justifiable.

Keep in mind, you should also be able to describe that the person who is a threat to you, by word or conduct, demonstrated their **intent** to cause you or another harm, the threat must have the **means** to carry out that threat and must also have the **opportunity** to cause you or another harm before you can use any amount of force on them.

Now let's take all of this information and put it into scenarios many instructors hear throughout the State of Idaho.

### **Scenario One:**

You discover someone is in your house and they run outside of your house. We have heard students in handgun safety classes that state, "I am going shoot them and drag them back inside my house."

**Shoot** – If you only used the sole fact of the person being in your home as your decision to shoot the person who has fled your home, you likely do not have sufficient legal justification to use deadly force. Even though you may use force against a person if you believe that person is committing or attempting to commit a burglary of a dwelling, in order to use deadly force the facts must also indicate that the intruder intends to

cause serious physical injury or death to you or another. Once the person has fled your home, there is likely not any further justification for the use of force or deadly force unless the person has demonstrated that he's dangerous to the public. For instance, the perpetrator fires a handgun while fleeing or threatened you with a weapon before fleeing. Unless you can describe additional facts which showed the person was acting in a way to justify the use of deadly force under Idaho law, you likely are not legally justified in using deadly force against a person who has fled your home, and you may be exposed to criminal prosecution and civil liability.

**Don't Shoot** – Is the best answer. You should also be able to describe that the person demonstrated their **intent, means and opportunity** to justify an independent basis under Idaho law justifying your decision to use deadly force. In this scenario, you cannot only use the sole fact of the person being in your home, who then flees your house, as your decision to use deadly physical force. If the person remained in your home and you shot him it would most likely be considered justifiable, however the totality of circumstances will always be examined.

### **Scenario Two:**

It is in the middle of the night and looking down their hallway the victim sees a person standing in their living room. Victim makes an announcement from their bedroom door, "I have called 911, and I have a gun, get out." Suspect turns away and runs out the door with their TV.

**Shoot** – The person immediately fled out of the residence and no longer poses a deadly threat so shooting the person would not be justified under Idaho Code 19-202A. You may be found criminally and/or civilly liable for your decision.

**Don't Shoot** – Correct. Once fleeing, the intruder did not display any **intent, means and opportunity** to cause any serious physical injury or death to you or anyone else.

### **Scenario Three:**

Victim looks down hallway and sees a person standing in their living room with their TV. Victim makes announcement from bedroom door, "I have called 911, and I have a gun, get out." Victim turns on the hall light. The suspect drops the TV, pulls a knife from his pocket and begins walking towards victim with a fixed stare.

**Shoot** – Did the person by word or conduct have the **intent** to cause you serious physical injury or death?

- *Yes. He demonstrated his intent by removing the knife from his pocket, dropping the TV and walking in your direction.*

Did the person have the **means** to cause you serious physical injury or death?

- *Yes. He had a knife.*

Did the person have the **opportunity**?

- *Yes. He was down the hallway, closing distance and there were no impenetrable obstacles between us.*

Your actions will likely be found to be justified because the offender was in your home committing a felony. The evaluation of intent, means and opportunity is provided to add insight into your assessment as it is not necessary in order to use deadly force in the example above. The mere fact that the person is in your home uninvited presumes that he has entered with the intent to commit a felony, [Idaho Code 18-4009 \(2\)](#).

**Don't Shoot** – Deciding whether to take another human being's life is a personal choice, and choosing not to shoot is always an option. In this situation, it would appear that your personal safety is at serious risk, and you should clearly take some immediate action to protect yourself. Regardless of whether you would personally decide to shoot in this situation, let's explore whether there are factors that might make shooting in this circumstance legally defensible.

Did the person by word or conduct have the **intent** to cause you serious physical injury or death?

- *Yes. He demonstrated his intent by removing the knife from his pocket, dropping the TV and walking in your direction.*

Did the person have the **means** to cause you serious physical injury or death?

- *Yes. He had a knife.*

Did the person have the **opportunity**?

- *Yes. He was down the hallway, closing distance and there were no impenetrable obstacles between us.*

Idaho is a "stand your ground" state so a victim isn't required to retreat if the victim has a right to be there ([I.C. 10-202A](#)). Under these circumstances, there is a strong argument that the use of deadly force would be justified.

### **Scenario Four:**

David cuts Sam off in traffic. David pulls into a nearby gas station and gets out of his vehicle to go inside. Sam quickly pulls up and begins yelling at David and aggressively approaches him. David defends himself as the two get into a fist fight. David begins to

gain the advantage over Sam. Realizing he is losing the altercation, Sam draws his weapon and shoots David, killing him.

*Is Sam's use of deadly force against David justified?*

Although David cut Sam off first, Sam was the initial aggressor in the altercation and the first one to use physical force. Sam provoked the fight with David. David was only using the amount of force necessary to defend himself from Sam. Sam's use of deadly force would not likely be found justified.

Sam may be found criminally and/or civilly liable for his decision.

***Not Justified*** – Correct. If you apply Idaho Code 18-4009 (c), Sam was the initial aggressor and provoked this event. David was only using the amount of force necessary to defend himself from Sam. Sam never clearly signaled his intent to withdraw from the altercation.

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## **Use of Force Test**

Please take the following quiz to proceed. If you score less than 100% you will be prompted to re-take the quiz:

Question 1: Idaho is a "Stand your Ground" state. Does this mean a person can shoot someone inside your home without regard to reasonableness of the circumstances?

Yes            No

Question 2: Can you use deadly force to protect yourself or someone else if it appears that either of you can be immediately hurt by another person?

Yes            No

Question 3: Are you required to seek shelter and wait for the police to arrive before using deadly force on a person demonstrating imminent harm to you or another person?

Yes            No

Question 4: If a person says that they are going to badly hurt you tomorrow if you don't apologize for doing something that offended that person can you shoot them?

Yes            No

## **Results**

\_\_ of \_\_ questions answered correctly

Your time: 00:00:00

You have reached 4 of 4 points, (100%)

- If you scored 100% the 'Click here to Continue' button will take you to the next lesson.

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[Click Here to Continue](#)

# Lesson 4:

## When is an Idaho CWL Not Required?

**Idaho Code 18-3302**, explains under what circumstances you can and cannot carry a concealed weapon. By the end of this Lesson you should understand when having a concealed weapons license is and is not required when carrying a handgun. For general purposes, if you are 21 years of age or older, a resident of Idaho or a member of the armed forces, and are not disqualified from obtaining a concealed weapons license, you can carry a concealed weapon without a license inside city limits and in unincorporated areas of the county. You become a resident of Idaho when your domicile (principle home) has been in Idaho for 90 continuous days, however you can declare residency earlier if you register your vehicles in Idaho and your principle domicile is in Idaho. If you are a resident of Idaho and between 18 and 21 years of age you can carry concealed if you obtain and enhanced CWL under [Idaho Code 18-3302K](#).

Most adults 21 years and older in Idaho obtain their CWL to use traveling out of state as the law now doesn't require an Idaho resident to have a license to carry concealed.

A non-resident of Idaho is prohibited from carrying a concealed weapon unless they have a CWL from Idaho or any other state.

[Idaho Code 18-3302C](#), prohibits the carrying of a concealed weapon with or without a CWL in a courthouse, juvenile detention facility or jail, or a public or private school except when the school board of trustees of the school district has authorized the person to carry concealed.

A person who is an Idaho resident or non-resident who is eighteen or older can carry a concealed weapon outside of city limits without a CWL if they are not otherwise disqualified from obtaining a CWL.

[Idaho Code 18-3302J](#) basically says that the Idaho legislature regulates firearms in the state and that local jurisdictions can only establish laws restricting the discharge of firearms, so the carrying of firearms is uniform throughout Idaho.

### Open Carry

Idaho is an "open carry" state which means you can carry a firearm, whether a handgun, rifle or shotgun in the open, except in areas prohibited by law such as court houses, schools and federal facilities.





Traveling in a vehicle, recreational vehicle or motorcycle with a concealed handgun whether loaded or unloaded, is not illegal under state law if you are an Idaho resident and 21 years of age or older and are not disqualified to meet the standards for obtaining a CWL. Handguns may also be legally carried openly by any person in a belt holster pursuant to state law. It is unlawful for any person under the age of 18 to possess any handgun, [I.C. 18-3302F](#). Exceptions include when taking a hunter safety course, while hunting or engaged in organized competition, [I.C. 18-3302G](#).

### **When is an Idaho CWL Not Required Test**

Question 1: Can a resident of another state carry a concealed handgun in Idaho with a concealed weapons license from their home state?

Yes          No

Question 2: Can a 19-year old Idaho resident carry a concealed handgun in their car when driving through a city without a concealed weapons license?

Yes          No

### **Results**

\_\_ of \_\_ questions answered correctly

Your time: 00:00:00

You have reached 4 of 4 points, (100%)

- **If you scored 100% the 'Click here to Continue' button will take you to the next lesson.**

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[Click Here to Continue](#)

# Lesson 5:

## Where Is Carrying a Concealed Handgun Prohibited?

In this Lesson you will learn where you are prohibited from carrying a concealed weapon even though you have a concealed weapon's license. This is only a guide; always check with the places you are going before you carry your weapon if you are unsure that it is permitted.

Any business or private property posted with signs indicating no firearms or dangerous weapons allowed or a similar statement.

[I.C. 18-3302C](#) Says a person shall not carry a concealed weapon in a courthouse, juvenile detention or jail facility, public or private school.

[I.C. 18-3302 \(18\)](#) States that the CWL laws of Idaho cannot be modified by local jurisdictions. "No city, county or other political subdivision of this state shall modify or add to the requirements of this section, nor shall a city, county or political subdivision ask the applicant to voluntarily submit any information not required in this section..."

[I.C. 18-3309](#) Authorizes the governing boards of public colleges and universities to prescribe rules and regulations relating to firearms on school grounds. However, the rules cannot prohibit a retired peace officer or a person with an enhanced CWL from lawfully carrying a firearm, except within a student dormitory or residence hall, or within any arena, stadium, amphitheater, auditorium, theater or similar facility with a seating capacity of at least one thousand persons.

[18 U.S. Code 930](#) A person cannot carry a firearm or dangerous weapon in a Federal facility. Federal facilities are defined as buildings, installations, structures, land, public works, equipment, aircraft, vessels, other vehicles, and property owned, constructed or manufactured for leasing to the Federal government.

### National Forests & Wilderness

Persons who have obtained a valid concealed handgun license may carry their weapon onto National Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management lands unless there is a specific order issued by the local administrator or forest ranger to the contrary. It is your responsibility to check on restrictions where you plan to visit by contacting the local ranger district or land management



office. Restrictions are generally put into effect during festivals or large gatherings, or at popular recreation areas where there are safety concerns. Be aware that any Ranger

Station or Visitors Center in any National Forest is a Federal Building and it is illegal to be in possession of a firearm while visiting that premise.

## National Parks

The [Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act of 2009](#) was enacted May 22, 2009 and became effective February 22, 2010. Section 512 of this law, Protecting Americans from Violent Crimes, supersedes the uniform treatment of firearm possession in the national park system outside Alaska under the regulations found at [36 C.F.R. 2.4](#). This law provides that a person who legally possesses a firearm under the state law in which the national park is located is authorized to possess the firearm in the park. This includes the carrying of a concealed weapon with a CWL.

It is the responsibility of visitors to understand and comply with all applicable state, local, and federal firearms laws before entering a park. For example, Yellowstone encompasses parts of Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho. Each state has different regulations and you need to be aware of them prior to your trip.

Federal law also prohibits firearms in certain facilities in parks (such as visitor centers, government offices, etc.); these Federal Buildings are marked with signs at all public entrances.

Firearms should not be considered a wildlife protection strategy. Bear spray and other safety precautions are the proven methods for preventing bear and other wildlife interactions.

## State Parks and Recreation Lands

[IDAPA 26.01.20-600](#) states it is prohibited to discharge a firearm within any lands administered by the Department of State Parks and Recreation, except in self-defense or in the course of lawful hunting, or exhibitions authorized by the Director.

## Indian Reservations

You may not carry concealed on Indian Reservation property, without permission from the tribal government. The firearms rules on Indian Reservations vary greatly. Generally, non-Indians are prohibited from carrying guns on reservations or tribal lands except with the explicit permission of the tribal council.

## Airports

According to [Title 49 United States Code, Section 46505](#), you may not carry a firearm or ammunition in or through a federal security checkpoint. Some airports are privately owned facilities and can prohibit the carry of firearms on the property. Be sure to be familiar with any prohibitions at the facility you are visiting.

## Reciprocity

The State of Idaho **recognizes** concealed weapons or handgun licenses issued by other states. Several other states currently recognize Idaho CWLs. CWL holders are encouraged to contact the state in which they are traveling and familiarize themselves with the laws pertaining to the reciprocity and the carry of concealed firearms. You can access reciprocity states on the Idaho State Police website at [www.isp.idaho.gov](http://www.isp.idaho.gov).

### When is Carry a Concealed Handgun Prohibited Test

Question 1: Can you carry a handgun into a courthouse?

Yes            No

Question 2: Can a city pass a law that restricts the carrying of a concealed handgun?

Yes            No

Question 3: Can an Idaho resident carry a concealed handgun into a United States Post Office?

Yes            No

Question 4: Can a 21-year old Idaho resident carry a concealed handgun into a National Park in Idaho without a concealed weapons license?

Yes            No

## Results

\_\_ of \_\_ questions answered correctly

Your time: 00:00:00

You have reached 4 of 4 points, (100%)

- **If you scored 100% the 'Click here to Continue' button will take you to the next lesson.**

**However, if you scored less than 100% the 'Click here to Continue' button will repeat the quiz. If you are having trouble you might want to [click here](#) to return to the lesson.**

[Click Here to Continue](#)

# Lesson 6:

## Handgun Safety

Safety is paramount to all firearm handling, regardless of what firearm system is being used (handgun, rifle or shotgun). There are basic cardinal firearm safety rules that, when followed, mitigate virtually all negligent discharges of a firearm.

The 4 Cardinal Firearms Safety Rules are designed to give the firearm user a basis for secure and safe weapon handling and use. These 4 rules should be followed whenever a firearm is handled.

1. **Treat all firearms as if they are loaded until you have verified personally that the firearm is not loaded. Never take a firearm from another person and assume it is unloaded. Check it yourself.**
2. **Always keep your finger off the trigger, outside the trigger guard and along the slide or frame until you are on target and have made a decision to shoot.**
3. **Always keep the firearm pointed in a safe direction (muzzle control).**
4. **When discharging your firearm, be sure of your target and what lies beyond it.**

While these 4 rules are for “hands on” use of the firearm, there are other considerations to think about for safe firearm handling.

When you clean your firearm, you should follow these basic guidelines:

### Unloading Firearms

Unload the firearm in the following manner:

#### Revolvers

1. Open the cylinder and swing it out from the barrel.
2. Then remove the ammunition from the weapon.

#### Semi Auto Pistols

1. Point the firearm in a safe direction.
2. Remove the magazine and set it aside.
3. Cycle the action several times by pulling the slide to the rear and ejecting any live round that may be in the chamber. **Note: You must first remove the magazine, or cycling the slide will place another round in the chamber.**
4. With the slide in the rear position, look and feel both in the chamber at the back of the barrel (breach) and down the magazine well to assure there is no live

ammunition in the weapon. Look and feel three times and then let the slide move forward.

Using those procedures, check your firearm to make sure it is unloaded prior to cleaning. Know your firearm and how it comes apart for cleaning. For example, on some models of handguns the trigger must be pressed to release the slide and take the firearm apart. **Note: Always keep the firearm pointed in a safe direction (muzzle control).**

Never leave the firearm unattended during cleaning. Do all your cleaning at one time and if you leave, secure the firearm.

## Firearm Handling

Take firearm handling seriously and protect yourself, your family and friends:

- Assume every safety on your firearm will fail. This is why it is important to follow the 4 fundamental firearms safety rules at all times.
- Never shoot a firearm that has been in the dirt or has had the barrel shoved into the ground as upon firing this blockage could destroy the weapon and cause you or others injury. If this occurs, have your weapon checked by a certified armorer.
- Never display your firearm at social gatherings.
- Never carry or handle a firearm if you have consumed an alcoholic beverage or taken prescription or illegal narcotics.
- Always store and lock your firearm in a place that is not accessible to any children or other unauthorized persons.
- Always store your firearm unloaded and un-cocked.
- Never throw out live ammunition in the trash. Most Sheriff's Offices will take small amounts for safe disposal. Check with your local Sheriff's Office for disposal sites.

## Firearms Storage and Security

Remember, you could be held criminally responsible and/or civilly liable for any damage or injury that occurs as a result of the misuse or abuse of your firearm. The most secure way to store your firearm is in a quality constructed gun safe. There are many models and styles to choose from.

1. A gun safe allows you control over who has access to your firearms. If you are going to own firearms this is the preferred method to store them. All other methods can be easily defeated.
  - Keep the keys away from the safe and only tell those who need to know where the keys are or the combination. If you do not use a gun safe, consider using a trigger lock, cable lock or hinged – cover safety device on your firearms to keep them safe and then keep any keys in a safe place away from the firearm.

2. Store your firearms unloaded and secure the ammunition in a separate location. If you have a gun safe, it would be acceptable to store both the unloaded firearm and ammunition in the same gun safe. A cable lock (usually vinyl covered) is an external safety device. These are inserted through the barrel or the action of a firearm to ensure that ammunition cannot be loaded or the action manipulated to discharge the firearm. Cable locks can also be used to secure the frame or receiver of a disassembled firearm to prevent it from being reassembled. Cable locks should be used with caution, as a persistent adult or child can defeat them.
3. Hinged-Cover safety devices are mechanisms that fit completely around the frame of an unloaded firearm to ensure that the action cannot be manipulated to discharge the firearm. This device encloses or jackets the entire trigger guard and most of the frame. These should be used with caution, as a persistent adult or child can open inferior and flimsy hinged – cover safety devices.



4. Trigger locks are safety devices that anchor the trigger within the trigger guard to prevent the firearm from being discharged. They are designed to render the firearm inoperable by preventing movement of the trigger. These locks are opened with either a key or by use of a combination. Trigger locks should be used with caution, as a persistent adult or child can open inferior and flimsy trigger locks. On some models trigger locks do not fully prevent movement

of the trigger.

5. Some handguns have integrated mechanical safety devices built into them. They are designed to prevent the handgun from being discharged unless the device has been deactivated. Even though these firearms have integrated mechanical safety devices you should still assume they will fail. Securely store the firearm in another manner.

## Safe Transport of Firearms

Carrying and transporting a firearm must be done safely and within the limits of the law. If you are going to transport your firearm it should be in an unloaded condition with the magazine removed and stored in a suitable locked container.

While keeping the firearm close at hand such as in a night stand drawer or under the pillow/mattress assures quick and easy access, this presents numerous safety problems.

1. The firearm is not secure and anyone in the room has access to it.
2. Should you need to use the firearm in the middle of the night, it is recommended that you get up to access it. Most of us take a minute to wake up and the last thing you want to do is shoot someone unintentionally because you were still in a “Sleep Fog” and were not fully awake.

## Firearm Selection

Now that you are aware of the safety concerns and are ready to buy a firearm, there are some things to consider. There is no expert on who should use what type of firearm. The only person who is an expert on what type of firearm you should buy is you. You are the one shooting it and you are the one that has to feel comfortable with the firearm. You can use the following suggestions as a guide to assist you in purchasing a firearm.

- Shoot numerous firearms. Find one that fits your hands, style and comfort level. Shoot friends’ firearms and experiment with what feels right to you. If possible, go to a range where they rent firearms and shoot many different types of firearms.
- If the firearm does not feel comfortable to you, you will not practice with it and your shooting skills will perish. Shooting skills are perishable; you must practice continually to retain the basic marksmanship skills.
- Don’t buy a firearm to protect yourself “in case you need it.” Buy a firearm that you like to shoot and will be proficient with. Then you will be better prepared to protect yourself if you ever find yourself in a situation where it is absolutely necessary to use it.
- Seek professional training.

## Ammunition Considerations

Buy factory ammunition to use in your firearms for personal protection. It is recommended that you do not use reloaded or hand loaded ammunition as this opens possible liability and safety concerns.

- Use of jacketed hollow point ammunition is recommended over a conical ball shape “training type” round. The hollow point is designed to enter the body and mushroom, causing the maximum stopping power and slowing the projectile so that it stays in the intended target and does not penetrate another object.
- Some firearms work better with certain types or brands of ammunition over others. Test your firearm and make sure it will reliably fire the ammunition you are planning on using in it.





## Holsters and Carry Options

As with ammunition and firearms, there are many different styles and carry options. Keep in mind, you will get what you pay for with holsters. Buy a good quality holster system that will positively retain your firearm.

- Molded leather holsters should be checked periodically for wear and deformities that could hinder the ability to re-holster the firearm. Also look to make sure the leather is in good condition and is unable to enter the trigger housing when re-holstering causing a negligent discharge.
- Check molded plastic or other material holsters for cracks and keep the holster in good working order. Make sure any screws remain tight.
- Do not carry a firearm in a fanny pack or purse unless it has a specific holster arrangement for securing the firearm. Throwing it in the bottom of a purse, backpack or fanny pack is dangerous as many things could cause the firearm to discharge.
- Remember, you may need the weapon quickly if the time comes to use it. Having to dig through numerous other items in a purse, backpack or fanny pack to locate your firearm is counterproductive and unsafe.

## NRA Eddie Eagle Program

When teaching your children about firearms safety you can utilize the [Eddie Eagle Program](#). This program is sponsored by the National Rifle Association and is used to ensure child safety when encountering firearms. The principles of the Eddie Eagle Program state that parents should teach children to do the following if they ever find a firearm:

- Stop!
- Don't touch the firearm
- Leave the area
- Tell an adult

These directions will ensure that the child and others remain safe and the firearm can be secured by a responsible adult.

## Handgun Safety Test

Question 1: If someone hands you a firearm and tells you its not loaded is it necessary to check for yourself?

Yes            No

Question 2: Is it a good idea to always lock and store your firearm in a place that is not accessible to children?

Yes            No

Question 3: Is it okay to carry a concealed handgun when going out drinking with friends for the evening?

Yes            No

Question 4: Can a person be held criminally responsible for damage caused by the misuse of your firearm?

Yes            No

## Results

\_\_ of \_\_ questions answered correctly

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