



Firearms Safety & Illinois Law

Pink Pistols Chicago



What to Expect

What this class will teach you

- Gun mechanics and operation
- Safe operation and storage
- Common malfunctions
- Gun purchasing logistics
- Legality of defensive force
- Justice system interactions

What it won't

- Marksmanship
- Tactics and drills
- Home defense

Content Warnings

- Self-harm and suicide
- Violent personal crimes



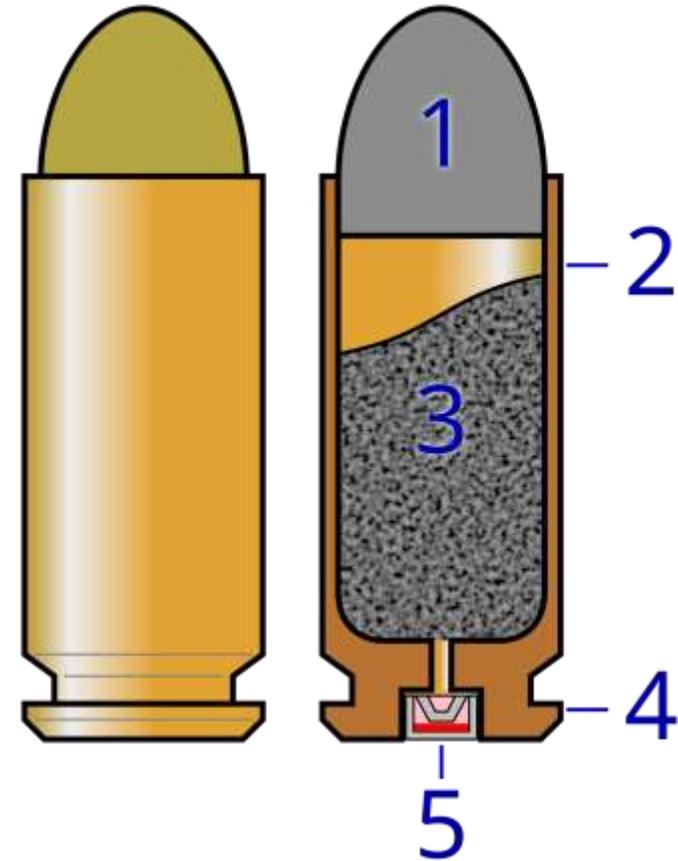
Guns & How They Work

“I know what you're thinking. ‘Did he fire six shots or only five?’
Well to tell you the truth in all this excitement I kinda lost track myself.”

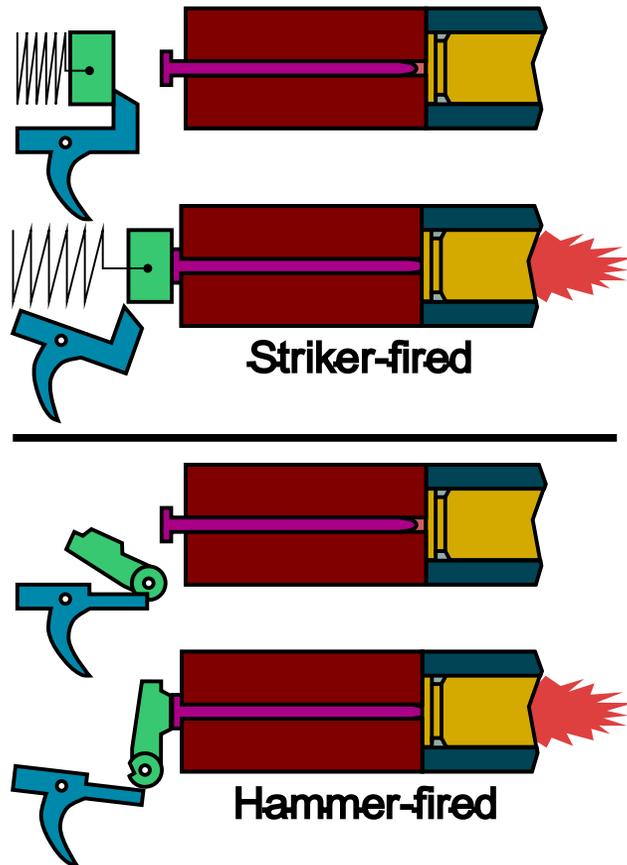
Harry Callahan
Dirty Harry

Ammunition (*Cartridges, Rounds, Ammo*)

1. Bullet
Exits the barrel rapidly
2. Case
Remains in gun during firing
3. Propellant
Explodes rapidly
4. Rim
Holds round in place
5. Primer
Causes chain reaction

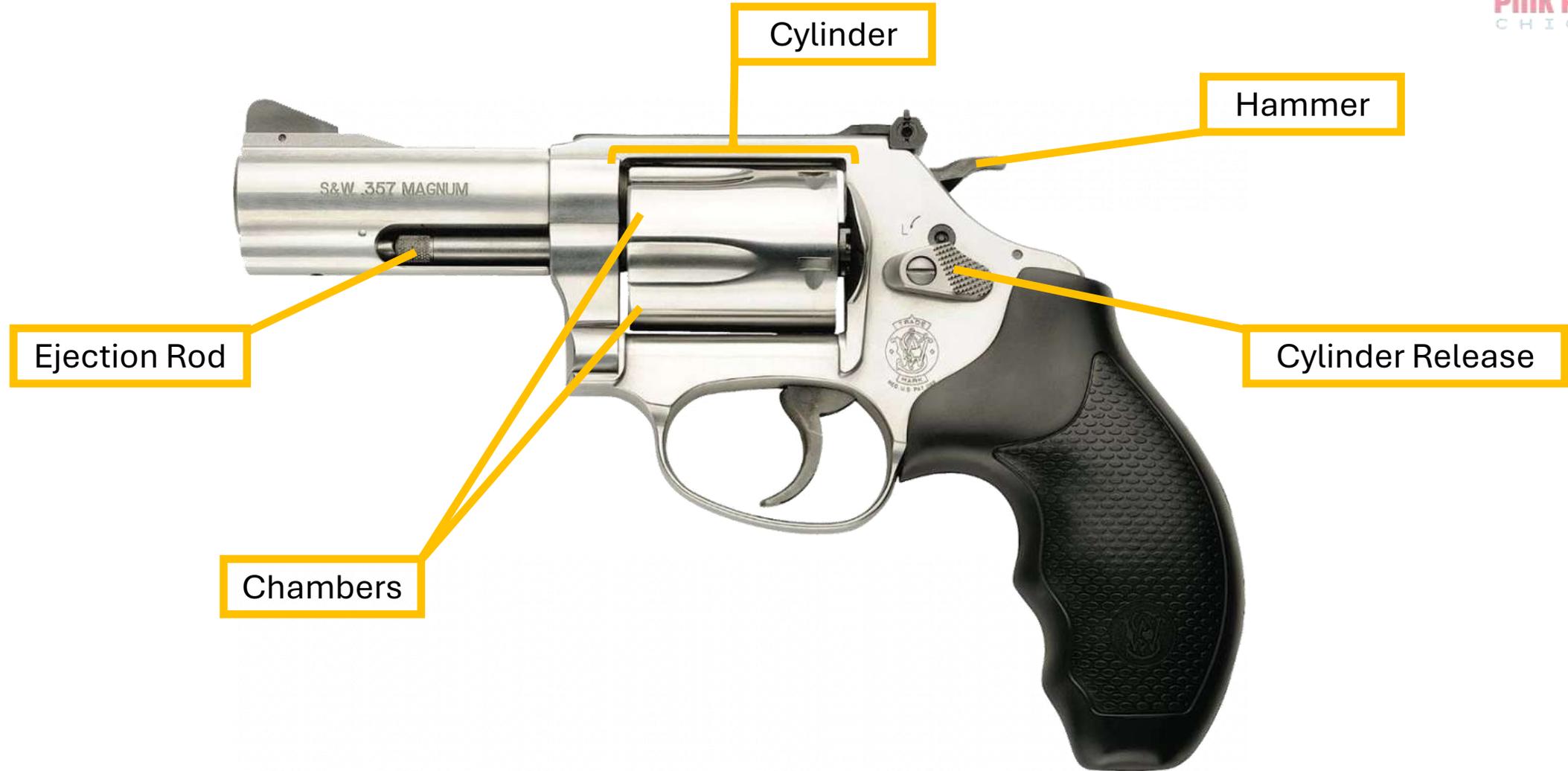


The Firing Process



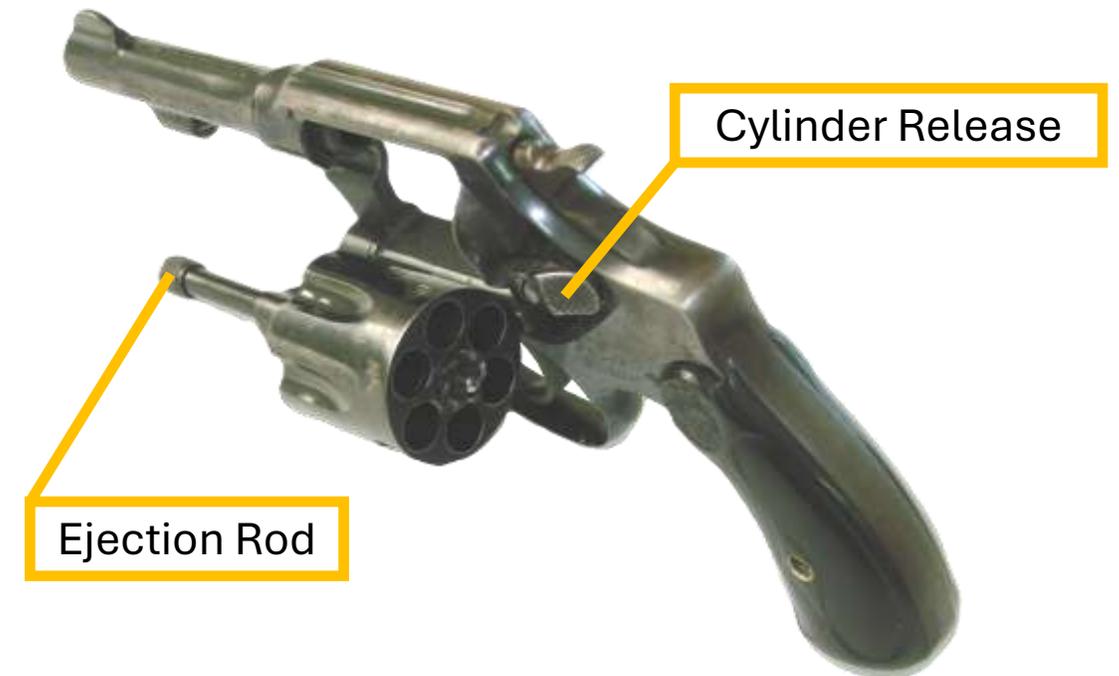
1. **Firing mechanism** “cocked”
2. **Trigger** releases tension
3. **Firing pin** impacts primer
4. **Primer** ignites
5. **Propellant** explodes

Revolvers



Unloading and Loading Revolvers

- Slide cylinder release to remove cylinder from frame
- Push ejection rod to remove rounds or empty cases
- Return cylinder to frame and rotate to lock in place



Revolvers vs. Semi-Automatics



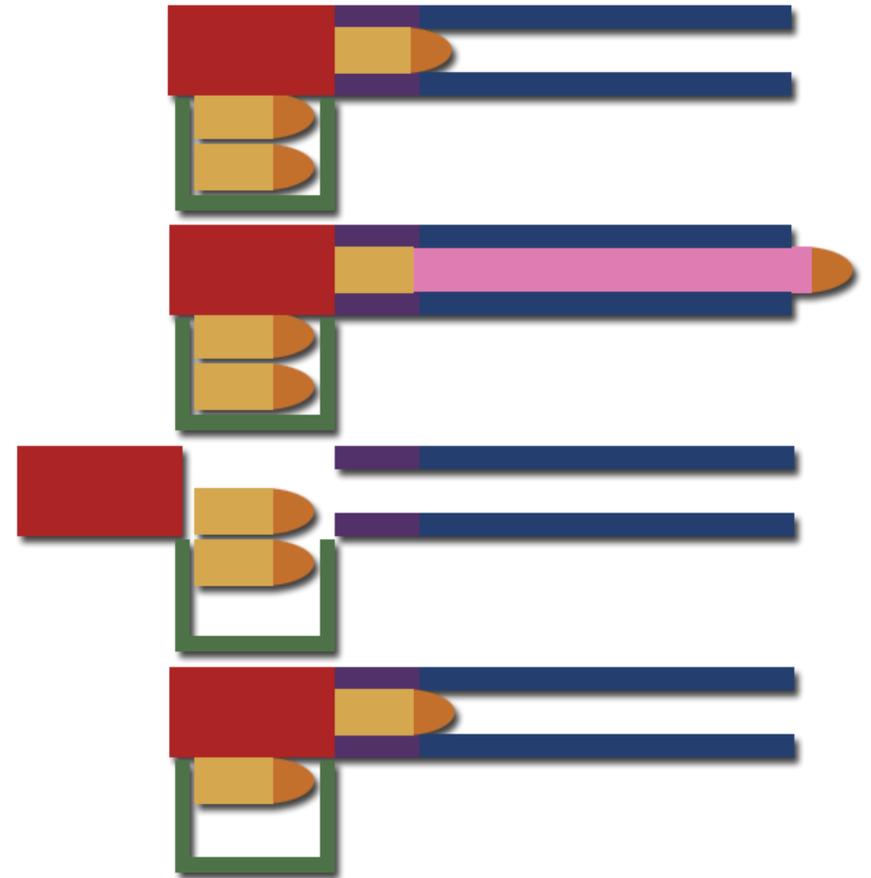
- Multiple chambers loaded manually
- Cocking hammer rotates cylinder
- Fires once per trigger pull until empty



- Loads automatically from magazine
- Recoil operates loading mechanism
- Fires once per trigger pull until empty

Semi-Automatic Firing Cycle

1. **Bullet** fired through **barrel**
2. **Breech** retracts due to **recoil**
3. **Case** ejected from **chamber**
4. **Round** pushed up from **magazine**
5. **Breech** pushes round into chamber



Semi-Automatic Handguns



Unloading Semi-Automatic Handguns



- Remove magazine
- Pull slide fully rearward
- Push slide lock up
- Inspect magazine well
- Inspect chamber

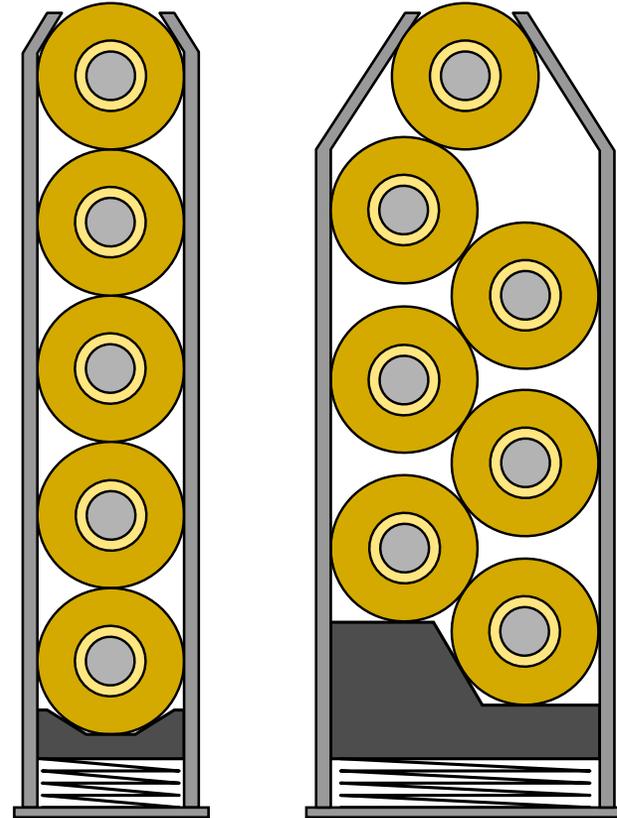
Loading Semi-Automatic Handguns

- Remove empty magazine
- Insert loaded magazine
- Pull slide fully rearward
- Release slide

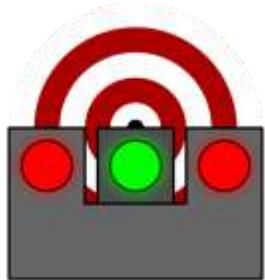
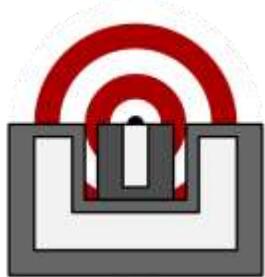
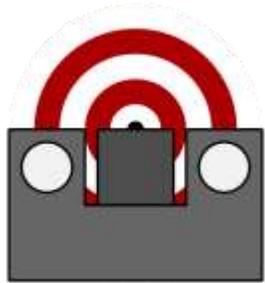


Magazine Types

- Single-stack
 - Thinner grip
 - Less rounds
 - Concealable pistols
- Double-stack
 - Wider grip
 - More rounds
 - Full-size pistols



Handgun Iron Sights



- Front and rear sights align
 - Horizontally: space on each side of front sight
 - Vertically: dots or top of sights aligned



Handgun Trigger Actions

- Double-Action
 - Trigger **cocks** the hammer
 - **Long** trigger pull
 - **Large** force required
- Single-Action
 - Hammer **already** cocked
 - **Short** trigger pull
 - **Small** force required



Double-Action



Single-Action

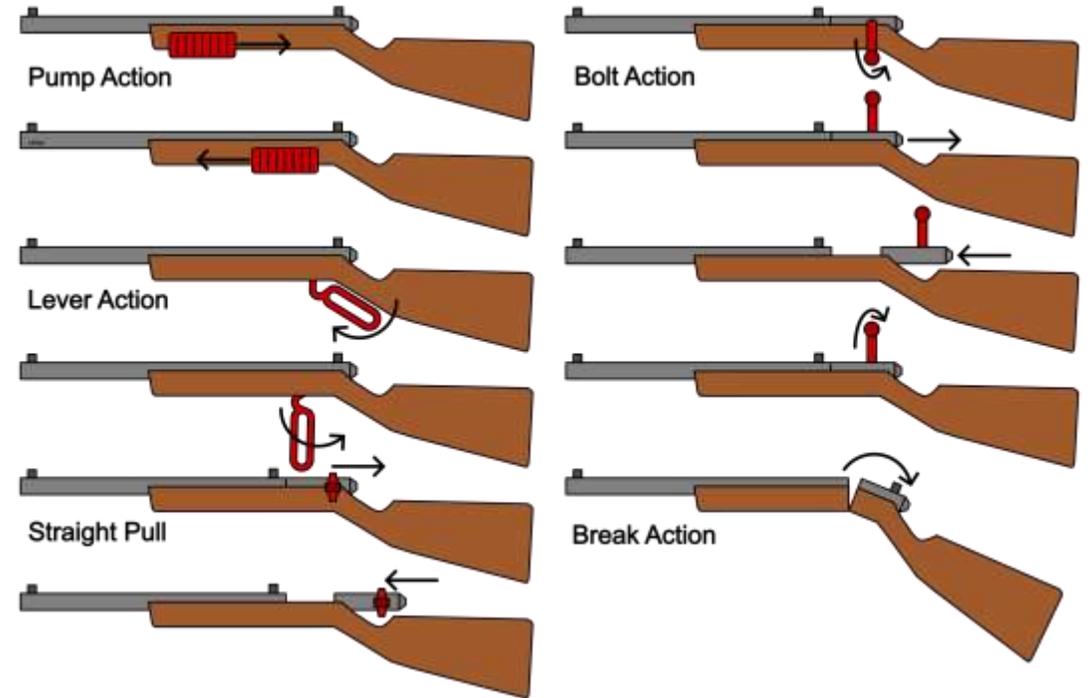
Double-Action/Single-Action (DA/SA)



- Can be fired with or without hammer already cocked
- Exposed hammer allows for lowering from cocked position
- Decocker on semi-autos can drop hammer without firing
- Revolvers must have trigger pulled to lower hammer

Other Action Types

- Pump
 - Typically on shotguns
- Lever
 - Rifles, typically pistol caliber
- Straight Pull / Bolt
 - Precision long-range rifles
- Break Action
 - Some shotguns, classic pistols





Should I Own a Firearm?

“A gun rack? I don’t even own a gun, let alone many guns that would necessitate an entire rack.”

Wayne Campbell
Wayne’s World

Firearm Uses

- Self-defense
 - Concealed carry
 - Home defense
- Skilled target shooting
 - Handgun drills
 - Long-range rifle shooting
- Shooting competitions
 - USPSA
- Hunting



Ask Yourself Before Buying



- Where will I keep it?
- Who else will have access?
- Enough time to practice and learn?
- Accept consequences of using it?
- Will it make me safer?

Mental Health & Wellness



*The following slide contains
references to self-harm and suicide*



Mental Health & Wellness

Risks

- Firearms used in over half of suicides in the United States
- Access to lethal means increases risk substantially

Preventative Actions

- Gun storage and location
- Open & honest conversations
- Plan for separation from lethal means in times of crisis

Support Systems

- Friends and Family
- Community Groups
- Mental health professionals
- 988 Suicide and Crisis Hotline

Recognizing Signs for Concern

Self-Harm and Suicide

- Making plans
- Giving away possessions
- Social withdrawal

Violent Criminal Acts

- Sharing plans or ideas
- Mass shooting obsession
- Unusual firearms behavior

Non-Lethal Self-Defense



- Less legal liability for use
- Easier to acquire
- Less expensive
- Avoid cheap ineffective options
- Unsuitable for lethal threats

Stun Guns

- Direct contact required
- Pain-compliance tool
- Can be an audible deterrent
- Useful against pets and wildlife
- Costs about \$25-150



Tasers



- Maximum range about 15 feet
- Single shot, low rate of success
- Incapacitates attacker for 30 seconds if successful
- Costs about \$250-400
- FOID required to own
- CCL required to carry

Pepper Spray

- Effective range about 10 feet
- Extremely easy to use
- Incapacitates attacker for several minutes if successful
- Costs about \$15-25





Purchasing a Firearm

“We're not really violent people. This is our first gun.”

Ellen Griswald

National Lampoon's Vacation

FOID Card

- Required in Illinois for
 - Possessing firearms
 - Transporting firearms
 - Purchasing ammunition
- Requirements
 - Online application
 - Background check
 - \$10 plus fees
- Renewals
 - 10-year validity
 - Auto-renewal with firearm purchase (fingerprints required)
- 30-day notice for name or address changes



FOID Disqualifications

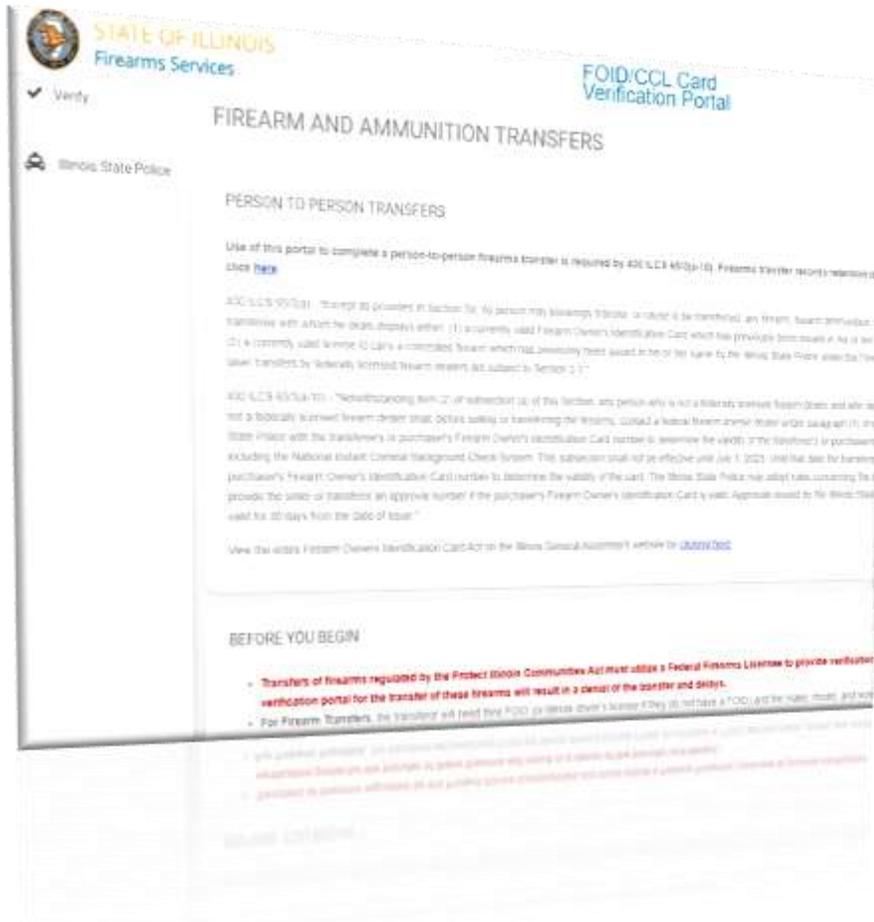
- Under 21 years old
- Prohibited by any other laws
- Addicted to narcotics
- Intellectually disabled
- Admitted for inpatient mental healthcare within 5 years
- Clear and present danger
- Subject to order of protection
- Felony conviction
- Felony level offense as a minor
- Domestic violence conviction
- Criminal conviction with a gun
- Unlawfully present in USA
- Non-immigrant visa
- Dishonorable discharge
- Renounced US citizenship

Purchasing From A Dealer

- Online
 - Shipped to store/FFL
- In-Person
 - In-stock or special order
- 72-hour waiting period
- Form 4473
- Background Check



Private Transfers



- Seller
 - Have a valid FOID
 - Verify buyer's FOID
 - Use ISP FSB website or FFL
 - Keep records (10 years)
- Buyer
 - Have a valid FOID
 - Submit records to FFL (10 days)

Firearm Choice Considerations

- Where you'll use it
 - Home defense
 - Concealed Carry
 - Competition/Leisure shooting
- Caliber/Ammunition
- Size/Length/Shape
- Availability of accessories





Long Guns vs. Handguns

Rifles and Shotguns

- Accurate at long distances
- Generally more reliable
- Wide variety of ammunition

Handguns

- Can be concealed in clothing
- Light and easy to handle
- Single hand operation possible

Revolvers vs. Semi-Auto

Revolvers

- No need to clear malfunctions
- Heavy trigger pull when hammer is not cocked
- Easy to clean/maintain

Semi-Auto Handguns

- Higher capacity
- Single-stack can be very thin
- Easy and fast reloading
- Variety of safeties available

Single-Action vs. Double-Action

Single-Action

- Short light trigger pull
- Better for precise shots

DA/SA

- 1st shot can be double-action
- Can be carried in holster without engaging safety

Double-Action

- Long heavy trigger pull
- Harder to accidentally fire
- Manual safeties are optional
- Striker-fired options available

Popular Calibers

Lower Energy

- 22LR
- .380 ACP
- 38 Special
- 9mm Luger
- .223 Rem / 5.56 NATO

Higher Energy

- .357 Magnum
- .40 S&W
- .45 ACP
- .308 Win / 7.62 NATO
- .30-06 Springfield

Handgun and Rifle Ammunition

- Hollow Points
 - More expensive
 - Tends to stop in objects
 - More effective in self-defense
- Full Metal Jacket
 - Much less expensive
 - Tends to penetrate further
 - Ideal for practice



Shotgun Ammunition



- Birdshot
 - Many small pellets
 - Not effective for self-defense
- Buckshot
 - Fewer large pellets
 - 00 or 000 ideal for self-defense
- Slugs
 - Accurate at longer distances
 - Not ideal for self-defense



Operating Firearms Safely

“Fully loaded, safety off. This here is a recipe for unpleasantness,
does she understand that?”

Malcolm Reynolds
Firefly – Objects in Space



Universal Safety Rules

- Treat firearms as if they are loaded
 - “Don’t do anything with an unloaded gun that you wouldn’t do with a loaded gun”
- Point your firearm in the direction of least consequence
 - “If you knew your gun was about to fire, what direction would you want it to fire?”
- Keep fingers away from trigger unless aiming **and** firing
 - “Where would you want your trigger finger if a bee stung you?”
- Identify your target and what is behind it
 - “You are responsible for everything the bullet impacts before it stops, even if you miss”

Required or Useful Equipment

- Hearing protection
 - In-ear vs. over-ear
- Eye protection
 - Prescription lenses
- Snap caps (dummy rounds)
- Speed loaders
- Shot timers



Gun Range Etiquette



- Don't open airlock
- Pack and unpack inside lane
- Firearms always...
 - pointed downrange
 - away from ceiling/walls
 - kept at firing line
- Sweep casings onto range
- Throw away other trash

Misfires

- Gun “clicks”
 - No pop or explosion
 - Bad ammunition
 - Firing mechanism issue
-
- How to clear:
 1. Cycle slide*

* check for ejected live rounds



Ejection Malfunctions



- “Stovepipe”
- Extraction failure

- Clearing
 1. Rotate ejection port
 2. Cycle slide*
 3. Clear misfeed if necessary

* check for ejected live rounds

Feeding Malfunctions

- Double feeds
- “Tip up” feed
- Clearing
 1. Lock slide to rear
 2. Remove magazine
 3. Release slide
 4. Insert magazine
 5. Cycle slide*

* check for ejected live rounds



Squib Loads



- Gun “pops”
- Quieter than firing
- Barrel may be obstructed

- Clearing
 1. Safety on
 2. Remove magazine
 3. Lock slide to rear
 4. Inspect barrel

Malfunction Clearing Drills



- Rapidly resume firing
 - Drills for self-defense
1. Slap magazine base
 2. Roll gun sideways
 3. Cycle slide

Storage and Care



- Cool and dry area
- Reliable locking mechanism
- Secured to structure
- Ammunition lot numbers
- Ammo damage from loading and unloading repeatedly

Emergency First Aid

- Control bleeding ASAP
- Pressure usually sufficient
- Hemostatic dressings (QuikClot)
- Tourniquets are effective and safe
- ‘Stop the Bleed’ classes
- Trauma kits





Firearm and Self-Defense Laws

“So anyway, I started blasting. I don’t see so good, so I missed...”

Frank Reynolds

It’s Always Sunny In Philadelphia - Gun Fever Too: Still Hot

Illinois Concealed Carry License



- Required in Illinois for
 - Carrying a concealed pistol
 - Transporting loaded pistols
- Requirements
 - 16-hour state-approved class
 - Shooting range qualification
 - Online application
 - Background check
 - \$150 plus fees
- Renewals
 - 5-year validity
 - Must take 3-hour class and repeat shooting qualification

Transporting Firearms

- With a FOID card
 - Unloaded
 - Enclosed in a case
 - OR –
 - Broken down/non-functioning
 - Not immediately accessible
- With a CCL
 - Handguns only
 - Mostly concealed



Firearms Storage



- Must not be accessible to
 - Minors under 18 years old
 - Prohibited possessors
- Acceptable methods
 - Secured by gun lock
 - Inside secure container
 - Reasonably secure location
- Report thefts within 48hrs

Illinois Red Flag Laws

- Petition filed to
 - Transfer all firearms and ammo
 - Remove any firearm parts
 - Surrender FOID
 - Surrender CCL (six months)
- Filed in any circuit court
- Emergency hearings
- Search warrants issued
- Spouse (current or former)
- Shared parent of minor child
- Parent, child, or stepchild
- Relative by blood
- Relative by marriage
- Roommate
- Any law enforcement officer

Requirements for Using Force

- Threat of unlawful force
- You are not the aggressor
- Imminent present threat
- Reasonably necessary
- Proportional to threat
- Reasonable belief of danger



Ordinary Force

- Non-lethal weapons
 - Stun guns & Tasers
 - Pepper spray
- Limited physical force
 - No great bodily harm
- Issuing verbal demands
- Presenting a lethal weapon*

Justifications:

- Unlawful use of force
- Trespass on your property
- Criminal interference with your property
- Unlawful entry to or presence in your home

Deadly Force

- Aiming or shooting firearm
 - “Warning shots”
- Extreme physical force
 - Causes great bodily harm
 - Permanently disfigures
 - Likely to cause death
- Lethal weapons
 - Bats, clubs, brass knuckles, etc.
 - Knives and blades
 - Vehicles

Justifications:

- Imminent death/great bodily harm
 - Disparity of force
 - No duty to escape
- Commission of forcible felony
- In your home (castle doctrine)
 - Violent entry and attack
 - Commission of a felony
 - Entry not necessarily required

Forcible Felonies



*The following slide contains
references to violent personal crimes*

Forcible Felonies

- Murder (1st or 2nd degree)
- Robbery & Burglary
- Arson
- Sexual assault
- Kidnapping
- Treason
- Aggravated battery
 - Great bodily harm
 - Permanent disability
 - Disfigurement
- Felonies involving:
 - Physical force or violence
 - Threat of force or violence

Reflections on Use of Force

- Can I shoot?
 - Do I have a firearm?
 - Is it functional?
 - Do I know how to use it?
- May I shoot?
 - Is this legally justified?
 - Does the law agree with me?
 - Will a jury agree with me?
- Should I shoot?
 - Will this improve my situation?
 - What are the consequences?
 - Who else will be affected?
- Must I shoot?
 - Do I have any other options?
 - Is someone's life at risk?
 - Am I out of time?



Justice System Interactions

“We've got company! Police!” – “How many?” – “Uh... all of 'em, I think.”

John & Sarah Connor
Terminator 2: Judgement Day



Calling 911

- Bleed control and safety **first!**
- Consider the risks/benefits
- Always call if a gun was fired
- If you decide to call:
 - Identify yourself and location
 - Describe the scene
 - Plainly state the crime
 - Describe the attacker
 - Once help is on the way
you should end the call

“This is Sherlock Holmes at 221B Baker Street.”

“We’re in our backyard and my partner has been shot, he’s bleeding from his leg.”

“A man wearing a sports jersey shot him and then ran east down the alley towards Main Street.”

“I’m sorry I need to go check on my partner again.”

Arrival of Police

- Secure your firearm (if safe)
 - Holstered or placed elsewhere
- Take photos and videos of evidence
- Phone off or in lockdown
- Do not touch or move evidence
- Be outside (if safe)
- Empty palms visible
- Assume you're being recorded





Interacting with Police

- Calmly comply with physical demands
- Do not reach for **anything**
- Very limited statement
 - identify yourself and state the crime
 - describe the attacker/evidence
 - lawful weapon ownership
- Expect firearms to be taken
- **No other answers or statements**
- **Do not go with police voluntarily**

“My name is Sherlock Holmes, my driver’s license is in my right pocket”

“A man wearing a jersey came in the yard and started shooting at us.”

“He ran away after dropping his gun near the bushes there.”

“I have a valid FOID card and my firearm is on the table there.”

“I’m sorry I can’t go with you or make any statement until I talk to a lawyer.”

Post-Incident Legal Concerns



- If arrested
 - Insist on access to counsel
 - Verbally decline questioning
- Social media
- Third-party statements
 - Family, friends, roommates
- Media attention
- **Follow legal advice**



Next Steps

“Now I have a machine gun. Ho Ho Ho.”

John McClain
Die Hard

Ways to Practice

At Home

- ***Always clear your firearm!***
- Dry-fire practice
- Laser dry-fire systems
 - Free mobile apps
- Holster draw

At the Range

- Shooting drills
- Malfunction simulation
 - Use snap caps
- Timed shooting
 - Digital shot timers

Social Activities & Groups

- Gun Ranges
 - Classes
 - Drill sessions
 - Vendor events
- Pink Pistols
 - Range days
 - Group classes
 - Happy hours
- Competitions
 - USPSA
 - IDPA





Questions?