

Good Day

This Newsletter is being sent to all students who were in either my WI-CCL classes or my UT-CFP classes. If you do not wish to receive further Newsletters, please ask to be removed from my email lists.

Winter is a hard time to keep your shooting skills at their best. However, a person may use dry practice or dry fire to help minimize the

deterioration of your shooting skills. On page 4 of the WI-CCL manual given to you in class, there is a procedure that you should follow to maximize safety when you dry practice. Unload and check your firearm and magazines several times before actually pulling the trigger. Firearm and magazines must be completely unloaded and your dry practice session should not be in a room with any live ammunition. With most modern center-fire handguns, dry practice will not be harmful to gun and in fact, every trigger pull will help smooth out the action. Check your owners manual if in doubt.

Choose a room not only with a safe backstop, but one that also offers some privacy from outside observation. No need to upset neighbors or passers-by. Put up specific targets rather than use common household objects.

Setup a small target - a one to two inch circle at 8-10 feet is reasonable. Achieve a proper sight picture, focusing on the front sight and pull the trigger. If your sights move off the target while "shooting", you are not in the best control of your handgun. Remember to grip the handgun firmly so that the trigger finger's pull doesn't affect the sight alignment. Your goal is to minimize gun movement. Those of you with double action triggers can "shoot" several times. Practice until you can keep your sights within the target area. If you have a single action trigger, the trigger will need to be reset by pulling the slide back just far enough to cock the action. Dry Practice is a great way to practice the six fundamental skills in shooting. (Hand grip, trigger pull, breath control, sight alignment, body position, and follow through.)

Dry Practice is also useful in learning how to draw your handgun from whatever concealment and holstering method you choose to use. Remember to start out slow and smooth, and over time speed will come naturally. Keep rule #3 in mind while practicing. "Keep your finger off the trigger and outside the trigger guard, until you have acquired the target and have decided to shoot." Apply rule #2 as well. Do not point the muzzle of the firearm at your own body parts.

Using dummy ammo, a person can practice the loading and unloading processes, as well as action clearing with the semi-autos. Remember, use dummy ammo only - no live ammo.

If you can practice a couple times per week, 15 minutes each time, you will improve your shooting and gun handling skills. The more you handle your firearm, the more comfortable you will be with it.

A few others things to pass the along. The ACNOW webpage (www.acnow.us) is frequently updated. More links have been added to useful information and organizations. If you are looking to improve your knowledge and skills, just click and read on. Make it a goal to stayed informed about any legislative changes - at the local, state, and national level. ACNOW also has a presence on Facebook and a link is provided. If you want to be a member of the ACNOW Facebook group, you may put in a request for processing.

Feel free to pass along any information to your family and friends concerning the upcoming classes. If you are interested in the UT-CFP course, let me know and I'll add your name to my "notify list". Then I'll let you know when I have a class set up.

Keep practicing your shooting, gun-handling, and awareness skills. You never know when you will need them. "It is better to have a gun and not need it, than to need a gun and not have it." Likewise, it is better to have the skills and not need them, than it is to need the skills and not have them.

Take care, stay safe, stay warm

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