




Lesson 11 - Field Carries

Instructor Clue Card - Field Carry definitions	
	<p>Two-hand (ready) carry— grip the firearm with both hands and carry it diagonally across the chest with the muzzle pointing up. This is one of the safest carry positions, offering good muzzle control while allowing you to get into shooting position quickly. Use this carry when others are in front of or behind you. Never use it when someone is on the same side that the muzzle is pointed.</p>
	<p>Cradle carry— This can be a one-handed or two-handed carry. The firearm is held across the belly. The grip is held in either hand while the mid-point of the fore end is cradled in the crook of one elbow. Muzzle pointed to the side. It's a comfortable secure way to carry a firearm and it reduces arm fatigue, but this position is not as secure as a two-hand carry. Use it when others are behind or in front of you, but never to the side where the muzzle is pointing.</p>
	<p>Elbow (side) carry— Firearm is held to the side of the body, tucked under the armpit and over the arm in front of the elbow. Muzzle pointed forward. It's a safe method when walking in open terrain, but in brush, branches tend to catch the gun. It is comfortable but gives the least amount of muzzle control. Use it when others are behind or to your side, but not when they are in front of you. With a break action firearm, when the action is open, it balances nicely on the forearm, and the muzzle points farther downward. Another plus is that others can see at a glance that the action is open, and the firearm is unloaded.</p>

	<p>Trail carry— the firearm is gripped firmly with one hand at the balance point, usually just in front of the action. Muzzle pointed toward the ground. It leaves a hand free for balance, but don't use when debris can get in barrel. This carry offers poor control of your firearm should you fall. Use it when hunting alone or when others are behind you or to your side. Never use this carry when someone is walking ahead of you.</p>
	<p>Sling carry—The arm placed through the sling; the firearm is hung from the shoulder with the muzzle pointing upwards. When standing, this carry method frees up your hands for things such as scanning terrain with binoculars. When walking, one hand grasps the sling for a snug fit to keep the firearm from slipping off the shoulder. This is an easy carry for long walks through open country, however this is a poor method when walking on difficult terrain or in heavy brush.</p>
	<p>Shoulder carry— one hand grasps the firearm at the grip or the butt of the gun while the mid-point of the firearm rests on the shoulder. Muzzle pointed up. This is the least safe of all carries as you have little control over the firearm should you fall. Never use it when someone is behind you or while walking on rough terrain.</p>