

**CARLSBAD POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**Patrol Rifle Course**

**FIREARMS SAFETY POLICY**

Safety with firearms is critical for anyone who handles them. Firearms are not inherently dangerous, but their destructive capability makes human error in their handling potentially tragic. Firearms safety depends on the gun handler having a healthy respect for the deadly potential of firearms and strict observance of basic firearms safety rules.

Firearms safety in law enforcement starts with the basic premise that the officer is of sound mental and physical condition, the weapon is of sound design and well maintained, the ammunition is safe, and finally the holster used to carry the weapon is properly designed and constructed.

**A. GENERAL RULES**

1. Treat all guns as though they are loaded.
2. Never point a firearm at anyone unless you are legally justified and within department policy.
3. Immediately upon picking up a firearm, open the cylinder or action and check to see that it is unloaded – and then check it again.
4. Never give a firearm to, or take a firearm from, anyone unless the cylinder or action is open.
5. Keep your finger outside the trigger guard/off the trigger until you have identified a threat and are actively engaging the threat.
6. Never anticipate a command.
7. Be sure there is no obstruction in the barrel of the firearm before loading.
8. Load only after taking position at the firing point and the command to load has been given.
9. Unload when and as instructed.
10. Keep the firearm pointed down range at all times.
11. Never draw a handgun from the holster or re-holster with your finger on the trigger or in the trigger guard.
12. Talking on the firing line between shooters and instructors should be avoided to reduce distractions and should be restricted to firearm training as necessary.
13. Never permit the muzzle of a firearm to touch the ground.

14. Never let the hammer of a revolver down on a live cartridge without placing the thumb in front of the hammer and release the trigger.
15. In case of a misfire:
  - a. Revolver: Keep the weapon in your strong hand and point it down range for at least 10 seconds, then open the cylinder and remove the faulty round.
  - b. Semi-automatic weapon: Keep the weapon pointed down range and then appropriately clear the malfunction.
  - c. Rifle: Keep the weapon pointed down range and use the charging handle to remove the faulty round from the barrel.
16. Never fire a succeeding shot after a "squib" load without first unloading the weapon and checking the barrel for obstructions.
17. Never leave the firing point without first unloading your firearm unless directed to do so by an instructor.
18. Never go in front of the line of fire until the line has been cleared and the command is given to go forward.
19. Never carry a loaded firearm on the range except when on the firing line or as directed by a firearms instructor.
20. Never dry fire on the range except under the supervision of an instructor.
21. Pay strict attention to the range officer/instructor. He will instruct you as to exactly what you are to do.
22. All shooters must use a holster designed to receive the handgun they deploy.

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**FIREARMS TRAINING SAFETY AND PROCEDURES**

I. SITE SPECIFIC

Firearms training sessions will be designated by the Range Master. The facilities used will be the Carlsbad Safety Training Center range (Carlsbad STC), located at 5750 Orion Way, Carlsbad, CA 92010 and the Escondido Police Department range, (Escondido PD) located at 25855 Valley Center Road, Escondido, CA 92027.

Both facilities are specifically designed to facilitate firearms training that we will use to effectively conduct contemporary firearms training.

II. TASK SPECIFIC

Instructors will be dressed in appropriate attire which will designate them as the instructor staff. Instructors' attire will consist of a red shirt and green pants. Students will not wear similar color combinations. Students will be held accountable for their actions and performance during firearms training, whether in the classroom or on the range. The range safety rules will be reviewed before training with firearms. **Instructors** shall perform firearm safety checks before beginning of training, before and after breaks, and at the end of the training day.

Should a student develop a problem in the course of a firearms training session, the student will keep the gun facing down range and raise the other hand to alert an instructor for assistance. As training progresses, students are encouraged to attempt to clear their firearms with the gun facing down range. If the problem persists, assistance from an instructor should be sought.

Mandatory safety equipment consisting of ear and eye protection and a ballistic vest shall be worn at all times by all personnel on the firing range.

In case of an accidental shooting or of an incident involving serious injury, the Range Master has developed an emergency procedure which range personnel should review and follow (see attached).

Firearms training will be conducted at distances of at least 3 yards but not more than 100 yards.

Students not directly engaged in practical applications on the firing line will stand by in the waiting area located near the range control room (Carlsbad STC) or in the waiting area to the rear of the active firearms training area at Escondido PD range. Students will be properly supervised by a member of the instructional staff when occupying the active training areas while other students participate in practical applications.

Stop action will be recognized by a whistle or horn from any instructor or upon the direction of any instructor or student identifying an unsafe condition. If no whistle or horn is available a command of "Cease Fire" will be given to stop action.

Student conditioning guidelines and performance expectations are set forth in the lecture portion of the firearms training program.

When actual live fire training is taking place at the Carlsbad STC, instructors will insure that the signs indicating "ROOM IN USE" are illuminated. When actual live fire training is taking place at the Escondido PD range, instructors will provide adequate signage and a warning mechanism.

Instructors will insure that appropriate lighting is available for the type of training being conducted, i.e. day, night or low light shooting. Instructors will accomplish this by scheduling training during the appropriate time of day when training at the Escondido PD range or by utilizing the lighting controls at the Carlsbad STC range.

<b>IDENTIFYING RATIOS FIREARMS TRAINING</b>
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<b>TASK</b>	<b>STAFF</b>	<b>STUDENTS</b>
Classroom	1	20
Line firing	1	6
Testing – line firing	1	6
Combat / tactical	1	1

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**RANGE EMERGENCY PROCEDURES FOR ACCIDENTAL/  
NEGLIGENT SHOOTING OR SERIOUS INJURY**

In the event of an accidental/negligent shooting or serious injury, the following procedure will be used as a guide.

Upon notification or discovery of an accidental/negligent shooting or serious injury, the following procedures will be taken.

1. Cease fire on all ranges and clear the ranges of unnecessary personnel.
2. Identify the victim and the extent of the injury.
3. Immediately determine how critical the injury is and request medical response via 911 or police radio as soon as possible if necessary. A telephone and police radio are located in the range control room at the Carlsbad STC. A cellular telephone and police radio will be brought to the Escondido PD range and kept to the rear of the active firearms training area.
4. Administer first aid to the victim. Trauma kits are located to the rear of each range at the Carlsbad STC. Trauma kits will be brought to the Escondido PD range and kept to the rear of the active firearms training area.
5. Make the person comfortable – cover the victim with a blanket or coat in order to avoid shock.
6. Secure victim's weapon in a gun locker located in the hallway (do not unload) at the Carlsbad STC range or in a vehicle trunk at the Escondido PD range. Release weapon to the lead investigator if he/she responds for an investigation.
7. Assign a person to secure the shooting area – treat scene as a crime scene.
8. The lead instructor will notify the Department Range Master and Weapons Training Unit Lieutenant if they are not already on scene.
9. The on-duty Watch Commander shall be apprised of the incident to determine if the Special Investigations Lieutenant and the Professional Standards Lieutenant should be notified. The injured employee shall complete an Injured on Duty Report as soon as practical. The OIC shall ensure that a Supervisors Report of Injury is completed and submitted as soon as practical.
10. The Training Coordinator will notify the Commission on POST of any serious or significant injuries.
11. The closest hospital from the Carlsbad STC range is Tri-City Medical Center, 4002 Vista Way, Oceanside, CA 92056. The closest hospital from the Escondido PD range is Palomar Medical Center, 2185 Citracado Parkway, Escondido, CA 92029.