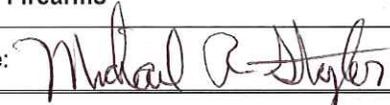


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I. PURPOSE

To define the Department of Natural Resources policy concerning the use, training and care of all firearms carried by department law enforcement officers. This policy establishes the minimum standards that all officers will be held to and will ensure the safe operation of firearms. This policy does not in any way restrict or govern the use of personal firearms by off-duty department officers for non-law enforcement uses including sporting competitions, hunting, recreation and personal protection.

II. POLICY

Department officers are authorized to carry only those firearms they have been trained with and qualified to use. Each division shall provide appropriate training for all law enforcement officers authorized to carry weapons. Firearms training and qualifications must ensure that department officers are adequately trained in the use of all firearms they are permitted to carry.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. Firearm – As defined in 76-10-501(F), pistol, revolver, shotgun and rifle.
- B. Sidearm – A pistol or revolver and not a shotgun or rifle.
- C. Leather – Any apparatus used to hold or carry a sidearm and its accessories regardless of the material used in construction.
- D. Qualified armorer – A person who is currently certified by the manufacturer as an armorer for the firearm in question.
- E. Display – Any action in which a weapon is exhibited in a manner to elicit a desired response of compliance.
- F. Deploy – Any action in which a weapon is exhibited in a manner for which it was intended.
- G. Division – Specifically the divisions of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, Parks and Recreation, and Wildlife Resources.

IV. DUTY FIREARMS

- A. Authorized sidearms – Only department/division issued or approved sidearms are authorized.
- B. Authorized shotguns – Only department/division issued or approved shotguns are authorized.
- C. Authorized rifles – Only department/division issued or approved rifles are authorized.
- D. Authorized ammunition – Only department/division issued or approved ammunition may be utilized.



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E. Weapon mounted light systems – Only department/division approved weapon mounted light systems may be utilized.

V. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

A. An officer shall not carry any sidearm or leather with which they have not been able to qualify with during the most recent qualification period.

1. An officer who fails to qualify at a division training session may be given only one more opportunity that day to qualify. If the firearms instructor feels there is need for remedial firearm training, the officer must first comply with the remedial training plan established by the firearm instructor before being allowed the opportunity to qualify.

a. Primary sidearm – An officer who does not pass firearm qualifications with their primary sidearm may be relieved of their sidearm by their supervisor or the instructor. They shall be assigned non-enforcement duties and attend remedial firearms training. Training shall be completed within 20 working days. An officer who fails to receive a passing score at the end of this training period shall be relieved of enforcement duties and corrective action shall be taken.

b. Secondary sidearm – A secondary sidearm is not required. An officer who does not pass the firearm qualification with their secondary sidearm and appropriate leather shall not carry that sidearm. Requalification shall occur on the officer's own time and shall be conducted by a division firearms instructor.

c. Shotguns – An officer who does not pass the shotgun qualification shall be relieved of their shotgun by their supervisor or the instructor. They shall be assigned non-enforcement duties and attend remedial firearms training. Training shall be completed within 20 working days. An officer who fails to receive a passing score at the end of this training period shall be relieved of enforcement duties and corrective action shall be taken.

d. Rifles – A rifle is not required; however, an officer who does not pass the rifle qualification shall not carry the rifle on-duty until they have qualified.

2. Department officers shall train and qualify annually as follows:

a. A minimum of one daylight qualification and training session per sidearm, leather, shotgun and rifle. A minimum of one daylight tactical training session per primary sidearm and shotgun.

b. A minimum of one lowlight qualification and training session per primary sidearm, leather and shotgun.

c. A minimum of one lowlight tactical training session per primary sidearm and shotgun.

d. All qualifications shall be graded on a pass/fail basis.

e. All tactical training sessions shall be graded on a pass/fail participatory basis.



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- f. Divisions will maintain an inventory of all firearms owned by the division.
 - g. Divisions will maintain records for all annual armorer inspections, training rosters, lesson guides, lesson plans, courses of fire, and remedial training records.
 - h. Courses of fire shall be established by the firearms instructors with a review annually.
3. An officer who has taken extended leave or suffered an illness or injury that could affect their competent use of a sidearm will be required to qualify before returning to enforcement duties. If the officer cannot qualify, they shall be assigned non-enforcement duties and attend remedial firearms training. Training shall be completed within 20 working days. An officer who fails to receive a passing score at the end of this training period shall be relieved of enforcement duties and corrective action shall be taken.

VI. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- A. While on-duty, officers shall be armed with a loaded department/division issued or approved sidearm. The department executive director or division director may authorize exceptions to these requirements.
- B. While off-duty, officers may carry their department/division issued sidearm.
- C. While on-duty, officers may carry a secondary sidearm in addition to the primary sidearm. The department/division must authorize the secondary sidearm and leather. The officer will have qualified with it according to department/division standards. Secondary sidearms must comply with department requirements as listed in this policy. The secondary sidearm shall be carried in a concealed manner at all times unless being displayed or deployed.
- D. While on-duty, there may be circumstances when department officers will carry other than department issued firearms. The firearms and circumstances will be authorized based on the special assignment or circumstances by the division director or their designee.
- E. A department officer is not authorized to use any firearm unless approved and qualified in its proficient use.
- F. Department officers may utilize department/division issued or approved sidearms for secondary employment only as authorized in DNR Policy NR-95-C-3.

VII. SECONDARY SIDEARMS

- A. Secondary sidearms must comply with the following department requirements:
 - 1. Approved calibers - .380, .38, 9mm Luger, 357, .40 S&W, 10mm and .45 ACP.
 - 2. Action – All approved semi-automatic pistols shall be double action only, double action/single action with a de-cocking lever (with or without a manual safety), glock safe action, H&K squeeze cocking or single action with a manual safety. All approved revolvers shall be double action.



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3. Barrel length – Not less than two inches or more than six inches.
 4. Trigger pull – Standard factory weight and no less than four pounds.
 5. Make – Beretta, Browning, Colt, Glock, Heckler & Koch, Kimber, Kel Tec, Para-Ordinance, Ruger, SIG Sauer, Smith & Wesson, Walther, Kahr, and Springfield Arms. Exceptions shall be at the discretion of the department executive director or designee.
- B. Modifications will not be made to a sidearm other than the addition of quality night sights or a weapon mounted light installed by a qualified armorer, unless approved by the appropriate division director or designee.
 - C. If the division firearms instructor reasonably believes that an officer is unable to qualify with the secondary sidearm, the officer shall not be authorized to carry that sidearm until which time the deficiencies are corrected.
 - D. Ammunition is the responsibility of the officer and will be factory loaded and comparable to what is carried in the duty firearm and must be approved by a division firearms instructor.

VIII. SHOTGUNS AND RIFLES

- A. Shotguns are required of all certified law enforcement officers working for the divisions. All shotguns in their care, use, or qualification are governed by this policy.
- B. Make – Mossberg, Remington and Winchester are authorized. Other makes may be authorized by the executive director or designee.
- C. Gauge – 12ga.
- D. Seasonal employees working as certified law enforcement officers who are employed for another agency may use their shotgun. However, they must show proof of qualification with that employing agency.
- E. Rifles are not required. However, if authorized, shall be governed by this policy.
- F. Make – Colt, Remington, Winchester, Rugar, Bushmaster, Rock River, Smith and Wesson, Springfield, SIG Sauer, and Olympic Arms are authorized. Other makes may be authorized by the executive director or designee.
- G. Caliber – Shall be authorized by the division director for their intended purpose. Considerations shall be made with reference to distance, population, safety, and law enforcement concerns.

IX. OFF-DUTY FIREARMS STANDARDS

- A. Department officers are authorized to carry a sidearm when off-duty.
- B. An officer who elects not to carry a sidearm while off-duty shall not be subjected to disciplinary action if an occasion should arise in which the officer could have taken police action if armed.



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- C. Off-duty officers, while operating a department vehicle, shall be armed with a department approved sidearm.
- D. The department/division issued badge should be worn in proximity to the sidearm and department/division issued identification card shall be carried.
- E. The sidearm shall be concealed and secured in an approved holster, weapon pack, vehicle or carried in a suitable container. This does not include secondary employment that requires a sidearm be visible. The sidearm and badge will remain concealed during all off-duty activities. This does not include secondary employment that requires a sidearm be visible.
- F. The sidearm will not be worn or carried while consuming alcohol or any other situations that are impractical, imprudent or which may alter the officer's ability to perform essential functions of the officers in their respective divisions.
- G. If the firearm is displayed or deployed, the officer shall follow the same reporting procedure as required while on-duty.

X. FIREARM AND LEATHER MAINTENANCE

- A. Department/division issued or authorized firearms shall not be altered beyond the manufacturer's recommended specifications or as stated in this policy.
- B. An officer whose firearm malfunctions shall contact their immediate supervisor who will arrange for a division armorer to inspect, repair, or replace the firearm.
- C. The individual officer is responsible to see that any firearm carried is kept clean and maintained.
- D. A qualified department/division armorer shall conduct inspections of all authorized firearms annually. New firearms will not need an armorer inspection the first year.
- E. Off-duty sidearms shall be inspected by a qualified armorer annually and a letter submitted to the appropriate division armorer.
- F. The division will provide maintenance and inventory control for all issued weapons.
- G. Law enforcement supervisory personnel shall inspect firearms and leather regularly to ensure that they are kept in a clean and serviceable condition.
- H. Leather found to be unfit must be replaced within 10 working days.
- I. An officer in uniform shall wear approved division law enforcement duty gear.

XI. OUT-OF-STATE CARRY

- A. Department/division issued or authorized firearms may be taken out-of-state while on official law enforcement assignments.



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- B. Department/division issued or authorized firearms may not be taken out-of-state if the officer is not on official assignment.
- C. Officers carrying a personal firearm off-duty in another state shall be subject to laws, rules and regulations of that state and/or local jurisdiction.

XII. WEAPON STORAGE

- A. No department/division issued or authorized sidearm will be stored in a vehicle while parked overnight unless in a department/division approved locked device.
- B. Department/division issued or authorized firearms must be secured appropriately while stored in an officer's home. Acton locks and locking devices are recommended and will be provided by the division.

XIII. FIREARM DISPLAY AND DEPLOYMENT

- A. Firearm display and deployment shall be authorized under the following conditions:
 1. In the performance of duty as authorized by the department *Use of Force Policy*.
 2. In the performance of wildlife management responsibilities.
 3. During training, practice, competition or sporting events.
 4. To destroy an animal that represents a threat to public safety.
 5. To destroy an animal that is injured.
- B. Firearms will not be discharged without the officer first assessing the situation and determining there is a reasonable belief that public safety will not be jeopardized.

