



## CLACKAMAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

**Policy # 29**

**Printed copies are for reference only.  
Please refer to the electronic copy for the latest version.**

References: [Oregon Revised Statutes, Chapter 166](#)

### CARRY AND USE OF WEAPONS

#### General

1. Sheriff's Deputies are authorized to carry weapons consistent with their duties after the deputy has been trained by CCSO approved instructors on the use of force and the specific weapon employed.

#### Weapons Safety

2. Weapons safety training is an integral component of both CCSO operational and personal responsibility. The Support Services Division will be responsible for weapons safety coordination, which will include weapons training and safety practices throughout CCSO. Minimum safety practices by deputies shall include:

- a. proper and safe practices with all firearms, and adhering to the CCSO's four cardinal rules of firearms safety:
  - (1) all weapons are considered loaded;
  - (2) never point your weapon at anything that you are not willing and justified to destroy or kill;
  - (3) keep your trigger finger out of the trigger guard until you are ready to shoot; and
  - (4) be aware of your target and what lies beyond your target.
- b. while on-duty, maintaining personal control or observation of firearms, unless secured in a storage compartment, rack or container. CCSO provides and encourages the use of a safe/locker at home and when not on duty; and
- c. weapons carried in a duty vehicle shall be secured in the trunk/enclosed cargo box or a weapons rack. When the vehicle is removed from service, being repaired or otherwise not within the care and control of the Sheriff's Office (such as leaving a vehicle unattended while off-duty without parking it inside a closed garage), all weapons and ammunition shall be removed and stored appropriately.



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### Dispensing Firearms

3. Deputies shall not lend, give, or sell any firearm to any person, group, or organization that does not have the legal right to possess such firearm.

### Technical Weapon Specifications and Training/Proficiency

4. The Support Services Division is responsible for monitoring state and federal weapon developments associated with law enforcement and corrections to ensure CCSO is in compliance.

5. CCSO employees must be trained and certified by CCSO-approved and/or endorsed instructors prior to the use of any firearm or weapon system if required (e.g. electronic stun devices or less-lethal munitions), which includes the following:

- a. deputies must qualify at a range session prior to carrying a firearm on duty or off duty when the weapon is carried under the provisions of ORS 166.260(1);
- b. deputies must qualify with their on- and off-duty firearm(s) (e.g. rifle, shotgun, handgun) annually;
- c. deputies must qualify and recertify with the CCSO-issued less-lethal weapons at least biennially if assigned such equipment; and
- d. employees authorized to carry weapons shall receive annual in-service training on [LEM # 56 Response to Resistance \(Use of Force\) and Reporting](#) procedures.

6. The Support Services Division, Firearms Training Unit (FTU) will monitor and record the proficiency of CCSO employees weapons training. Corrective training will be conducted for any employee who fails either a maintenance or proficiency test.

7. All deputies and participating agencies will adhere to the safety procedures required during training exercises. Instructors shall implement safety precautions during exercises that utilize any weapon and/or weapon scenarios to prevent injury to the trainee(s).



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8. In the event of an unintentional discharge of a firearm, whether in training or operational status, the employee in control of the firearm will complete a County Incident Report, documenting the circumstances leading to the discharge and any resulting damage or injury. In training situations, the instructor of the session will also document the circumstances surrounding the unintentional discharge of a weapon. Unintentional discharge reports will be sent to the safety committee for review. The safety committee will examine compliance at the time of the incident with appropriate policy, procedure and safety practices, forwarding any recommendations to the Sheriff.

### **Display and Discharge**

9. Deputies shall not discharge firearms at another person except as provided by Oregon Revised Statutes. Whenever possible, Verbal Warnings are to be given prior to utilization of any weapon. The use, threatened use or intentional display of any weapon upon a person to gain compliance requires submission of a Response to Resistance (Use of Force) report.

10. Warning shots are prohibited.

11. Deputies shall not discharge a firearm from a moving vehicle and should not discharge firearms to disable a vehicle. Deputies may only fire at someone in a vehicle under circumstances that warrant the use of deadly physical force.

12. When a deputy discharges a firearm at another person, the incident will be reported on a Response to Resistance (Use of Force) report and investigated.

13. Any deputy who discharges a firearm on duty, while not undergoing firearms training, will immediately notify a supervisor of the occurrence. Depending on the circumstances of the firearm's discharge, the supervisor will ensure either appropriate reporting or investigating into the discharge is initiated.

14. Deputies shall not clean, repair, load or unload firearms within a CCSO facility or vehicle except while at the range, making the weapon safe, or for duty purposes. Deputies shall not unnecessarily handle or display firearms at any time.

15. Loss or theft of a firearm carried as authorized by this policy shall be immediately reported to a supervisor and a report shall be filed.



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### **CCSO Authorized Weapons and Ammunition**

16. Authorization of weapon systems for deputies and specialized units will be made by the Undersheriff on recommendation of the CCSO Firearms Training Unit (FTU)/Defensive Tactics Unit (DTU) or special unit manager.

17. CCSO authorizes employees to be trained on and carry/use the following weapons and defense systems:

- a. approved handguns;
- b. issued shotgun (12-gauge);
- c. approved patrol rifle (AR-15);
- d. approved impact weapons;
- e. issued chemical restraint (for example Oleoresin Capsicum);
- f. issued Pepperball less lethal system;
- g. issued electronic stun devices (e.g. Taser);
- h. issued Bean Bag less lethal shotgun; and
- i. Specialized Units may be trained in, deploy with and utilize special weapon systems approved by the Undersheriff.

18. Approved firearm and ammunition specifications shall be outlined within the Support Services Manual.

### **Carrying Weapons**

19. All deputies must carry a firearm while on duty or when in uniform unless the Division Commander has established guidelines when a weapon would not be appropriate (e.g. Court Appearance, Interview Room, Inside Jail).



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### **Weapons Maintenance**

20. Each deputy is responsible for the proper maintenance and cleaning of his or her firearm(s) to ensure that they are operational at all times. Firearms are subject to inspection by the supervisor without prior notification.

21. Deputies shall report any damaged or malfunctioning firearms to their supervisor and it shall be immediately removed from service until repaired. All Sheriff's Office issued firearms will be adjusted and repaired at CCSO expense. All personally owned, authorized firearms will be adjusted and repaired at the owner's expense unless damaged in the line of duty.

### **Medical Treatment**

22. Deputies have a responsibility to render first aid any time force is used on a subject (lethal or less lethal) once the threat to the deputy and/or the public has been neutralized. When first aid assessment indicates the need, deputies must seek medical attention for the person, or ensure they are transported to a medical facility for evaluation. All medical treatment outside the correctional setting should be completed before the suspect is transported to and lodged in jail, or prior to final disposition.