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## Purpose

This policy sets forth guidelines for officers, and other approved persons, participating in firearms training which involves lethal, less lethal and simulated munitions.

## Policy

It is the policy of the Bemidji Police Department to provide firearms training to all officers in accordance with Minnesota P.O.S.T. Board guidelines. Additionally, the police department seeks to provide advanced training which incorporates scenarios and enhance high stress decision making skills.

## Scope

This policy governs the conduct of Bemidji Police Officers, and other approved persons, while they are participating in firearms training which involves lethal, less lethal and simulated munitions at the Bemidji Police Department ranges, outdoor ranges, during Headwaters SWAT training and other Bemidji Police Department approved firearms training.

## Definitions

- A. **Eye Protection;** Safety Glasses that meet or exceed the ANSI –A87.1 standard.
- B. **Hearing Protection;** Ear plugs or muffs that meet or exceed OSHA standard 1910.95
- C. **Bullet-resistant vest;** Personal body armor that helps absorb the impact and reduce or stop penetration of the body from a fired projectile.
- D. **Clearing Barrel / tube;** Barrel or tube filled with sand designed to absorb a fire ballistic round.
- E. **Simunition;** Non-lethal training ammunition.
- F. **Ceasefire;** A command given when all live fire must cease, weapons must be holstered and no one may touch their weapon until the range master or instructor indicates it is safe to do so.

### A. Firearms Training Equipment;

1. All officers will arrive to training on time a dressed appropriately for weather conditions with the equipment specified in the training notice.
2. All officers will wear their department issued bullet resistant vest, with either internal or external carrier, at all times while training is occurring.
3. All officers must wear effective eye and hearing protection at all times while on the firing range.
  - i. Officer will wear ear plugs or ear muffs while using the outdoor range.
  - ii. Officer will wear BOTH ear plugs and ear muffs while using an indoor range.

## **B. Safety Rules;**

1. Officers participating in firearms training will strictly follow the directions of the range master, firearms instructors and safety officers.
2. Officers will not engage in horseplay or other behavior which distracts from the training or places other people in harm.
3. Officers will treat all firearms as loaded and keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction.
4. Officers will be aware of the surroundings and background and only fire at things they intend to shoot.
5. Officers must immediately obey the command of ceasefire when given by anyone.
6. When making a weapon safe the magazine will be removed, the action will be opened while point the weapon in a safe direction or into a clearing barrel to extract any live munitions from the weapon.
7. Officers will visually confirm that there are no munitions in a weapon before handing it to another person, when receiving it from someone, laying the weapon down or holstering the weapon as safe.
8. Weapons holstered as safe will have the action open.

## **C. Indoor Firearms Range Use:**

1. The BPD indoor range facilities may only be used by sworn law enforcement personnel or persons authorized by the Range Master or Chief of Police.
2. Sworn law enforcement personnel from other agencies may be permitted to use the indoor range facility with the prior approval from the Bemidji Chief of Police or the Beltrami County Sheriff.
3. Officers using the range must log their use on the sheet posted inside the range.
4. Officers may not use the range alone and must be accompanied by one other person.
5. Officers will not use the LEC indoor range when the dispatch center is busy with calls for service.
6. Firearms used on the indoor range are limited to handguns up to .45 caliber. No long guns are permitted on the indoor range. No tracer, magnum, or armor-piercing ammunition are allowed.

## **D. Range Clean up;**

1. All officers using indoor or outdoor ranges will remove spent brass, used targets, and any other debris or refuse prior to departure from the range. Spent brass and used targets will be placed in designated bins only.

## **E. Lead Exposure Reduction;**

1. Officers will ensure the ventilation system is operating when using the indoor range.
2. Officers should avoid direct contact with, or handling of, spent brass by using a rake, dust pan, and latex gloves on the indoor range. Latex gloves should be used on the outdoor range.

3. Food and beverages are NOT allowed inside the indoor range
4. Officers should refrain from eating, smoking, applying makeup, or otherwise placing his or her hands in close proximity to the mouth while on the range or cleaning a gun.
5. After leaving the range, or as soon as is practical thereafter, officers will thoroughly wash hands using soap and water.
6. As soon as practical, officers will wash or change clothing after shooting or cleaning a gun to minimize exposure to airborne particulate lead or solvent and cleaning product residues.

**Reference or Revision Date(s):**

A. Reference;

1. Occupational Safety and Health Administration standard: OSHA 1910.95
2. American National Standards Institute safety standards: ANSI A87.1.

B. REVISION DATE(S):