



Safe Storage of Departmental Firearms	Related Policies:
<i>This policy is for internal use only and does not enlarge an employee's civil liability in any way. The policy should not be construed as creating a higher duty of care, in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party civil claims against employees. A violation of this policy, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this department for non-judicial administrative action in accordance with the laws governing employee discipline.</i>	
Applicable State Statutes:	
CALEA Standard:	
Date Implemented:	Review Date:

- I. **Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to direct members of this department with respect to the safe storage of firearms.
- II. **Policy:** The policy of this department is to recognize the inherent danger of firearms and to take reasonable steps to prevent unauthorized persons from taking control of departmental firearms.
- III. **Definitions**
 - A. **Safe storage locker/area:** a lock-box, safe or specifically designed lockable container.
 - B. **Trigger-lock:** a locking mechanism that prevents a firearm from being fired while locked.
 - C. **Department firearms:** firearms owned by this department.
 - D. **Personal firearm:** firearms owned by members of this department.
- IV. **Procedure:** Departmental personnel are at all times responsible for the security of their departmental firearms. Departmental firearms not being carried or in the immediate physical control of an officer shall be secured in a manner which makes them inaccessible to anyone but the officer.
 - A. **On-Duty Storage of Departmental Firearms**
 - i. **Person:** Officers of this department should be aware that approximately fifteen percent of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty are shot with their own weapons. Officers should be cognizant as to their positioning with respect to all persons with whom they are in contact. Only departmental approved holsters are authorized.
 - ii. **Offices**
 - a. At no time shall a handgun be left unsecured in an unlocked office or unlocked desk.

- iii. **Jail/Holding Facilities:** When entering any jail or holding facility, members shall safely store their firearm in a safe storage locker prior to entry.
- iv. **Interrogation Areas:** Officers may secure their firearm in a safe-storage locker prior to the interrogation of a suspect.

B. Off-Duty Storage of Firearms

- i. **Vehicles:** Officers shall never leave a firearm unsecured and in plain view in the passenger compartment of any vehicle.
 - a. **All vehicles:** Except for a rifle or shotgun mounted in an approved theft-proof rack system, departmental firearms shall not be left unattended in the passenger compartment of any vehicle.
 - b. **Take Home Vehicles**
 - 1. Handguns shall not be stored in a take home vehicle unless an exigent circumstance exists.
 - 2. If some exigency exists where a handgun is to be temporarily stored in a take-home vehicle, the officer shall ensure that the handgun is secured in the trunk of the vehicle and hidden in a manner that makes it difficult to observe when the trunk is open.
 - 3. Long-guns, which may be necessary for immediate response, may be stored in specially designed theft-proof rack systems.
 - 4. If a take home vehicle is to be parked unattended for an extended period, all firearms shall be removed and placed in a safe storage locker in the officer's home or a departmental facility.
- ii. **Home**
 - a. All officers of this department are directed to identify a safe-storage area for weapons within their home. Safe storage area, for purposes of this provision, may include trigger locks on firearms which would render them inoperable without access to the unlock mechanism.
 - b. Officers are directed that when firearms are not carried on the officer's person, they should be immediately locked in the safe-storage area.