

RENO POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER

This directive is for internal use only and does not enlarge this department's, governmental entity's and/or any of this department's employees' civil or criminal liability in any way. It is not to be construed as the creation of a particular standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to any complaint, demand for settlement, or any other form of grievance or litigation. Violations of this directive, if substantiated, can only form the basis for intra-departmental administrative sanctions.

Chief of Police: Steve Pitts		
Approving Deputy Chief: Mac Venzon		
General Order No: E-180-05	Issued: October 17, 2005	Reviewed: Aug. 15, 2012
General Order Title: FIREARMS/FIREARMS TRAINING		

POLICY

Reno Police Department officers are trained to deal with a multitude of tactical situations which may require the use of firearms. The Department has specific procedures for the arming of officers both on-duty and off-duty. It is the policy of the Reno Police Department to ensure sworn employees receive adequate firearms training. Employees who carry firearms shall be proficient with their safe handling and use.

FIREARMS PROCEDURES

Personnel hired prior to August 15, 1997 will provide their own handgun(s) for Department use. Personnel hired on or after August 15, 1997 may provide their own handgun or use a Department- issued handgun as their primary duty weapon. This determination will be made as soon as practicable based on the employee's date of hire, in coordination with the range master. Employees issued a handgun must use it as their primary weapon. If an employee later substitutes a personally owned duty weapon, the Department issued handgun will immediately be returned. Employees hired on or after August 15, 1997 may not use a revolver as a primary duty weapon. Any exception to this procedure requires approval of the Chief of Police.

Department shotguns and rifles will be deployed as needed. Officers may provide their own shotgun or rifle if these weapons meet Department specifications. Weapons not listed in this General Order must receive specific approval from the Chief of Police for their use.

The only handgun currently purchased for issue by the Department is the Glock 17.

Revolvers authorized for primary-duty use:

1. Smith and Wesson, Colt or Ruger double action revolvers in .38 special or .357 magnum calibers with 4"-6" barrel lengths. However, they are not authorized as a primary duty weapon for any officers hired on or after August 15, 1997.

Semi-automatic pistols authorized/requirements:

1. Smith and Wesson (except two-digit model numbers)
2. Beretta
3. SIG-Sauer
4. Glock
5. HK-USP
6. Springfield Armory XD
7. Pistols will be 9mm, .357 SIG, .40 S&W or .45 ACP calibers.
8. Other pistol models or calibers deemed useful for specific assignments shall be approved by the Chief of Police.
9. Handguns will conform to manufacturer's factory specifications.
10. Firearms will be capable of firing issued ammunition.
11. Metal, stag, ivory or light colored grips are not authorized.
12. Barrel/recoil compensators or similar modifications are not authorized.
13. Installation of tritium night sights and frame mounted flashlights are allowed.
14. Magazine disconnection mechanisms may be removed or neutralized.
15. Any other modifications must be approved by the range master and Chief of Police, as necessary.
16. The Reno Police Department Range Master will maintain a list of all approved/authorized models.

REQUIREMENTS

1. All firearms will be inspected by the Department range master and logged in the range files before being used for duty.
2. On-duty sworn employees will be armed with a handgun, properly secured in a holster, unless specifically exempted by the Division Commander.
3. Sworn employees may be armed with a shotgun or rifle while on duty.

Secondary and Off-Duty Handguns

1. Officers may carry a secondary handgun while on-duty.
2. Secondary and off-duty handguns must conform to the same specifications as primary handguns except that revolvers may have a 2" to 4" barrel length.
3. Secondary and off-duty weapons will be carried in a holster completely concealed and secure on the person.

Shotguns

1. The Department assigns the Remington model 870, 12 gauge shotgun with an 18" or 20" barrel for normal duty use.
2. Officers may use a personal shotgun provided it is in compliance with this General Order.
3. Authorized modifications include magazine extensions, lights, ammunition saddles, slings, rifle-type sights or after-market stocks.
4. The employee must qualify with the shotgun as provided in firearms training procedures.
5. All shotguns will be inspected by the range master on an annual basis.

Rifles

1. The Department assigns the Colt AR-15 semi-automatic rifle for normal duty use.
2. Officers may use a personal rifle providing it is in compliance with this General Order.
3. Personally owned rifles must be presented to the range master for testing prior to initial use.
4. Personally owned rifles shall be American made, AR-15 style .223 caliber semi-automatic models.
5. Authorized modifications include optical sighting systems, slings, lights, ammunition saddles or bridges.
6. Sighting systems will not have a greater magnification than 4X or interfere with the mechanical open sighting function.
7. The employee must qualify with the rifle as provided in firearms training procedures.
8. All rifles will be inspected by the range master on an annual basis.

Ammunition

1. The range master will issue Department ammunition.

2. Only issued ammunition will be used for duty service.
3. The Department will issue officers three loads of ammunition for each primary and secondary weapon, plus ten (10) rounds of shotgun ammunition.
4. Department-issued rifles will be deployed with two loaded magazines plus two extra boxes of ammunition.
5. Personally- owned rifles will be issued two magazine loads plus two extra boxes of duty ammunition.
6. Ammunition will be replaced at the range master's discretion as it becomes unserviceable.
7. Ammunition expended in the line of duty will be promptly replaced.
8. Firearms will be carried fully loaded.
9. Uniformed officers will carry at least twelve additional rounds of revolver ammunition or two extra loaded magazines on their duty belts.
10. Plainclothes officers will carry at least 6 additional rounds of revolver ammunition or one extra loaded magazine.

Special Weapons and Ammunition

Special weapons and ammunition include:

- a. 37mm and 40mm launchers
 - b. Remington model 700 bolt action rifles or variants
 - c. Heckler & Koch rifles and MP-5 submachine guns
 - d. AR-15 or Colt Sporter variant rifles
 - e. Springfield Armory M1A or variant rifles
 - f. 7.62 Military Spec M60 belt-fed machine gun
 - g. Modified Remington and Benelli shotguns
 - h. Specialized shotgun ammunition other than less-lethal
 - i. Other weapons will be subject to specific approval of the Chief of Police.
1. Special weapons and ammunition will be carried or used only by specifically trained personnel.
 2. Issuance of special weapons or ammunition will be made with the approval of the SWAT Commander, a Deputy Chief, or the Chief of Police.
 3. Personally owned weapons must be presented to the SWAT Commander for inspection to verify they meet specifications.

Less Lethal Munitions

1. Less lethal munitions consist of rubber, wood, foam or bean-bag projectiles fired from a 12 gauge, 37 or 40 mm launcher.
2. Less lethal munitions will be deployed by personnel who have received specific instruction on their use along with direction of an on-scene supervisor.

Maintenance/Safety

1. Employees will maintain firearms in clean and operable condition.
2. Department weapons stored in a police building will be kept in clean and serviceable condition.
3. All weapons stored within a Reno Police Department building or sub-station will be in armory condition (open and empty).
4. During the normal course of duty, loading or unloading of weapons will not be conducted within a police building.
5. Damage, malfunctions, undue exposure to moisture or corrosives will be noted and the weapon set aside for servicing.
6. Damaged weapons will not be carried or issued.
7. Employees encountering damaged or non-functioning weapons will notify a supervisor and the range master.
8. The Weapons Repair Form will accompany notifications and include specific details of the nature of the problem and the name and badge number of the officer assigned to that weapon. The form will be securely attached to the weapon by placing it through the trigger guard.
9. Employees WILL NOT point any firearm, remove a firearm from a holster and/or use a firearm in any manor other than that taught by a certified RPD range master/instructor; in all cases the use of a firearm will not be used in a joking manor.

TRAINING PROCEDURES

1. The range master will disseminate the schedule of firearm qualifications and related training.
2. Firearms courses will be designed and coordinated by the range master.
3. In addition to qualifications, tactical firearms training will be scheduled periodically and administered under the direction of the Training Division.

4. Employees are responsible for scheduling and attending range qualifications.
5. Department supervisors are responsible for monitoring subordinates to ensure they meet the guidelines set forth in this general order.
6. Special weapons and ammunitions training will be provided at the direction of the Division Commander or designee.
7. Employees who change duty weapons shall notify the range master as outlined in this General Order. Transitions may require additional training as prescribed by the range master. This training will be completed prior to using the weapon for duty.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Employees will participate in qualifications in compliance with NAC 289.230 or by direction of the Chief of Police.
2. Firearms training will require semiannual demonstration of satisfactory proficiency with each firearm authorized for use by that officer.
3. It is the responsibility of the range master to maintain accurate records to include:
 - Division Commander/Risk Manager notifications
 - Record of individual qualification including signature of employee
 - Transitional classes for employees
4. An employee who will miss a scheduled qualification must notify their Division Commander.
5. The Division Commander will notify the Training Division of any excused/unexcused absence from qualification.
6. The department Risk Manager will notify the Training Division of any employee who is unable to qualify due to injury.
7. The Training Division will schedule make-up sessions as soon as practicable to accommodate excused absences or injured officers unable to meet qualification requirements.
8. An excused absence does not exempt the employee from qualifying as soon thereafter as possible.
9. Unexcused failure to participate may result in disciplinary action.

Failure to Qualify

1. Employees who fail to meet a satisfactory level of proficiency may not carry or use the firearm until they pass a remedial course established by the range master.

2. The Training Division will immediately notify the Division Commander should an employee fail to qualify.
3. The employee's authority to carry a weapon will be suspended and the employee will be placed in an administrative support assignment with limited police duties.