



DESCHUTES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Attachments: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8.20 Appendix A• 8.20 Appendix B• 8.20 Appendix C	L. Shane Nelson, Sheriff		

I. PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this policy to provide deputies and Field Law Enforcement Technicians (FLETs) with guidelines associated with the use, maintenance, safety, and qualification requirements related to agency authorized firearms.

II. POLICY

For purposes of this policy, the term "deputy" shall include Field Law Enforcement Technicians (FLETs). It is the policy of the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office that deputies adhere to the requirements established herein in order to ensure the safe handling and use of service firearms.

III. DEFINITIONS

CERT is the Central Oregon Emergency Response Team.

SOT is the Special Operations Team.

IV. WEAPONS: AUTHORIZATION, ISSUE AND TYPE

Any firearm carried by a deputy of the Sheriff's Office under "color of law" shall be authorized by the Sheriff, approved by the training coordinator, and the employee shall have demonstrated proficiency with the weapon as required.

A. Issue

When agency-owned firearms are issued to deputies it shall be by the training coordinator or designee. The weapon will be recorded in agency records to include make, model, caliber and serial number.

B. Duty Handguns

Duty handguns are those handguns that are carried by deputies as their primary firearm during the course of their normal duty functions. A duty handgun shall be only that firearm issued by the agency or an individually owned weapon of exactly the same make, model, and caliber if specifically authorized by the Sheriff and approved by the training coordinator. The Sheriff's Office issues/allows:

Semi-Automatic, double action (safe action), handgun of Glock or Sig Sauer manufacture in 9-millimeter, .40, or .45 calibers.

Approved individually owned duty handguns shall be recorded in agency records to include make, model, caliber, and serial number.

C. Duty Shotgun/Lethal and Less Lethal

A duty shotgun is that shotgun which a deputy is issued by the Sheriff's Office. A shotgun is a firearm that can be used to fire both lethal and less lethal munitions.

Only those deputies assigned to SOT and CERT will be authorized to carry a shotgun for multi-purpose use, such as less lethal, breaching, gas and lethal.

All other deputies, including FLETs, shall be issued shotguns for less lethal munitions ONLY. Any employee issued a less lethal shotgun must be trained in and meet Sheriff's Office training standards in the use of Less Lethal Extended Range Impact Weapons.

Less lethal impact munitions refers to impact munitions delivered by a specially marked shotgun. Less lethal extended range impact munitions are those not designed to produce death or grievous bodily injury. Only those shotguns issued by the Sheriff's Office training coordinator and authorized by the Sheriff will be allowed for use. The Sheriff's Office issues:

1. Mossberg 590A, pump action, with a magazine that holds at least five rounds and is chambered in 12 gauge, marked with a fluorescent orange sling system signifying the weapon is for less lethal use only. This shotgun will be stored in a carry case marked "DCSO LESS LETHAL" in orange lettering. These shotguns will be equipped with five rounds of Accusox beanbag cartridges for extended range impact purposes and carried in a butt stock caddy.
2. Remington 870, pump action, with a magazine that holds at least five rounds and is chambered in 12 gauge, marked with a fluorescent orange sling system signifying the weapon is for less lethal use and is stored in a carry case marked "DCSO LESS LETHAL" in orange lettering with five rounds of Accusox beanbag cartridges in a butt stock caddy.

D. Duty Rifles

A Duty Rifle is that rifle which a deputy normally has at his disposal during the course of his normal duty functions. Duty rifles shall be semi-automatic, of the AR-15 design in 5.56 mm. This agency issues Colt or Armalite rifles. All duty rifles used at this agency shall be zeroed at 50 yards.

E. Personally Owned Rifles

Personally owned rifles can be authorized for duty use by the Sheriff and must be approved by the training coordinator. Authorized rifles shall be equipped with the same equipment as issued rifles.

Personally owned rifles must conform to the following criteria:

1. Rifles shall be from a reputable manufacturer.
2. All rifles shall have a sling and a light source.
3. All rifles shall have iron sights. Optics may be approved by the training coordinator on a case by case basis and must co-witness with the iron sights.
4. Rifles shall not be engraved nor have messages otherwise written on them other than the manufacturers stamp and serial number.
5. Trigger pull weight shall be no less than 6 pounds and no greater than 9 pounds.
6. Piston-driven rifles will not be allowed for duty use.
7. No accessories (bi-pods, optics, etc.) shall be applied to the rifle without prior approval by the training coordinator.

F. Off-Duty Handguns

Off-duty handguns are those handguns carried as off-duty weapons.

G. Special Purpose Firearms

Special purpose firearms are those weapons that use ammunition or projectiles that are not designed to produce death or grievous bodily injury and are used as extended range impact or chemical applications.

Deputies issued a less lethal weapon system will be adequately trained in its use prior to authorization for use.

The Sheriff's Office issues Tippman Pneumatics Inc. Jaycor compressed air launcher marked with an orange sling system signifying the weapon is for less lethal extended range impact and/or chemical agent application via .68 caliber plastic ball projectiles.

H. Back-Up Firearms

Back-up firearms are those handguns that are carried while on-duty by a deputy but are concealed upon their person. Back-up firearms shall be recorded in agency records to include make, model, caliber, and serial number. To carry, deputies must show proficiency in handgun use.

A back-up firearm shall be of at least .22 caliber and hold at least five rounds of ammunition in any given system configuration.

Deputies will be required to fire an annual qualification course prescribed by the training coordinator that incorporates the drawing and firing of the weapon from its usual position of carry, from various distances.

Back-up firearms are only to be used if the duty weapon is not available or functioning. (See attached [Appendix B](#))

I. Automatic Weapons

Automatic weapons are firearms that function in a fully automatic mode and are generally used for unique or unusual situations by CERT or SOT members. Only operators specifically trained in the proper use of fully automatic firearms are allowed to use these firearms. The Heckler and Koch .40 caliber or 9mm MP5 sub-machine gun is for SOT or CERT use only.

V. AMMUNITION

A. On-Duty Ammunition

Ammunition carried by the deputy for a duty firearm or special purpose firearm while on duty will be only that which is issued by the agency. Duty issue ammunition will be provided on an annual basis, shall be fired annually and shall be factory loaded, unaltered ammunition approved by the training coordinator. (See attached [Appendix C](#))

B. Off-Duty Ammunition

Ammunition carried by deputies and FLETs for an off-duty or back-up firearm shall be rotated on an annual basis, shall be factory loaded, unaltered ammunition and as similar to duty ammunition as possible. Ammunition carried for an off-duty or back-up firearm is subject to approval of the training coordinator. (See attached [Appendix C](#))

C. On-Duty Range Ammunition

Range practice ammunition for duty firearms or special purpose firearms shall be furnished by the Sheriff's Office and will be similar to duty ammunition. (See attached [Appendix C](#))

D. Off-Duty Range Ammunition

Range practice ammunition for off-duty or back-up firearms shall be similar to duty ammunition and will be provided by the deputy who carries the weapon system. (See attached [Appendix C](#))

VI. MAINTENANCE, REPAIR AND INSPECTIONS

Deputies are not authorized to use or carry a firearm in an official capacity unless that firearm has been certified for use by the training coordinator or designee. Approval will only occur following a safety inspection, which will be conducted on an annual basis. The training coordinator will maintain a record detailing the annual inspection, maintenance and repairs of the weapon.

A. Maintenance of Firearms

Each employee is responsible for the proper care and cleaning of his firearm(s) to ensure it is operational and well maintained at all times. Firearms will be kept clean, operational and loaded to one cartridge short of full capacity while carried in an official capacity. Maintenance of the firearm shall include at a minimum:

1. Clean the weapon monthly (or after each use) to keep clean, dry, free of dirt or grit, ensuring metal parts are oiled or lubricated appropriately;
2. Upon Monthly cleaning, inspect the weapon for the following:
 - a) sights or sighting devices are in clean and serviceable condition;
 - b) the weapon is functionally sound and operational, with no broken, damaged or missing parts;
 - c) the bore is clean and free of obstructions;
3. Inspect ammunition for any damage or corrosion;
4. Maintain all carrying devices for firearms and ammunition in serviceable condition.

B. Damaged Firearms

Deputies shall report any damaged or malfunctioning firearms to their supervisor, the training coordinator, a firearms instructor or agency armorer as soon as practical. The firearm suspected of having a problem shall be submitted to a certified armorer for evaluation.

1. Adjustments and repairs to Sheriff's Office weapons shall be made or arranged for or by the training coordinator.
2. All personally owned authorized firearms that require repair shall be re-inspected by the training coordinator.

C. Alterations and Adjustments

Deputies will not alter or adjust (other than sight alignment) any authorized firearm without the approval of the training coordinator and /or agency armorer. This includes but is not limited to modifications involving grips, spring kits, sights, or finishes.

D. Duty Weapon Inspections

All firearms are subject to inspection without notice by the supervisor on-duty, training coordinator, agency armorer or firearms instructors.

1. Periodic inspections shall be made by all supervisors responsible for employees authorized to carry firearms.
2. The Sheriff's Office Firearms Team shall be jointly responsible for conducting periodic checks of the duty handguns, duty shotguns, duty rifles, and special purpose firearms to ensure that they are clean, operational, and meet policy standards.
3. Weapons shall be inspected at the conclusion of each firearm training session by the training coordinator or firearms team to verify that the firearm is functional.

VII. CONTROL

The purpose of this section is to address firearms related issues and establish guidelines for deputies when handling, storing, carrying, or otherwise using weapons. Since no policy can be so comprehensive as to address all such possible situations, the individual deputy must act reasonably and prudently.

1. When armed on-duty, deputies shall carry their badge and agency identification. Deputies working undercover assignments can be exempted from this requirement as their supervisor authorizes.
2. Off-duty deputies shall carry their official identification card at all times when carrying a concealed firearm.

3. All authorized firearms shall be carried in a safe and secure manner. Removal of a firearm from its holster or other carrying device for other than authorized purposes is prohibited. Such authorized purposes include tactical use, training and qualification, inspection, or cleaning and maintenance. Any careless, flippant, or casual use or display of a firearm will constitute grounds for discipline.
4. Deputies shall retain control of their firearms at all times. Deputies will not place any firearms or other weapons in Sheriff's Office facilities, except when the place of storage is locked or under constant personal observation.

When entering a jail or processing prisoners, firearms shall be locked in a secure area outside of the secure perimeter of the jail, in an agency vehicle or in a gun locker.
5. Deputies shall file a written report with their supervisor immediately following the theft, loss, sale or replacement of a firearm authorized for use by the Sheriff's Office.
6. Particular care shall be exercised in safely storing firearms while off-duty to insure they are not accessible to unauthorized persons. Deputies shall not store or leave a firearm in any place within the reach or easy access of a minor. **Deputies and FLETs that carry firearms are required to secure them in a safe or gun locker while off-duty to ensure the safety of family members and others not authorized to access the firearm. Deputies and FLETs who do not own a safe or gun locker shall be issued a locking gun case.**
7. When off-duty and in public, deputies shall not carry a concealed firearm when there are circumstances in which the deputy is, or more than likely will be, affected by the consumption of alcohol, medication or drugs.
 - a. Deputies shall report to their immediate supervisor any use of prescription drugs or other medication that they reasonably believe would impair their ability or judgment to use a firearm or any medical exemptions as may be required.
 - b. Deputies shall not carry a firearm on-duty when there is any detectable level of their having consumed an alcoholic beverage. Supervisors may approve exceptions to this section due to certain duty assignments such as undercover operations or other situations to be determined individually by the division commanders.
 - c. Deputies shall not, under any circumstance, carry a firearm on/off-duty when they are legally impaired or have a blood-alcohol content of .08 percent or greater.
 - d. Firearms prohibitions with respect to domestic violence and the Brady Bill apply to all employees. See [Policy 6.40 Personnel Involved Domestic Violence](#).
8. The training coordinator will be notified in writing of any new firearm issuance, change in ownership, duty weapon status or change in firearm carry practice.

VIII. ARMORY INSPECTION

At least annually, the training coordinator shall conduct a complete inspection of the armory and armory policies to ensure adherence to appropriate policies and procedures.

An additional, partial inventory of the armory shall be conducted at least annually by the training coordinator and the training division commander.

Whenever the person responsible for the armory is transferred or replaced, an audit of all Sheriff's Office firearms shall be conducted jointly by the newly designated person in charge along with the vacating person, to ensure that records are correct and all firearms are accounted for and properly documented.

Full inventories are also required when there is a change in Sheriff or if possible tampering is suspected.

IX. LOADING, UNLOADING AND CARRY OF DUTY HANDGUNS

When not in use, duty handguns will be stored in a safe and controlled manner. Deputies are responsible for the physical security of their weapons at all times.

Handguns will be loaded and unloaded in a safe manner. Handguns shall be loaded or unloaded administratively in the Sheriff's Office.

While on-duty, deputies shall carry their handgun and ammunition in agency approved holsters and pouches. Any exception, such as undercover situations or medical exemptions, must be approved by the training coordinator.

X. LOADING AND CARRY OF LESS LETHAL SHOTGUNS

When not in use, shotguns will be stored in an agency approved rack or case in their assigned vehicles.

Shotguns shall be removed from the patrol units being serviced or repaired, or while the vehicle is disabled.

The Sheriff's Office recognizes that combative, non-compliant, violent and/or armed subjects can present a serious threat to deputies and the public. They also present handling and control problems that require special training and equipment. When carried in patrol vehicles, less lethal shotguns will be carried unloaded with the safety on. In other vehicles, the shotgun shall be kept in the assault case provided and locked in the trunk of the vehicle when not deployed.

XI. LOADING, CARRY AND UNLOADING DUTY RIFLES

When not in use, rifles shall be stored in an agency approved rack or case within their assigned vehicles, securely within a residence, or in the armory.

Rifles shall be removed from the patrol units being serviced or repaired, or while the vehicle is disabled.

In marked patrol vehicles equipped with an electric lock weapon rack, the rifle shall be kept locked in the rack or in the trunk in an assault case issued or approved by the agency when not deployed.

While in the rack, the duty rifle shall be carried with the magazine in, the bolt forward without a live round chambered, the safety in the on position, and the dust cover shut. When carried in a case, the magazine may or may not be inserted due to the size constraints of some cases but all other above carry criteria shall be met.

Administrative load and unload procedures shall be followed when deploying a rifle or returning the rifle to the rack or case.

Administrative Load: While in the field and when deploying a duty rifle or shotgun, administrative load is to place a live round in the chamber by manually cycling the action.

Administrative Unload: While in the field and having deployed a duty rifle or shotgun, administrative unload is to remove all live ammunition by first, either removing the magazine or by clearance of the magazine tube and secondly, by removing the chambered round by manually cycling the action.

Deputies issued a rifle shall unload and check the function and serviceability of the rifle as well as the serviceability of magazines and ammunition at the beginning of each work week. They shall do so each time the weapon system is exposed to water or the rifle is exposed to conditions that could potentially interfere with the functionality of the weapon.

XII. CARRY OF OFF-DUTY AND BACK-UP WEAPONS

Deputies may, but are not required to, carry a firearm while off-duty. However, deputies must be armed when operating a marked patrol vehicle whether on or off-duty.

Back-up and off-duty firearms shall be carried concealed unless:

1. The deputy is in the workplace and the deputy's badge or Sheriff's Office identification is prominently displayed on their person;
2. The deputy is engaged in law enforcement actions that may reasonably require quick access to the firearm, and the deputy's badge or Sheriff's Office identification badge is prominently displayed on their person.

XIII. CARRYING FIREARMS ON COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT

A. Federal Requirements

Unless otherwise authorized by the Transportation Security Administration, to fly armed a law enforcement officer (LEO) must:

1. Be a Federal law enforcement officer or full-time municipal, county, or state law enforcement officer who is a direct employee of a government agency.
2. Be sworn and commissioned to enforce criminal statutes or immigration statutes.
3. Be authorized by the employing agency to have the weapon in connection with assigned duties.
4. Have completed the training program "Law Enforcement Officers Flying Armed."

The following are the procedures for a state, local or territorial law enforcement officer to fly armed:

1. Have the operational need to fly armed.
2. The LEO's employing agency transmits a properly formatted message, via NLETS to ORI VAFAM0199.
3. An NLETS receipt, with Unique Alphanumeric Identifier, is transmitted from the Transportation Security Operations Center to the LEO's employing agency.
4. On the day of travel, the LEO checks in with the airline ticket counter, identifies himself and confirms that he is in possession of a Unique Alphanumeric number received via NLETS. The LEO receives the armed traveler paperwork provided by the airline and proceeds to the armed LEO screening checkpoint.
5. At the armed LEO screening checkpoint, the LEO officer provides the Unique Alphanumeric Identifier from the NLETS message and displays his badge, credentials, boarding pass, a second form of government identification, and required airline paperwork, commonly referred to as Person Carrying Firearms (PCFA) forms.
6. The LEO will complete the LEO Logbook and proceed to the boarding gate.
7. At the boarding gate, the LEO will provide the airlines armed traveler paperwork and inform the gate agent of his presence and status.

The LEO then meets with the Pilot in Command, Federal Air Marshals, Federal Flight Deck Officers, and/or LEOs onboard the flight, as directed.

APPENDIX A
Approved Duty Handguns, Rifles, Less Lethal and Specialty
Firearms

Manufacturer	Model	Caliber
Glock	17	9mm
Glock	17C (SOT/CERT ONLY)	9mm Compensated
Glock	19	9mm
Glock	19C (SOT/CERT ONLY)	9mm Compensated
Glock	26	9mm
Glock	34 (SOT/CERT ONLY)	9mm Extended Barrel
Glock	22	40
Glock	23	40
Glock	27	40
Glock	21	45
Glock	36	45
Sig-Sauer	P225	9mm
Sig-Sauer	P226	9mm
Sig-Sauer	P228	9mm
Sig-Sauer	P239	9mm
Sig-Sauer	P229	40

Sig-Sauer	P239	40
Sig-Sauer	SP2340	40
Sig-Sauer	P220	45
Colt	AR-15 A1 (M16A1)	.223
Colt	Sporter H Bar	.223
Armalite	M15A2	.223
Mossberg	590A	12 Gauge
Remington	870	12 Gauge
Tippman Pneumatics	Jaycor Compressed Air launcher	.68
Bushmaster	AR-15 Variant	.223
Heckler and Koch	MP5 (CERT/SOT ONLY)	.40
Heckler and Koch	MP5 (CERT/SOT ONLY)	9mm
LWRC	M6-G (CERT/SOT ONLY)	.223
Def Tech	Munitions Launcher (CERT/SOT ONLY)	37mm
Charles Daly	Field Tac (CERT/SOT ONLY)	12 Gauge Tactical Shotgun
Remington	700 (CERT/SOT ONLY)	.308
Winchester	M-14 (CERT/SOT ONLY)	.308
Harrington & Richardson Arms Co	M-14 (CERT/SOT ONLY)	.308

APPENDIX B

Back-Up Handguns

Personally Owned Firearms for Back-Up

A. To obtain approval to carry a personally owned firearm as a back-up weapon, the firearm must fit within the following guidelines:

1. Be a “professional” quality semi automatic pistol or double action revolver such as:

Semi-Automatics

- Beretta
- Bersa
- Browning
- Colt
- Glock
- H & K
- Kahr
- Kimber
- Kel-Tec
- Phoenix
- Sig-Sauer
- Seecamp
- Smith & Wesson
- Springfield
- K-Sports
- Jennings
- Para-Ordinance
- Taurus
- Walther

Revolvers

- Smith & Wesson
- Taurus
- Colt
- Ruger

2. **Back-up handguns** will have at least a 5 shot capacity.
3. Deputies are authorized to carry approved off-duty firearms as back-up firearms on-duty if authorized by Training Coordinator.

APPENDIX C
Approved Ammunition

On-Duty

Manufacturer	Caliber	Description
Federal	.380	95 grain Hydra-Shok
Federal	.38	129 grain Hydra-Shok
Federal	.38	125 grain Hydra-Shok
Winchester	9mm +P+	127 grain Ranger SXT
Winchester	.40	180 grain Ranger SXT
Winchester	.45	230 grain Ranger SXT
Hornaday	.223	62 grain TAP
Hornaday	.308	168 grain TAP
Accusox	12 gauge	Duty Bean Bag Ammunition
DEF Tech	12 gauge (CERT/SOT Only)	23 CS Barricade Round
Federal	12 gauge (CERT/SOT Only)	00 Buck Tactical
MK Ballistics	12 gauge (CERT/SOT Only)	Door Breaching Master Key
MK Ballistics	12 gauge (CERT/SOT Only)	CS Flachette Round
MK Ballistics	12 gauge (CERT/SOT Only)	OC Flachette Round
Royal Arms	12 gauge (CERT/SOT Only)	275 grain Tesar Breaching Round
Royal Arms	12 gauge (CERT/SOT Only)	365 grain Tesar Breaching Round
Royal Arms	12 gauge (CERT/SOT Only)	420 grain Tesar Breaching Round
Royal Arms	12 gauge (CERT/SOT Only)	450 grain Tesar Breaching Round
Royal Arms	12 gauge (CERT/SOT Only)	750 grain Tesar Breaching Round

Royal Arms	12 gauge (CERT/SOT Only)	Flash Bang Round
Pepper Ball	.68	Clear Inert Liquid – Water Projectile
Pepper Ball	.68	Red Hot Pepper Powder Projectile
Pepper Ball	.68	Glass Breaker Projectile
Pepper Ball	.68	Marking Projectile
Pepper Ball	.68 (CERT/SOT Only)	Hot Pava Powder Projectile
Pepper Ball	.68	Inert Projectile
Combined Tactical Systems	37mm (CERT/SOT Only)	Single Projectile Munitions Flexible Sock
Combined Tactical Systems	37mm (CERT/SOT Only)	Multiple Projectile Mun. 3 Foam Batons, .3/Cal. Pellets, 3 Wood Batons
Combined Tactical Systems	37mm (CERT/SOT Only)	CS Barricade Projectile
Combined Tactical Systems	37mm (CERT/SOT Only)	OC Barricade Projectile

Appendix C Approved Ammunition

Back-Up

Manufacturer	Caliber	Description
Any	.22	Determined by reliability in the specific weapon.
Nosler	9 mm, .40, .45	+P Bonded +P Tipped Bonded
Federal Premium	Any	Hydra-Shok
Winchester	Any	Defender
Remington	Any	Ultimate Defense Ultimate Defense Compact HG High Terminal Performance
Hornaday	Any	Critical Defense
Speer/CCI	Any	Gold Dot

Back-up ammunition must be as similar to duty ammunition as possible. Refer to Appendix C, On-duty for duty ammunition specifications. If an employee wishes to carry ammunition that is not listed it must be approved by the training division.

Appendix C
Approved Ammunition
Continued

Range

Manufacturer	Caliber	Description
Winchester	9mm	115 grain FMJ
Winchester	.40	180 grain FMJ
Winchester	.45	230 grain FMJ
Hornaday	.223	55 grain FMJ
The following	ammunition is not	provided by DCSO.
Any	.22	Determined by reliability in the specific weapon.
Any	.32	Determined by reliability in the specific weapon.
Any	.38	Determined by reliability in the specific weapon.
Any	.357	Determined by reliability in the specific weapon.
Any	.380	Determined by reliability in the specific weapon