

Fifth Judicial District
Department of Correctional Services

Policy Manual

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Approved By:


Sally Kremer, Director
Fifth Judicial District
Department of Correctional Services

Approval Date: 4 / 12

Unit: Fugitive Unit

Subject: Firearms and Weapons

PURPOSE

To ensure Fugitive Unit Officers carry authorized weapons and firearms and maintain the weapons and firearms so they are in proper working order.

POLICY

The Fifth Judicial District recognizes that circumstances exist in which their law enforcement officers may have to use force and possibly deadly force with a firearm. Certified Iowa Law Enforcement Officers on the Fifth District Fugitive Unit will be allowed to carry district authorized firearms and weapons. Officers will be properly trained and certified in the use of all firearms and weapons listed in this policy to the standards of the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy. All authorized firearms and weapons shall not be altered, but may be enhanced with department approval.

PROCEDURE

1. Fifth District Fugitive Unit Officers will be authorized to carry the following firearms:
 - A. Handguns
 - 1) Duty Weapon (primary weapon)
 - a. Officers will only carry handguns for their primary weapon that are issued by the department while on duty. Officers shall be issued a Glock Model 22 or 23, 40 Caliber, double action only, semi-automatic pistol.
 - b. Duty Ammunition will be provided by the department
 - c. Duty Weapons will be inspected annually by a Certified Firearms Armorer.
 - 2) Back Up Weapon
 - a. Fugitive Unit Officers may carry a back-up handgun once the weapon has been approved by a Certified Firearms Instructor, the Fugitive Unit Supervisor and the District Director, who will provide written authorization once approved.
 - b. Back-up handguns must be carried in a factory made holster capable of holding the weapon during running or other exertion. A Certified Firearms Instructor shall be responsible for making that determination.
 - 3) Off-Duty Weapon
 - a. Off-Duty Weapons may be obtained by the officer at their own expense and will only be authorized to carry on duty as a "back-up weapon" if it meets department standards.
 - b. Any use, display, or discharge, other than recreational use, will be reported to the Officer's immediate supervisor.
 - B. Shoulder Weapons
 - 1) Shotgun
 - a. The authorized shotgun may be supplied by the Department or by the individual officer.
 - b. Specifications
 1. The authorized shotgun must be 12 gauge.
 2. Individually owned shotguns will be inspected by a Certified Firearms Instructor for serviceability.
 3. Approval of any personally owned shotguns must be obtained from a Certified Firearms Instructor, Fugitive Unit Supervisor, and the Department Director or designee. Personally owned shotguns that do not meet Department specifications will not be approved for use.
 5. All department authorized shotguns will be inspected annually by a certified firearms armorer.
 - c. Transport/Security
 1. All approved shotguns will be loaded with Department-issued ammunition. The loaded shotgun shall not be transported with a chambered round.
 2. All shotguns will be transported in Department vehicles and in a Department approved shotgun rack.
 - d. Deployment
 1. Deployment of the shotgun shall be authorized for any dangerous or deadly force situation where the officer has reason to believe that deployment will contribute to the safe resolution of the incident or diminish the risk to the officer or the public.

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- 2) Rifle
 - a. The authorized rifle may be supplied by the department or by the individual officer.
 - b. Specifications
 1. The authorized rifle shall be .223 caliber.
 2. Individually owned rifles will be inspected by a Certified Rifle Instructor for serviceability.
 3. Approval of any personally owned rifles must be obtained from a Certified Rifle Instructor, Fugitive Unit Supervisor, and the Department Director or designee. Personally owned rifles that do not meet Department specifications will not be approved for use.
 4. All department authorized rifles will be inspected annually by a certified firearms armorer
 - c. Transport/Security
 1. All approved rifles will be loaded with Department-issued ammunition. The rifle shall be transported with the safety on, the bolt closed on an empty chamber, and a loaded magazine inserted.
 2. All rifles will be transported in Department vehicles and in a Department approved rifle rack.
 - d. Deployment
 1. Deployment of the rifle shall be authorized for any dangerous or deadly force situation where the officer has reason to believe that deployment will contribute to the safe resolution of the incident or diminish the risk to the officer or the public.
2. Firearms Restrictions
 - A. Any Officer who discharges a firearm in the performance of their duties shall:
 - 1) Immediately report the incident to the Fugitive Unit Supervisor and follow all directives given.
 - 2) Turn over the weapon to designated staff or investigating law enforcement agency when ordered by the Fugitive Unit Supervisor, as the weapon may be needed for evidentiary purposes. In this case, a replacement weapon will be issued at the Director's discretion.
 - 3) Complete a written report as soon as possible, but within twenty-four (24) hours of the incident. If the officer is unable to complete a written report, the supervisor or Director designee shall complete the report.
 - 4) Comply with further action or investigation as prescribed by the District Director.
 - B. Liability
 - 1) The Department assumes no responsibility or liability for repairs, maintenance, damage, or loss of any approved personally-owned firearm.
3. Other Approved Weapons
 - A. Pepper Spray (Oleoresin Capsicum or OC)
 - 1) All OC spray used while on duty will be issued by the department.
 - 2) OC spray may be used to impede actively resisting subjects.
 - 3) All pepper spray will be washed with water from exposed body areas as soon as possible.
 - B. Asp Baton
 - 1) Officers are justified in using a baton as long as it is used in accordance to their training.
 - C. Other Intermediate Weapons
 - 1) All other intermediate weapons must be approved by the Fugitive Unit Supervisor
4. Policy Violation
 - A. Violations of firearms and weapons policies and procedures by the employee are considered very serious and may result in disciplinary action which may include discharge from employment.