

**TYLER POLICE DEPARTMENT
GENERAL ORDER**

FIREARMS TRAINING SAFETY PROGRAM

09.300

REVISED

EFFECTIVE 03/05/07

09.301 PURPOSE

It is the policy of the Tyler Police Department to conduct safe, realistic, and practical scenario based training for its peace officers. This general order will provide guidelines to safely conduct the practical scenario training.

09.302 TRAINING OVERVIEW

- A. The training of law enforcement personnel in the tactics and techniques to successfully respond to life threatening situations encompasses three phases.
1. **Phase I** is conducted in a classroom or discussion group setting. It familiarizes the student with concepts, tactics and techniques.
 2. **Phase II** is usually conducted in a field environment and familiarizes the student in actual weapons handling, movement and special tactics.
 3. **Phase III** of officer training exposes the student to realistic scenarios designed to measure the officer's skills obtained in Phases I and II.
- B. It is in Phases II and III that the greatest risk of officer injury exists. Instructors must ensure that no live ammo, magazines, or sharp objects are introduced into the training area and that safety procedures are followed. In Phase II, the student utilizes his/her duty weapon or weapons in an unloaded condition as they conduct movement and utilize special tactics. Phase III (the scenario phase) is designed to measure the student's understanding of concepts and skills. The student is issued marking type weapons, munitions and protective gear. Phase III training is designed to be as realistic as possible while ensuring student safety.

09.303 GENERAL SAFETY PROCEDURES

- A. A formal safety briefing will be conducted during Phase I of training (classroom).
- B. All weapons will be unloaded and holstered or slung before entering the practical or scenario training area. **NO LIVE AMMO, MAGAZINES, KNIVES, PEPPER SPRAY, BATONS, TASERS OR OTHER WEAPONS, ARE ALLOWED IN THE TRAINING AREA.**
- C. Black CQT cartridges are lethal and fire in converted weapons; they will be treated as live ammo and removed from the training area.
- D. The following general rules of range safety will be followed:
1. **ALL GUNS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED LOADED AND TREATED ACCORDINGLY.**
 2. **NEVER LET THE MUZZLE COVER ANYTHING YOU ARE NOT AUTHORIZED TO SHOOT.**
 3. **KEEP YOUR FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER UNTIL YOU ARE GOING TO SHOOT THE WEAPON.**
 4. **BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET.** Know what it is, what is in line with it, and what is behind it. Never shoot at anything you have not positively identified.
- E. Everyone is a Safety Officer and may stop the activity immediately.

- F. Training area boundaries, hazards, and “off limit” areas will be described to all participants.
- G. No plugged weapons will be used in any training.
- H. An instructor will only deploy blank ammo to simulate suspect weapons fire.
- I. The use of blank ammo by students in AR-15 rifles will require a Blank Fire Adapter (BFA) and magazine containing a live round extruder.
- J. Shotgun blank ammo will only be deployed by an instructor to simulate suspect weapons fire.
- K. Instructors and safety officers/controllers will be identified by wearing a fluorescent vest during all scenario-based training.
- L. Observers who are near the movement area will wear fluorescent vests.
- M. All injuries, beyond bruises and minor contusions normally associated with being struck with marking cartridges, will be reported to an instructor. An on-duty supervisor will be notified and a City of Tyler Injury Report will be completed and forwarded through the chain of command to Risk Management.

09.304 PRACTICAL EXERCISE TRAINING SAFETY PROCEDURES

These procedures are to be followed any time an officer’s own weapon will be used in a practical exercise and may be pointed at roll players. Examples would include practicing building clearing, felony traffic stops, etc.

- A. An abbreviated safety briefing will be conducted at the field-training site prior to all practical training. The Practical Training Safety Briefing checklist form will be completed and submitted to the Training Unit for inclusion in the documentation of the class.
- B. No live ammo, magazines, knives, etc., are allowed in the training area. If there is a concern about officer safety from outside the training area, an armed patrol officer will be posted outside the training area.
- C. Students will be instructed to leave all live ammo, magazines, and any sharp objects, such as knives, secured outside the training area.
- D. Two people other than the student will physically and visually inspect student weapon(s). A chamber block, zip tie, or other device will be added to the weapon in such a manner as to make chambering of a round impossible. For rifles, the bolt may be removed. The weapon will then be marked with bright colored tape wrapped on the muzzle of the weapon.
- E. The student’s person will be physically searched to ensure no ammo, magazines, knives, etc., are present. When available, a hand-held magnetometer will also be utilized with each alarm being resolved by physically searching the area of the alarm.
- F. Students will wear eye protection. Hearing protection will be worn if blank weapons fire is used to simulate suspect gunshots.
- G. The instructor will demonstrate proper weapons handling prior to the commencement of training.
- H. Students leaving and returning to the training area must report to the safety officer and will have their weapons checked and persons searched.

- I. If a meal or any other type of break occurs, the search process will be repeated. Additionally, all tape placed on weapons prior to the break will be removed and a different colored tape will be placed on the muzzle of the weapons after they have been re-checked.

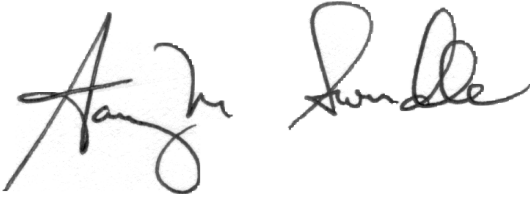
09.305 SCENARIO TRAINING SAFETY PROCEDURES

These procedures will be followed any time scenario based training is conducted that involves the use of weapons firing marking cartridges such as Simunitions.

- A. A lead instructor will be identified as the overall Officer-in-Charge of the Reality-Based Scenario Training.
- B. An assistant instructor will be assigned as the Training Safety Officer. Once designated, the Safety Officer will remain the same throughout the day's training. The Safety Officer's sole responsibility is ensuring that all safety measures are in place and followed. The Safety Officer may not take part in the class as a student or role player.
- C. A safety briefing will be conducted prior to all practical training. The Scenario Training Safety Briefing checklist will be completed and filed with the training unit.
- D. The boundaries of the training area should be clearly established and explained to all participants. All entries should be locked or marked to prevent others from entering the training area without permission from the safety officer.
- E. Only weapons designed or converted to fire marking cartridges are allowed in the training area. Any such weapons must be clearly marked so that they are readily distinguishable from a live weapon.
- F. No live weapons or ammo are allowed in the training area. If there is a concern about officer safety from outside the training area, an armed patrol officer will be posted outside the training area.
- G. Students, role players, instructors, safety officers/controllers, and observers will be instructed to leave all firearms, ammo, magazines, knives, pepper spray, batons, tasers or other weapons secured outside the training area.
- H. All students, role players, instructors, safety officers/controllers and observers will be physically searched by the safety officer and one other person to ensure no live firearms, ammo, magazines, knives, etc., are present. When available, a hand-held magnetometer will also be utilized with each alarm being resolved by physically searching the area of the alarm.
- I. An area to distribute marking type weapons, munitions, and protective equipment will be established; no live weapons, ammo, magazines, or knives, etc., will be permitted in this area.
- J. The Training Safety Officer will be assigned to issue all specialty weapons, munitions, and protective equipment.
- K. Full face, neck, groin, and hand protection, including concealable body armor, long sleeve shirt or coat and pants will be worn by students and role players.
- L. Officer-in-Charge, Assistant Trainers, the Training Safety Officer, VIPs, observers, etc., will wear full-face protection and fluorescent vests.
- M. Observers who are protected behind glass or located behind the direction of movement and suspect engagement must wear eye protection.

- N. Hearing protection will be used by all participants if sound effects or other potentially hazardous devices are used such as Noise Flash Diversionary Devices (NFDD).
- O. A fire response plan will be explained if any pyrotechnics are used.
- P. Instructor will ensure the students and role players are familiar with the operation and use of specialty weapons, munitions, and protective equipment.
- Q. Emergency medical support and evacuation plan will be explained to all students and role players.
- R. The instructor will demonstrate proper weapons handling prior to the commencement of training.
- S. Students leaving and returning to the training area will report to the safety officer to have their persons searched.
- T. If a meal or any other type of break occurs, the search process will be repeated.

Approved: 03/05/07

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony Swindle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and "S".