I. POLICY

The firearms range serves as a key component in firearms training for sworn personnel. The operation of the range must be conducted in such a manner as to ensure the safety of the range users and the community at large.

Lead at the pistol range comes from the firing of small arms weapons during practice, training, and qualification exercises. Lead is a component of the primer charge and is contained in the projectile of most bullets. When a bullet is fired a lead fume is produced from the detonation of the primer and the ignition of the propellant charge against the exposed lead of the projectile. The fume contains a suspension of lead particles (lead oxide) which can be inhaled or settle outward, to contaminate other, nearby surfaces. The primary route of entry of lead is inhalation, with skin absorption and ingestion as other routes of entry.

Exposure to noise in excess of 90 dB (decibels) can cause physical damage to the ear. Exposure to about 120 dB can be painful, with damage to hearing being quick and certain. The sound level of a gunshot at close range is approximately 140 dB, equivalent to the noise from a jet plane. Overexposure to lead and noise has well known consequences.

It is, therefore, important that measures be taken to reduce or eliminate adverse occupational exposures and establish general control measures to reduce or eliminate lead and noise exposure below the Cal/OSHA PEL level.

II. PROCEDURE

A. Firearm Handling Rules

1. The firearm must be pointed in a safe direction at all times. The muzzle should be pointed towards the berm rather than in the air to minimize the possibility of a discharge traveling over the berm.

2. The trigger finger must be kept off the trigger and outside the trigger guard until ready to fire.

3. The firearm should be loaded and holstered at all times while on the range. Un-holstering the weapon is permitted during firearms training and while the weapon is being cleaned. Weapons shall only be loaded or unloaded at the designated safe area.
4. Weapons must never be purposely fired above a berm or barrier.

5. Appropriate eye and ear protection must be worn by all range attendees while weapons are being discharged.

6. Gunfire shall be directed only toward designated targets.

7. Firearms must always be handled and discharged in a safe manner.

8. Whenever personnel are down range, handguns must be holstered, and rifles or shotguns emptied with action open.

B. General Range Rules

1. Trainees shall obey all commands by the firearms instructor.

2. The designated firearms instructor shall be in charge of all training and use of firearms while at the range. Department supervisors and administrators are expected to support and assist the firearms instructor in their duties. The firearms instructor shall determine the number of firearms instructors to be present at any qualification or shoot. If in the opinion of the instructor there are not sufficient instructors present, the shoot shall be delayed or cancelled.

3. A firearms instructor must be present at the range at all times when firearms are discharged. An exception is permitted when a Watch Commander must oversee an urgent need to test fire or sight in a handgun.

4. The firearms instructor is responsible for ensuring that empty brass, used targets, and other debris is picked up prior to leaving the range.

5. Even in the hands of experienced professionals, the possession and discharge of firearms is inherently dangerous. No physical distractions (e.g., horseplay, taunting) are allowed at any time while on the range grounds.

6. Persons with any sign of mental or physical impairment will not be permitted entry to the range.

7. When circumstances dictate, any person on the range may call for a “Cease Fire.” All shooters must immediately comply.

8. Whenever firearms training, discharge, or explosive ordnance demolition occurs at the range, the duty dispatcher and watch commander must be advised in advance.

9. Fully automatic weapons may only be used at the range on Monday and Tuesday.

10. Metal targets can only be used on the special range, and must be placed up against the berm to prevent ricochet.

11. Students are required to wear or bring the following items to all range training;

   a. Boots or closed toe shoes.
   b. Long pants which are appropriate for kneeling or lying on rough surfaces.
   c. Long or short sleeve shirt (no red shirts are allowed).
   d. Ballistic vest.
   e. Full duty belt, weapon, and a minimum of 3 magazines.
f. Appropriate shooting glasses, eye glasses, sunglasses, goggles or other eyewear which is authorized by the supervising range instructor.

12. It is recommended students bring the following items.
   a. Suitable hat (no red hats are allowed).
   b. Sun block.
   c. Suitable gloves.

C. Administrative Rules

1. The Davis Police Department has contracted range services through the Yolo Sportsman’s Association on County Road 29 (662-2349).

2. The Range is available for Davis PD use 7 days a week from 0900-2100. The range is open to the public Wednesday through Sunday and to open to law enforcement agencies exclusively on Monday and Tuesday.

3. The range may reserved for Davis PD with advanced notice.

D. Lead Control Measures

1. Personnel are not permitted to eat or smoke within the range.

2. Personnel will be advised to wash their hands after leaving the range, and prior to eating or smoking.

3. Normally, no person should be required to shoot more than 300 rounds of ammunition in one day.

4. Personnel picking up brass and/or collecting projectiles from the berm may do so without use of respiratory protection. However, it is recommended that disposable latex medical exam gloves be used to protect hands, and disposable paper masks (3M, 8710) may be worn to protect mouths and noses.

5. All surfaces will be maintained as lead free as practicable by the firearms instructors.

6. If lead projectiles or primers are to be used, instructors will ensure soap and water will be available to personnel training or qualifying at the range so they may wash.

E. Noise Control Measures

1. All personnel present at the pistol range will be provided with, and must wear a hearing protector with a noise reduction rating of at least 21 dB when firearms are being discharged.

2. Hearing protectors will be worn with the seal between the muff and head fitting tight.

3. The firearms instructors will be responsible for the cleaning, care, and storage of hearing protectors so as to ensure they are serviceable.

F. Medical Surveillance

1. All firearms instructors will be provided a blood test at the time of assignment, and annually thereafter, to monitor the relative level of lead exposure.
2. It shall be the responsibility of the Department Firearms Instructor to ensure the appropriate blood tests are scheduled.

3. All sworn personnel will be provided an annual hearing test, a copy of which will be provided the member.

4. Lead and hearing test results will be maintained by human resources in member medical files.

Darren Pytel  
Police Chief  
9/92

Rev. 9/93  
1/99  
10/99  
6/00  
12/00 (PP 1.20-C Lead/Noise Exposure deleted and added to this policy)

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