



Colorado Springs Police Department Standing Operating Procedure

DL-1530-10 Accidental Discharges of Service Weapons

Section 1500 – Police Equipment

Effective Date: 11/18/2025

Supersedes Date: 5/6/2024

.01 Purpose

To purpose of this procedure is to specify the process for investigating incidents in which department personnel accidentally discharge a service firearm.

.02 Cross Reference

[GO 600 Complaints and Internal Investigations](#)

[GO 1530 Firearms Regulations](#)

[DL-600-01 Allegations of Employee Misconduct](#)

[DL-1840-01 Call Out Criteria for the Investigations Division](#)

[DL-1840-04 Call Out Criteria for Internal Affairs](#)

.03 Definitions

Accidental Discharge (AD): An unintentional discharge of a service firearm, whether on duty or off duty. This terminology does not include accidental discharges involving a firearm other than a service firearm.

Service Firearm: Firearms issued by CSPD and those authorized by CSPD for on duty use.

.04 Policy

An accidental discharge (AD) may be the result of a weapon malfunction, carelessness, or other factors. The response to an AD may vary dependent on whether the employee was on duty or off duty at the time of the AD, the location at which it occurred, as well as whether any injuries occurred. After summoning medical attention (if necessary), employees will immediately report the AD to an on-duty supervisor.

Additional Notifications

The supervisor receiving notification of an AD will immediately notify the duty lieutenant. As soon as practical, the duty lieutenant will ensure the internal affairs section is notified of all accidental discharges, regardless of time of occurrence, injuries, criminal charges, venue, etc.

The duty lieutenant will notify the on-call Staff Duty Officer (SDO), if after hours, or the involved officer's chain of command during regular business hours. Regardless of time of day, either the SDO or the involved officer's division commander will arrange for the dissemination of a command staff page. This notification can be accomplished through the Communications Center. If this occurs after hours or on weekends, the SDO will ensure that the involved employees division commander is notified.

Investigative Responses to Accidental Discharges

Incidents Occurring in the City of Colorado Springs Jurisdiction (Non-Qualification/Training Related)

The duty lieutenant will assign a sergeant to respond to the scene to oversee the initial patrol response. This process will include assessing the circumstances surrounding the AD and the extent of any injuries.

AD incidents that do not result in injury or death and with no indication of a crime, other than unlawful discharge, or reckless endangerment having been committed, will be the responsibility of the responding supervisor. Nothing in this procedure precludes the supervisor from requesting assistance from the Homicide Unit if the incident is complex, or otherwise warrants a specialized response.

AD incidents resulting in injury, death, or that could include a criminal element requires notification to the on-call Homicide Unit who will be responsible for conducting these investigations. Internal Affairs personnel will respond as well.

If the employee was working in an official police capacity at the time of the AD that resulted in injury or death, whether on or off duty, the investigation will be completed by the Deadly Force Investigation Team (DFIT). Representatives from the Homicide Unit will coordinate a DFIT response for these purposes.

Incidents Occurring Outside the City of Colorado Springs Jurisdiction (Non-Qualification/Training Related)

For any AD that occurs outside the jurisdiction of Colorado Springs, the duty lieutenant will ensure the agency with jurisdiction has been notified, in addition to the other required notifications. At

the duty lieutenant's discretion, an on-duty supervisor may respond to the employee's location to coordinate with the other jurisdiction.

AD investigations resulting in injury, death, or that could include a criminal element requires notification to the on-call Homicide Unit.

Incidents Occurring at an Authorized Firearms Range, During Qualification or Training

An AD that takes place at a CSPD authorized firearms range during a qualification/training course of fire will be assessed by the range master/firearms instructor overseeing the qualification/training. If the AD does not result in injury or death and there is no indication of a crime having been committed, the incident will be handled in accordance with the current range policy and procedures.

If the AD resulted in injury or death or there is an indication a crime has been committed, the previously mentioned procedures will be followed.

Accidental Discharge Investigative Procedures

Patrol Level Investigation

AD investigations must include an assessment of the following factors:

- Alcohol and/or drug involvement
- The role, if any, of recklessness, carelessness, or negligence
- The functionality of the involved weapon

If neither the DFIT, nor the CSPD Homicide Unit respond to an AD based on initial information, the responding supervisor is responsible for ensuring a thorough investigation into the incident is conducted.

Reporting Processes

If it appears that no crime was committed by the AD, the investigation will be documented in an incident report. If the elements of a crime are present, the incident will be documented in an offense report.

In situations where a criminal investigation is initiated, the on-call internal affairs supervisor must be notified of the situation as a POST notification may be mandated.

Required BlueTeam Reporting

The responding supervisor will initiate a Level 1 or Level 2 case in BlueTeam and attach a memo outlining the events. If a supervisor does not respond to the scene, the supervisor receiving the notification will initiate the personnel investigation. The investigation will proceed per [DL-600-01 Allegations of Employee Misconduct](#), to include review up through the employee's deputy chief regardless whether it is a Level 1 or 2.