

AUTHORIZED WEAPONS

EAST BRIDGEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT

EAST BRIDGEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT			
	POLICY & PROCEDURE		Section: 400.4.06
	Subject: Authorized Weapons		
	Effective: 4/19/2015	Reviewed: 06/13/2018, 04/24/2022 Revised: 03/18/2020, 04/01/2021, 01/23/2023; 02/29/2024; 12/01/2024; 02/19/2026	
C.A.L.E.A. Standards Referenced:		M.P.A.C. Standards Referenced: 1.1.0; 1.1.4; 1.1.9; 1.1.10; 1.1.11; 1.1.12; 1.1.13	
Issuing Authority: Chief Michael E. Jenkins			

I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS AND GUIDELINES

Police officers in Massachusetts are authorized to carry and use a variety of weapons. G.L. c. 41, s. 98, for example, permits officers to carry firearms as authorized by the Chief of Police. While no statute addresses the possession and use of other weapons by officers, court decisions make it clear that the Chief may both authorize and regulate such activities. **[1.1.0]**

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the department to:

- A. Require that all officers shall only carry firearms, ammunition and other weapons that are authorized by the department, and
- B. Require that all officers be properly trained, and certified when appropriate, in the use of any authorized firearms or other

weapons before being authorized to carry or use such weapons.
[1.1.10]

III. PROCEDURES

A. Firearms

1. DRAWING OR DISPLAYING: An officer shall avoid the unnecessary display of firearms and not draw a firearm except when there is justification for its use to accomplish a proper police purpose. However, in responding to any potentially dangerous situation (e.g., searching a building pursuant to a burglar alarm or approaching a business establishment on a report of a robbery in progress etc.) the officer should carry his/her firearm in a position that will facilitate its speedy, effective, and safe use. Officers shall not point firearms at persons in circumstances that are clearly unjustifiable.

2. Permissible Weapons and Ammunition

- a. Officers shall only carry firearms, ammunition, holsters and ammo carriers and other lethal and non-lethal weapons issued or authorized by the department while on duty.

NOTE: Officers shall only carry their issued service weapon while on duty unless authorized by the Chief of Police to carry a different weapon.

- b. The following weapons and ammunition are authorized for Administrative Personnel, Patrol Officers, and Detectives; [1.1.9(a)(b)]
 - (i) Sig Sauer 320 Pro Carry and Sig Sauer 320 Pro Full-size and Streamlight TLR-1 or TLR-7 rail mounted flashlight with Federal HST or similar 9mm 147 grain ammunition (Issued to all sworn Personnel)
 - a. The Streamlight TLR-7 or TLR-1 rail mounted flashlight may be mounted to the Officer's issued Sig Sauer 320 Pro Carry and Sig Sauer 320 Pro Full-size and 9mm Federal

HST 147 grain ammunition on uniformed patrol duty including detail assignments;

- (ii) Sig Sauer 320 Pro Full-Size w/Streamlight TLR-1 and 9mm Federal HST 147 grain ammunition (Issued to SEMLEC SWAT personnel);
 - (iii) Sig P365XL in 9mm with Romeo Elite red dot with option of mounting a Streamlight TLR6 weapons light and 9mm Federal HST 147 grain ammunition for Administrative personnel and detectives
 - (iv) Colt, Windham Arms, Bushmaster AR15 or Sig 400 series rifle and Sig Romeo red dot sight, Aimpoint red dot sight or Trijicon red dot sight with Federal 62 grain bonded, Federal 55 grain Nosler or similar .223 caliber 55 grain ammunition;
 - (v) Remington 870 gauge Less Than Lethal Shotgun with Def-Tec or similar Bean Bag round;
 - (vi) Mossberg 500 12 gauge Less Than Lethal Shotgun with Def-Tec or similar Bean Bag round;
 - (vii) Penn Arms 40mm Launcher with “CTS” or similar baton rounds
 - (viii) Taser 7 Taser Energy Weapon with Close Quarters and stand Off Cartridges
 - (ix) Monadnock Auto-lock expandable or straight Baton; or ASP expandable baton 21”-26”
 - (x) SABRE OC Spray 5% Electronic Weapon Compatible
- c. In addition to the weapons listed in the preceding Officers assigned to SEMLEC SWAT will also be authorized to utilize;

- (i) Remington Model 700 chambered in 308 Win with Scope and Federal 168 grain BTHP or 165 grain bonded soft point
 - d. An officer shall not alter or modify Department firearms or ammunition in any way without the express permission of the Chief of Police.

NOTE: Under Massachusetts General Laws a police officer may carry within the Commonwealth such weapons as the Chief of Police shall determine. **[1.1.0 – Legal Authority to Carry and Use Weapons]**
 - e. While on-duty, for law enforcement responsibilities, an officer may only carry firearms and ammunition authorized by the department for which the officer has been qualified. (This will not apply to hunting or target practice.) **[1.1.9(a)(b)]**
 - f. All on-duty weapons shall be reviewed, inspected and approved by a qualified weapons instructor or Armorer prior to carrying. **[1.1.9(c)]**
 - g. If any weapon is deemed inoperable or unsafe it shall be immediately removed from service, tagged as such, and placed unloaded in the armory. The Training Sergeant and armorer shall be notified for repair or replacement. **[1.1.9(d)]**
 - h. The Chief or his/her designee shall maintain a list of each weapon approved for official use. **[1.1.9(e)]**
 - i. The Training Sergeant shall maintain a log for each weapon that is owned by the department, and all personally owned off-duty weapons that are authorized. This log should list the make, model, serial number, name of officer assigned, and condition of weapon. **[1.1.9(c)(e)]**
3. PROTECTION OF WEAPONS: Members of the department shall take all reasonable precautions to ensure that weapons issued to them by the department are protected from loss, misuse, or theft. **(See attached procedure “Security of Firearms” [1.1.9(f)]**

4. CONDITION OF WEAPONS: Officers are responsible for keeping their issued weapons clean and in good working order. A weapon that malfunctions shall be returned to the Training Sergeant forthwith.
5. Training and Qualification
 - a. All officers shall qualify with their issued service weapon(s) and any other weapon they are authorized to carry while on or off-duty and receive in-service training on the department's *Use of Force* policy at least annually. **[1.1.10], [1.1.11(a) – All sections of 1.1.11 include Annual Training of Lethal Weapons/Firearms and Electronic Control Devices (ECD's)]**
 - b. Qualifications shall be under the direction of a certified firearms instructor, this training will be annually conducted and documented. **[1.1.11(a)]**
 - c. Following a reasonable period of practice and training, all officers must qualify in accordance with the standards established by the Municipal Police Training Committee in order to be authorized to carry such weapon. **[1.1.10]**
 - d. Following a reasonable period of practice and training, Officers who fail to qualify with their service weapon(s) shall be denied permission to carry such weapon. The officers will receive additional instruction and will be given a reasonable amount of time to qualify while assigned to administrative duty, if available. After a reasonable amount of re-training, officers unable to qualify with their service weapon may be subject to termination from the Police Department. **[1.1.11(c)]**
 - e. Qualification shall include an inspection of any firearm used by the officer to ensure that it is in good working condition. **[1.1.9(c)]**
 - f. No member of this Department will be authorized to carry a firearm, less lethal weapon, or any new type of firearm or less lethal weapon until [s]he has: **[1.1.13]**
 - i. Been issued a copy of the department's *Use of Force* policy, received instruction on same; and

- ii. Qualified at the range or been certified in its use.
 - g. Weapons training, proficiency results, and issuance of any training in the *Use of Force* policy and any accompanying documents shall be documented and maintained by the Training Sergeant. **[1.1.10] [1.1.11(b)] [1.1.13]**
6. Off-Duty Weapon
- a. While off-duty, for law enforcement responsibilities, an officer may only carry firearms and ammunition authorized by the department for which the officer has been qualified. (This will not apply to hunting or target practice.) **[1.1.9(a)(b)] [1.1.10]**
7. Out-of-State Travel
- a. **Qualified East Bridgewater Police Department Officers** traveling in other states, whether on or off duty, may carry their department-issued firearm, concealed, under the authority of 18 United States Code 926B subject to the following conditions:
 - i. The officer must carry their East Bridgewater Police Department photo ID card.
 - ii. Private persons or entities may prohibit or restrict the possession of concealed firearms on their own property.
 - iii. State and local governments may prohibit or restrict the possession of firearms on any state or local government property, installation, building, base or park.
 - iv. The officer must be one who is authorized by law to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation or prosecution of, or the incarceration of any person for any violation of law and must have statutory powers of arrest. **Only sworn police officers of the East Bridgewater Police Department satisfy this definition.**

-
- v. The officer must be authorized by their agency to carry a firearm.
 - vi. The officer must not be the subject of any disciplinary action.
 - vii. The officer must meet the department's firearms qualification standards.
 - viii. The officer must not be under the influence of alcohol or any other intoxicant or substance.
 - ix. The officer must not be prohibited by federal law from receiving a firearm. An example of this type of disqualification would be a past misdemeanor conviction that prohibited an officer from being issued a License to Carry Firearms. Such an officer could carry a firearm on-duty within the Commonwealth under the provisions of MGL Chapter 40 Section 98 but could not carry a firearm out of state under 18 USC 926B.
- b. Under Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations, firearms may not be carried in the cabin of commercial aircraft except under the following circumstances:
- i. The officer must be authorized to fly armed by their agency.
 - ii. The officer must be a sworn law enforcement officer.
 - iii. There must be a demonstrable need to fly armed. Examples include:
 - 1. Protective escort.
 - 2. Hazardous surveillance.
 - 3. Detainee escort.
 - 4. Law enforcement officer on official travel required to report to another location armed and immediately prepared for duty.

- iv. The officer must have completed the FAA Law Enforcement Officer Flying Armed Training Program. Officers anticipating a need to fly armed for official business should contact the Training Sergeant to arrange to receive this training.
 - v. The officer must carry credentials showing a clear, full-face photograph, the officer's signature and an official agency seal or agency head signature. The East Bridgewater Police Department photo ID card satisfies these requirements.
- c. Under FAA regulations firearms may be transported in checked baggage under certain circumstances. Airlines may have further restrictions. It is always best to resolve any questions prior to arrival at the airport.

B. Special Weapons

1. Only issued or approved equipment will be carried on duty and used when applying any level of deadly or non-deadly force. **[1.1.9(a)]**
2. Patrol rifles will be issued to specific cruisers.
3. Each Patrol Supervisor and Patrol Officer assigned to patrol shift will check their cruiser for a patrol rifle and/or shotgun prior to the beginning of their tour of duty, provided their assigned patrol vehicle has a proper locking device installed.
4. When not carried in the patrol vehicle on routine patrol, special weapons will only be issued with the knowledge and permission of the officer-in-charge of the police station, and only to officers who have qualified with them.
 - a. All officers authorized to use any of the department's special weapons will qualify with the weapon(s) they are authorized to use, in accordance with the standards established by the Municipal Police Training Committee, the manufacturer, or the department's Firearms Instructor, at least annually. **[1.1.11]**

-
5. When special weapons are issued, **it is the responsibility of a police officer not to accept a special weapon unless [s]he is qualified in its use.**
 6. The requirements for the use of deadly force must be met for the use of special weapons (i.e., patrol rifle/shotgun) exactly as they must be for any other firearm.
 7. The following guidelines for deployment of special weapons such as patrol rifles and shotguns are not all-inclusive, and the final judgment rests with the officer on the scene. However, the following points should be kept in mind:
 - a. An officer holding a patrol rifle/shotgun cannot keep secure hold of the shotgun to either fire or prevent a gun grab while performing any of the following tasks:
 - Opening a door
 - Using a radio
 - Using a flashlight
 - Applying handcuffs
 - Struggling with a suspect
 - Searching a suspect, etc.
 - b. Therefore, the officer should take the above limitations into consideration when taking the patrol rifle/shotgun from the cruiser if he or she is alone.
 - c. The patrol rifle/shotgun is of little use, however, when left in the cruiser. The patrol rifle/shotgun may be deployed on the following types of calls:
 - Shots fired
 - Person with gun
 - Burglary in progress
 - Robbery in progress
 - Any other situation where the officers have reason to believe they may be facing armed suspects
 - d. As with any firearm, special weapons (patrol rifle/shotgun) are not to be deployed simply for their intimidating effect.
-

- e. The deployment of a patrol rifle/shotgun during a building search must be done with extreme caution, as close quarters may hinder its speedy use.
- f. Patrol rifles and shotguns, by virtue of their size, are high-visibility firearms and their deployment may cause public comment or criticism. If the officer has reason to believe a special weapon (patrol rifle/shotgun) may be needed, he or she must place the safety of themselves, other officers, and the public as a whole first.

9. Police Shotguns:

- a. Shotguns will be issued to specific cruisers.
- b. The shotgun will only be loaded or unloaded outside the station and with less-lethal beanbag type ammunition.
- c. The shotgun will be loaded outside the station by closing the action on an EMPTY chamber, ensuring the safety is ON, and then placing an appropriate number of beanbag shotgun shells in the magazine. The shotgun will then be secured in the cruiser rack.
- d. Under no circumstances will the shotgun be placed in a cruiser rack with a round chambered.
- e. In the event the shotgun is removed during the tour of duty the officer will ensure the chamber is empty and it has been returned to the cruiser transport condition before returning it to the cruiser rack.
- f. **Under no circumstances will the shotgun be unloaded by cycling the rounds through the chamber**, as this increases the risk of an accidental discharge and damages the rounds through contact with the magazine stops, extractor, and ejector.
- g. **All cruisers with a shotgun must be locked when unattended.**

- h. The shotgun may be used with less-lethal beanbag ammunition only.

10. Patrol Rifles

- a. The patrol rifle provides a large ammunition capacity and a high-powered cartridge in a tactical situation where police officers are facing armed suspects.
- b. The patrol rifle provides the ability to deliver accurate aimed fire at distances greater than could be achieved with any other firearm.
- c. Patrol rifles will be locked in the cruiser within the locking rack.
- d. When outside the station the officer may insert a loaded magazine into the magazine well after the bolt has been closed on an empty chamber with the Chamber Blocking Device installed and may not chamber a round unless the weapon is being readied for use. The patrol rifle will then be secured in the cruiser rack.
- e. Under no circumstances will the patrol rifle be placed in a cruiser rack with a round chambered. In the event the patrol rifle is deployed during an officer's tour of duty, before the patrol rifle is returned to the cruiser rack it should be inspected to ensure the chamber is empty with the Chamber Blocking Device installed and the safety is on.
- f. A round will only be chambered when there is a need for it to accomplish a proper police purpose.
- g. If the patrol rifle is returned to the station it will again be inspected to ensure that it is unloaded. It may then be returned to the gun locker, unloaded. This will only be done if the cruiser is being sent for maintenance.
- h. A cruiser with a patrol rifle must be locked when left unattended.

- i. Considering your backstop is even greater importance with the patrol rifle than with any other firearm as the patrol rifle's ammunition has a significantly extended range.

Use of the Patrol Rifle Chamber Blocking Device

The Chamber Blocking Device allows the patrol rifle to be carried with a magazine inserted in the magazine well and an empty chamber. It allows for the patrol rifle to be visually identifiable as a firearm with an unloaded chamber.

To insert the Chamber Blocking Device:

- Ensure the safety is engaged
- Point the muzzle in a safe direction
- Clear the rifle of all ammunition by removing the magazine. THEN inspect the firing chamber both visually and by touch to ensure no rounds are chambered.
- Lock the bolt to the rear
- Insert the long leg of the Chamber Blocking Device through the ejection port and into the firing chamber.
- **CAUTION** If the long leg does not go all the way into the chamber it may indicate the presence of a live round, empty case or some other blockage in the chamber.
- Gently release the bolt against the Chamber Blocking Device so that it is held firmly in place.
- A magazine may now be inserted in the magazine well
- Do not insert the Chamber Blocking Device into an extremely hot firing chamber, as this may cause it to melt, rendering the rifle inoperative.
- This device is not designed for use with the shotgun

To ready the patrol rifle for use

- Take the rifle from the locking rack
- Lock the bolt carrier group to the rear
- Pull the Chamber Blocking device from the patrol rifle
- To chamber a round, retract the charging handle fully to the rear and release or use the bolt catch release on the left side of the rifle

Rifle Magazine

The Patrol Rifle is deployed with 20 or 30 round magazines. All 20 round magazines will be filled with 18rds of ammunition and all 30 round

magazines will be filled with 28 rounds. This will allow for spring tension proper seating and extend the service life of the magazines.

C. Authorized Use of Less-Lethal Weapons [1.1.4]

1. The Department has authorized Department issued OC (pepper spray) and Department issued batons as non-lethal weapons. **[1.1.9(a)]**
2. All officers shall be properly trained and certified when appropriate, in the use of any non-lethal weapons (such as batons or chemical substances, Tasers, Bean bags) before being authorized to carry such weapons and at least biennially thereafter. **[1.1.10] [1.1.12]**
3. (OC) Pepper Spray **[1.1.4]**
 - a. Pepper spray (steam or foam 5 %non-alcohol based) may be used to:
 - i. Protect an officer or other person from an assault;
 - ii. Subdue a person who resists arrest; or
 - iii. Control persons engaged in riotous or violent conduct.
 - b. Whenever practical and reasonable, officers should issue a verbal warning prior to using pepper spray.
 - c. It is preferred that chemical substances not be used if resistance is minor and not hazardous, or if a lesser degree of force would reasonably achieve the same end.

NOTE: No tactical advantage is realized by indiscriminate use of pepper spray against non-combative persons.
 - d. Once the person is incapacitated or restrained, the use of pepper spray is no longer justified.

- e. Pepper spray is not intended to be a substitute for other weapons in situations in which the use of other weapons is more appropriate.
- f. The officer will file the appropriate reports whenever [s]he uses pepper spray.

4. Police Baton **[1.1.4]**

- a. A department issued or authorized Police Baton 21” to 26” may be used:
 - i. As a restraining or come-along tool in instances where verbalization and physical strength have failed or would obviously be futile;
 - ii. As a defensive weapon to ward off blows;
 - iii. As a defensive weapon to deliver disabling blows to non-vital areas of the body as a means to halt or deter a subject when all lesser means of applying non-deadly force have failed or would obviously be futile. An officer is justified in using this type of force under the following circumstances:
 - [a] To overcome the violent resistance of an arrestee;
 - [b] To overcome an assault on an officer or a third party; or
 - [c] To deter persons engaged in riotous or violent conduct.
- b. Auto Lock Police batons will be closed in the following manner:
 - i. By pressing the Auto Lock button on the Baton Cap

AND

 - ii. Pushing the Power Safety Tip towards the Baton Cap with the opposite hand

NOTE: Officers will not “push” or “strike” the Power Safety Tip of the Baton against any object (property, ground, or other equipment) to close the Baton.

- b. Any time the police baton is used to strike a person, or a subject is injured when applying a takedown or come-along hold, the appropriate reports must be completed.

5. Electronic Weapon (Taser) [1.1.4]

The Electronic Weapon (EW) deployed with probes is generally analogous to the use of a baton on the Totality triangle, and may be used on an assaultive individual. The decision to use the EW involves the same basic justification (in accordance with ***Electronic Control Weapons***). As such, it is **forbidden** to use the device as follows:

- a. In a punitive or coercive manner.
- b. On a handcuffed or secured Detainee, absent overtly assaultive behavior that cannot be reasonably dealt with in any other less intrusive fashion.
- c. On any suspect who does not demonstrate an overt intention (1) to actively resist the officer’s lawful actions, or (2) to flee in order to resist or avoid detention or arrest (in cases where officers would pursue on foot).
- d. In any environment where an officer knows that a potentially flammable, volatile, or explosive material is present (including but not limited to OC spray with volatile propellant, gasoline, natural gas, or propane.)
- e. In any environment where the subject’s fall could reasonably result in death (such as in water or on an elevated structure.)

6. Specialty Impact Weapon Systems [1.1.4]

- a. The use of the 12 Gauge Specialty Impact Weapon and the Penn Arms GL1-40mm Launcher (GL1-40) is

generally analogous to the use of the baton on the Totality triangle, and may be used on an assaultive individual. The decision to use a Special Impact Weapon involves the same basic justification (in accordance with departmental policy on ***Less Lethal Impact Weapons***)

7. Flash Sound Distraction Devices (FSDD)/Noise Flash Distraction Devices (NFDD) **[1.1.4]**
 - a. The department authorizes the use of “CTS” NFDD/FSDD devices by designated SWAT Officers trained in their use.
 - b. These devices create a bright flash and a loud report designed to create a tactical advantage by diverting the attention of persons in the immediate vicinity.
 - c. These devices will be employed by sighted delivery, with awareness for associated hazards.
8. Chemical Agents **[1.1.4]**
 - a. The department authorizes the use of handheld and 40mm launchable OC/CS and smoke by designated SWAT Officers trained in their use.
9. Other Less-Lethal Weapons
 - a. If any other non-lethal weapons are authorized, a policy on their use shall be prepared.

D. Less-Lethal Weapons

In addition to demonstrating proficiency as required elsewhere in this policy, officers shall receive in-service training on the department’s Use of Force policy at least annually regarding deadly force and at least biennially concerning non-deadly force. **[1.1.12, 1.1.11]**

E. Security of Firearms [1.1.9(f)]



TOWN OF EAST BRIDGEWATER POLICE DEPARTMENT

Security of firearms and Tasers

Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 140 (Firearms Laws) Section 131L makes it unlawful to store or keep any firearm, shotgun or other weapon "in any place" without ensuring first that the weapon is secured in:

- 1.) a locked container, or
- 2.) secured with a tamper-resistant mechanical lock or other safety device.

The safety device must render the weapon inoperable by any person other than the owner or other authorized user.

Violations of this section of the law are punishable as follows:

Firearm, rifle or shotgun (not large-capacity) – Fine of not less than \$5000 or by imprisonment for not more than one year.

Large-capacity weapon or machine gun – Fine of not less than \$1000 nor more than \$10,000 or by imprisonment for not less than one year nor more than ten years or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Additional penalties are provided for unlawful storage of weapons when they are kept where individuals under the age of eighteen might gain access and who do not possess a valid Firearms Identification Card. This section carries up to ten years imprisonment.

Failure to properly secure the weapon in the manner provided by statute shall constitute evidence of wanton or reckless conduct in any civil or criminal proceeding. It shall be unlawful to store or keep any stun gun in any place unless such weapon is secured in a locked container accessible only to the owner or other lawfully authorized user. **THERE IS NO LAW-ENFORCEMENT EXEMPTION TO THIS SECTION OF THE LAW.**

Therefore, officers of this department who leave their issued duty weapons in their locked police station locker are in compliance with the statute. Officers who carry and store their duty weapons at home must adhere to the requirements of this section of the law.

Each officer will be issued a Firearm Safety Lock that can be used when storing the officer's duty weapon.

Appendix A. [Department Issued Approved Firearms List](#)