


Fort Collins Police Services

Policy Manual

 FORT COLLINS POLICE	POLICY	432
	TITLE	Agency-Issued Rifles

432.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

To more effectively and accurately address the increasing level of firepower and body armor utilized by criminal suspects, the Agency will make patrol rifles available to qualified officer as an additional and more immediate tactical resource.

The rifle is a precision firearm deployed when it becomes necessary to engage a threat that is utilizing a barricade, equipped with body armor, at a distance that prohibits other weapon systems, or any other situation where a high velocity precision firearm is needed.

432.2 POLICY

This Policy is subordinate to Policy 312 – Firearms.

All sworn officers below the rank of lieutenant shall carry an Agency-issued rifle and shall successfully complete an Agency-approved training class as outlined in this policy. Sworn officers shall qualify on an approved qualification course and by the standards set forth in this policy prior to approval to carry the rifle. Lieutenants who choose to carry an Agency-issued rifle must adhere to the same standards of training and qualification as all other officers.

- (a) Only Agency-issued rifles shall be carried in an official capacity.
- (b) Make, type, caliber, sights, accessories, and all other options for the rifle will be determined by the Agency.
- (c) Agency-issued rifles shall not be altered from factory specifications, nor accessories added to any rifle issued by the Agency, except as authorized in writing by the Firearms Training Unit (FTU) Coordinator.

432.2.1 DEFINITIONS

See Policy 107 – Definitions.

432.3 RIFLE MAINTENANCE

- (a) Primary responsibility for maintenance of Agency-issued rifles shall fall on the officer to whom the rifle is assigned.
- (b) Each patrol officer carrying an Agency-issued rifle is required to field strip and clean the assigned rifle as needed.
- (c) Each patrol officer shall be responsible for promptly reporting any damage or malfunction of an assigned Agency-issued rifle to a supervisor and the Firearms Training Unit.
- (d) Any Agency-issued rifle found to be defective or outside of operational standards shall also be clearly identified as non-serviceable, including details regarding the problem condition.
- (e) Each Agency-issued rifle shall be subject to inspection by a supervisor or a firearms instructor at any time.

POLICY	453
TITLE	Agency-Issued Rifles

- (f) All rifles that are the property of the Agency shall be repaired or modified by an Agency armorer for that system.

432.4 TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION

- (a) All police officers assigned to Agency-issued rifle will receive a minimum of 40 hours of training prior to being authorized to carry it. This training will be provided by the Firearms Training Unit.
- (b) The FTU will offer ongoing, live-fire, in-service training to all police officers at least three times per year on their issued rifle. This training will be in addition to any simulated ammunition exercises or non-firing manipulation training that officers receive during the year. This training is mandatory for all sworn officers that are issued a rifle unless excused by their immediate supervisor.
- (c) The FTU shall keep on file lesson plans, instructor and student manuals, and syllabuses for all approved rifle training including Skills Academy, initial training on rifles, in-service training, and remedial training currently in use by the Agency.
- (d) All rifle operators will conform to Policy 312 – Firearms regarding qualification and non-qualification.

432.5 DEPLOYMENT OF THE AGENCY-ISSUED RIFLE

Use of the Agency-issued rifle at a tactical situation is at the discretion of the officer and in accordance with approved Agency training. The rifle is also deployed at the discretion of the incident supervisor who may control the deployment of rifles as dictated by the situation. Whenever possible, officers deploying a rifle will notify other officers and supervisors on scene of the deployment.

432.6 DISCHARGE OF THE AGENCY-ISSUED RIFLE

The discharge of the Agency-issued rifle shall be governed by Policy 312 – Firearms, and Policy 301 – Response to Resistance Reporting and Review.

432.7 CRUISER READY

Any qualified officer carrying an Agency-issued rifle in the field shall maintain the weapon in a cruiser ready condition until deployed. A rifle is considered in a cruiser ready condition when it has been inspected by the assigned officer and is prepared as follows:

- (a) Chamber empty,
- (b) Action closed,
- (c) Safety on,
- (d) Magazine loaded with Agency-approved ammunition, and
- (e) Sight system turned off.

432.8 RIFLE STORAGE

- (a) When carried in an Agency vehicle, the rifle shall be stored in a rifle lock in a cruiser ready condition.
- (b) If a rifle lock is unavailable, the rifle must be carried in a hard side case, it shall be made cruiser ready, and the case shall be:

POLICY	453
TITLE	Agency-Issued Rifles

1. Secured in an Agency-approved method to include rifle locks, vaults, or hard side cases. Hard side cases must be securely attached to the vehicle in the cargo area of a van or SUV or inside the trunk of a sedan.
 2. In the case of a van, SUV, or similar vehicle, the hard side rifle case must be secured to the inside of the vehicle by the use of a cable, chain, or other secure attachment.
 3. When the rifle is removed from the vehicle, it shall remain in the possession of an officer at all times.
 4. A loaded rifle shall not be stored outside the rifle lock or hard side case as described above, unless in an Agency-approved area or manner.
 5. For the purposes of transportation of firearms, an FTU member may transport one or more firearms in a case(s) in an Agency vehicle without having the cases secured by a cable, chain, etc. The firearms must never be left unattended in the vehicle and will remain cleared of any and all ammunition throughout the transportation.
- (c) When not assigned, Agency-issued rifles will be stored in the Agency armory in rifle racks.
- (d) The rifle shall be removed from the vehicle when the vehicle is delivered to the Service Center or any other facility for service or repair.
- (e) An Agency-issued rifle shall not be stored outside of a rifle lock or hard side case as described above, unless in an Agency approved area or manner.