

	Greenville, SC Police Department GENERAL ORDER		
	Subject Firearms and Weapons	Number 201A21	Type Operational
Effective Date 6/12/2025	Amends/ Rescinds 201A20	Pages 1 of 13	Re-evaluation Annual-January
References CALEA 1.2.2; 4.2.1; 4.3.1; 4.3.2; 4.3.3; 4.3.4			Notes Crowd Management definition updated. Sections 5.2, 5.2.2, 6.6.1, 10, 15.1.2, 15.1.3, 16.1, 16.3 updated or added wording. Section 13.3 removed redundant with 13.2.

1.0 POLICY

The Greenville Police Department will adequately equip officers with firearms and weapons necessary to safely and effectively perform their duties. Officers will be provided with guidelines and training necessary to ensure proficient use of firearms and weapons and the ability to make decisions regarding their use under stressful and volatile situations.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

Back-Up Weapon: A Department approved or issued secondary handgun carried by an officer in a concealed manner while on-duty, or while working a uniformed off-duty assignment. A back-up weapon provides a secondary lethal force option in the event the officer's primary firearm is disabled or is unable to be accessed.

Cartridge: The replaceable cartridge of the TASER Energy Weapon which contains and expels the probe(s).

TASER Energy Weapon: A device which is designed to temporarily incapacitate through the delivery of electrical pulses that disrupt neuro-muscular rhythm and control. The TASER is intended to cause an uncontrollable contraction of the muscle tissue, temporarily incapacitating the targeted subject.

Crowd Management: Tactics used by the agency to protect life and property and restore law and order during large-scale disturbances. Tactics may include a show of force, road or area blockades, and crowd dispersal, which may involve the use of less lethal munitions and/or chemical agents.

The department uses crowd management agents that are non-lethal irritants, impact, or tearing agents used for crowd management. Most commonly used crowd management agents are: OC, Pepperball, smoke and various kinds of tear gas. These chemicals provide a stimulus to vacate the area where they are deployed.

Discharge: The firing of a weapon.

Kinetic Energy Weapon: A less-lethal projectile weapon which is not intended to cause lethal injury. These types of weapons may be munitions designed to be fired from a conventional firearm, such as a shotgun, or from a specialized weapon made for this purpose.

Oleoresin Capsicum (OC): A substance made from the resin of hot pepper plants. The pepper resin causes irritation resulting in heavy tear flow, involuntary closing of the eyes, intense burning sensation, and heavy mucus production in the nose and throat.

Off-Duty Weapon: A Department approved or issued handgun carried in a concealed manner by an officer who is not engaged in work for the GPD or working an off-duty law enforcement assignment.

3.0 **FIREARMS (ALL)**

All Firearms are subject to the following guidelines. Specific requirements unique to a specific platform, shall be noted in subsequent sections.

- 3.1 Officers of the Greenville Police Department will carry only Department approved firearms.
- 3.2 Firearms issued by the city will be approved and authorized by the Chief of Police or his/her designee.
- 3.3 All Department issued firearms will be maintained in their original form, except as authorized by the chief of police or his/her designee. Any repairs, adjustments or changes will be made by a certified armorer, and documented on the "Duty Issued Weapon Modification – Repair Report."
- 3.4 Any modifications to personally owned weapons, carried in any official capacity, will be at minimum, inspected by a department armorer to ensure proper function. For weapons, which the armorer is not certified on, the standard shall be a proper function test. Any modifications to the



weapon's firing mechanism shall require prior approval and require the officer to complete a new qualification conducted by a firearms instructor.

- 3.5 Officers must qualify with each firearm that they carry, whether in an on-duty or off-duty capacity. Qualification must be conducted by a department authorized instructor, prior to carrying the weapon.
 - 3.5.1 All personnel authorized to carry weapons intended for use of force application will receive training on their use from the perspective of practical application and on the agency's force policies prior to carrying the weapon.
 - 3.5.2 If an officer fails to meet annual qualification standards with a firearm other than the officer's primary duty weapon, authorization to carry that firearm is revoked.
 - 3.5.3 Failure to qualify with the officer's primary duty weapon will result in removal from duty until the qualification can be met in accordance with the department's training policy.
- 3.6 Firearms will only be displayed in any public place for legitimate official reasons.
 - 3.6.1 Reckless use or display of a firearm, such as displaying the firearm in public or a discharge of the firearm (other than legitimate force/officer safety situations) will result in an immediate administrative suspension, pending an internal investigation and/or remedial training.
 - 3.6.2 Unintentional Discharges will require a Professional Standards investigation to determine if the discharge was negligent. Unintentional discharges in training will be addressed in accordance with this agency's training policy.
- 3.7 Supply will maintain an accurate inventory of all department owned weapons to include model number, serial number, color, type, barrel length (if appropriate), manufacturer, caliber, to whom and when the weapon is assigned.
- 3.8 Only ammunition matching the same make, manufacturer, and specifications, approved by the Chief of Police or his/her designee will be utilized in department issued firearms.



- 3.8.1 Officers can choose to carry personally purchased extra ammunition.
- 3.8.2 Extra ammunition must be carried in fully loaded magazines, after they notify their supervisor via email of the specific amount of additional ammunition to be carried.
- 3.8.3 Any change to the amount of ammunition to be carried, must be accompanied by an updated email indicating the new total.

4.0 **HANDGUNS**

- 4.1 Officers may purchase and carry magazines for their issued handgun. Such magazines must be designed specifically for the department issued firearm, manufactured by a reputable manufacturer, with a capacity of no more than 21 rounds and fully loaded with ammunition consistent with this policy. Unless issued by the department, officers must email their supervisor of the number of magazines, capacity of each, and total rounds carried prior to carrying these for duty.
- 4.2 Supply will maintain an accurate inventory of all department owned weapons to include model number, serial number, color, type, barrel length (if appropriate), manufacturer, caliber, to whom and when the weapon is assigned.
- 4.3 Non-sworn officers will be provided a department owned and approved service weapon for authorized training. Non-sworn officers cannot carry a department owned handgun except as authorized for training.
- 4.4 Officers in civilian clothing, while on duty, must wear some type of police identification when wearing a visible firearm. Officers, at a minimum, must wear a badge on the belt or a neck chain when wearing a visible firearm in public.
- 4.5 Service pistols will be loaded in the following manner: one (1) round in the chamber and the magazine full.
- 4.6 Officers will be allowed to carry back-up weapons subject to the following restrictions:
 - 4.6.1 On-duty officers will only carry a back-up weapon approved by the Chief of Police, or his/her designee.



- 4.6.2 Officers assigned to a uniformed function who have been issued a back-up weapon by the department will carry the weapon while on-duty or while working an off-duty assignment.
- 4.6.3 Non-uniformed officers who have been assigned a back-up weapon by the department will carry the weapon while in uniform and engaged in field activities (i.e. task forces, off-duty employment, special events.)
- 4.6.4 Division Commanders may waive the requirement for a department issued back-up weapon to be carried if specific circumstances would make carrying the weapon unreasonable or inappropriate.
- 4.6.5 Officers issued a back-up weapon by the department will not carry any other back-up weapon than the one issued.
- 4.6.6 Back-up weapons must be carried in an approved holster with a retention device, and must be worn in an approved manner and location.
- 4.6.7 Officers must qualify with their back-up weapon prior to carrying the weapon and annually. Officers must be qualified by a certified instructor as determined by the agency.
- 4.6.8 The Training Division will establish a course of fire which utilizes drawing from the holster configuration when qualifying officers for back-up carry.
- 4.6.9 Back-up weapons must be loaded consistent with the agency's policy on duty weapons. Only factory self-defense or hollow point ammunition may be carried. Department issued back-up weapons may only be loaded with department issued ammunition.
- 4.7 Officers of the Greenville Police department may carry a concealed handgun while off duty, with department credentials. Officers may carry their issued duty or back-up weapons, or any other handgun, which meets the criteria set forth in the Personally Owned Firearms section of this policy.



5.0 **SHOTGUNS**

- 5.1 Officers of the Greenville Police Department will utilize only department issued 12-gauge shotguns while on duty.
- 5.2 Issued shotguns will be fully loaded with four OO Buckshot in the magazine, unless the officer has been trained for the use of and has been issued Shotgun Slugs. The chamber will remain empty until the weapon is deployed and readied for immediate use.
 - 5.2.1 When in patrol vehicles, shotguns will be un-cocked with the chamber empty and the safety on in an approved location (ex., rack, lockbox, or trunk).
 - 5.2.2 Shotguns intended for applications of less-lethal munitions will be equipped with clearly recognizable stocks, will be stored unloaded, and will be assigned to only individuals trained in the deployment of less lethal munitions.
- 5.3 Officers who deploy shotguns will announce over the radio the deployment, when feasible.

6.0 **RIFLES**

- 6.1 Officers of the Greenville Police Department may carry semi-automatic rifles while on duty.
- 6.2 The rifles will be either department issued or personally owned, subject to certain limits, as determined by the Chief of Police or his/her designee.
- 6.3 Carrying a patrol rifle is a privilege, one that may be denied or revoked for any lapse in judgement by the officer, whether the lapse is related to force response or deadly force.
- 6.4 Officers wishing to carry a patrol rifle must complete an approved training course conducted by a certified firearm instructor.
 - 6.4.1 Officers will pass the written test and qualification.
 - 6.4.2 Officers will maintain their certification with the weapon by qualifying annually.



- 6.4.3 Failure to qualify with the rifle results in the revocation of the officer's privilege to carry a patrol rifle. The patrol rifle must cease to be carried in the officer's vehicle until requalification is completed.
- 6.4.4 Officers failing to re-qualify after remedial training with a patrol rifle may not attempt requalification for 3 months.
- 6.5 Officers are responsible for the security of their patrol rifle. Patrol rifles will be carried in a case in the trunk, cargo area, or cage protected area of the officer's vehicle or in a rifle rack if the vehicle is so equipped. Patrol rifles will be carried in the following manner: Hammer cocked, bolt forward on an empty chamber, dust cover closed, safety "ON" with a full magazine inserted and seated.. Magazines for patrol rifles will be loaded to capacity. Officers will have a total of at least 90 rounds of department-issued ammunition in magazines in the case with the rifle.
- 6.6 Officers who deploy patrol rifles will announce over the radio the deployment, when feasible. Supervisors may deny the deployment of rifles.
- 6.6.1 All patrol rifles may be carried by officer's subject to the following conditions.
- Only rifles approved by the Chief of Police or his/her designee that have been inspected by a department armorer are approved for carry.
 - AR-15 type rifles are approved for carry; however, the Chief of Police or his/her designee may approve additional types.
 - Officers may not carry personally owned rifles or accessories which require ATF tax stamps.
 - Approved accessories include: Collapsible stocks, variable magnification optic sights of no more than 10 power capable of being reduced to 1 power, red-dot sights, weapon mounted lights, and laser aiming devices.
 - The addition or changing of any sighting system will require the officer to requalify prior to carrying the rifle in that configuration.
 - Slings are mandatory for all rifles.
 - At least one physical, unpowered sighting system is mandatory.
 - A minimum of 90 rounds will be carried with the rifle.



- 6.7 The SWAT Team is authorized to utilize specialized firearms and weapons with the approval of the Chief of Police. Specialized firearms may include shotguns, semi-automatic and fully automatic rifles and sub-machine guns, sniper rifles and various types of less-lethal munitions delivery systems. Specialized ammunition may also be approved.
- 6.8 SWAT Officers are permitted to keep their assigned specialized weapons in a secure area of their assigned vehicle (ex., trunk, caged cargo area, etc). SWAT Officers may deploy their specialized SWAT weapons without supervisor authorization only during an emergency incident when a suspect is actively firing or has fired so recently that the incident would be considered on-going. In other circumstances SWAT Officers are required to obtain approval from an on-duty supervisor before deploying specialized weapons.
- 6.9 The Chief of Police will approve all weapons authorized for use by the Greenville Police Department. A listing will be maintained by the Chief of Police, or designee, of all weapons approved for use. This list will include which functional components of the department are authorized to utilize specialized weapons and the specifications of the weapons and ammunition authorized for use by each functional component.

7.0 **PERSONALLY OWNED FIREARMS**

Officers of the Greenville Police Department may utilize personally owned rifles and handguns while on-duty and off-duty (with department credentials) which meet the following criteria:

- 7.1 The weapon must be approved by the Chief of Police and the police armorer. A "Personally Owned Firearm Request" form is used to request and approve personally owned firearms.
- 7.2 A "Personally Owned Firearm Request" form must be on file with the Chief's Administrative Assistant.
- 7.3 Personally owned rifles may only be carried by officers who have completed the patrol rifle course in accordance with this policy.
- 7.4 Personally Owned firearms will be loaded only with factory ammunition.
- 7.5 If an officer fails to meet annual qualification standards with a personally owned firearm, authorization to carry that firearm is revoked. Officers must be qualified by a certified instructor as determined by the agency.



Ammunition will be provided by the officer as specified by the firearms instructor.

8.0 **AMMUNITION**

Only department authorized factory ammunition may be used in department issued weapons while on duty. This does not apply to weapons training.

The Training Division will maintain a list of approved duty ammunition for the agency.

9.0 **OLEORESIN CAPSICUM (OC) AEROSOL RESTRAINT SPRAY**

The Greenville Police Department issues OC aerosol restraint spray as a less-lethal force option. Officers are to use OC when warranted in accordance with the guidelines and procedures set forth here and in the Greenville Police Department General Order 200 Use of Force response policy.

9.1 Only officers who have completed the prescribed course of instruction on the use of OC are authorized to carry the device.

9.1.1 Officers whose normal duties may require them to make arrests or supervise arrestees will be required to carry department authorized OC while on duty, unless the officer carries their issued TASER. If the officer does not carry the OC, it will be maintained in the officer's patrol vehicle.

9.1.2 Uniformed officers will carry only department authorized OC canisters in the prescribed manner on the duty belt. Non-uniformed officers may carry OC in alternative devices as authorized by their division commander.

9.2 Replacement:

9.2.1 Officers are responsible for replacing damaged, inoperable or empty devices.

9.2.2 OC spray canisters should be replaced when the unit is less than half full, determined by weighing the canister.

9.2.3 Unexplained depletion of OC canisters will require an investigation and written report by the officer's supervisor to the commanding officer.



10.0 CHEMICAL CROWD MANAGEMENT AGENTS

The department uses several forms of chemical agents to manage crowds. These may include: MK-9 OC Spray, PepperBall® Systems, hand deployable OC, CS, and smoke canisters, and 40 mm deployable OC, CS, and smoke canisters.

11.0 TASER ENERGY WEAPONS

11.1 TASER Energy Weapons will only be issued and used by officers who have successfully completed the appropriate training for the device. Trained officers must go through annual retraining in order to continue to carry and use the device.

11.2 The TASER is considered to be a less lethal force option.

11.3 Officers issued the TASER will carry the device in an issued holster on their weak side in accordance with training.

11.4 Officers issued the TASER are responsible for ensuring the device is fully operational at all times. This includes ensuring the device is fully loaded with cartridges, the battery is properly charged, no errors are showing on the device, and a function test has been successfully completed.

11.4.1 A function test will be performed on the TASER once every day that it is worn prior to the start of the officer's shift in accordance with Axon Inc.'s recommendations.

11.4.1.1 TASER 10's: Batteries should be docked every thirty (30) days. If a battery fails to recharge properly or fails to hold a charge over a thirty (30) day period, the officer's supervisor must be notified, who in turn will notify a TASER instructor for guidance.

11.4.1.2 Should any TASER fail the function test or displays any fault, the officer should inform their supervisor, who in turn should contact a TASER instructor for guidance.

12.0 IMPACT WEAPONS

12.1 Greenville Police Department officers will carry and use only impact weapons authorized by the Chief of Police. Officers are responsible for ensuring impact weapons are in good working order.



- 12.2 Only officers who have attended a department approved impact weapon training course will be issued an impact weapon.
- 12.3 Officers must be trained on issued impact weapons on an annual basis.
- 12.4 All uniformed personnel whose regular duties may require them to arrest or supervise arrested subjects will be trained to use, and carry, issued impact weapons. All officers working off-duty jobs in uniform will also carry the issued impact weapon.

13.0 **KINETIC ENERGY WEAPONS:**

- 13.1 A kinetic energy weapon is a less-lethal projectile firing weapon which is not intended to cause lethal injury. These types of weapons may be munitions designed to be fired from a conventional firearm, such as a shotgun, or from a specialized weapon made for this purpose, such as a 40mm weapon.
- 13.2 Only officers who have been trained and approved to use kinetic energy weapons may utilize and deploy these types of devices.
- 13.3 Annual training will be completed on kinetic energy weapons.

14.0 **EDGED WEAPONS**

Officers may carry personal pocketknives and a fixed blade knife on duty, provided the blade length does not exceed four inches.

- 14.1 The fixed blade must be carried in a secure, minimally visible manner.
- 14.2 SWAT members may carry sheath knives as part of their special equipment.

15.0 **TRAINING, PROFICIENCY, AND SAFETY**

- 15.1 Officers must demonstrate proficiency annually with any approved weapon, both lethal and less-lethal, the employee is authorized to use.
 - 15.1.1 Annual firearms qualification will be conducted during in-service training.
 - 15.1.2 Mandatory firearms training will be conducted at the range at least annually and will be attended by all sworn personnel.



- 15.1.2.1 In the event an officer fails to qualify with an issued weapon he/she will immediately retest.
 - 15.1.2.2 In the event an officer fails the retest, the officer will receive further remedial training and will be given a third opportunity to qualify before returning to duty or working in an off-duty capacity.
 - 15.1.2.3 Upon failing any qualification for any lethal weapon, the officer will be mandated to attend instructor-led firearms training at least quarterly for the next rolling calendar year, to begin with the quarter following the failure.
- 15.1.3 Officers still failing to qualify after three attempts will be reported to the Administration Commander.
 - 15.1.3.1 For failures involving the officer's service pistol, the Administration Commander will notify the Chief of Police who will remove the officer from line duty and place him/her on administrative suspension until they have been provided with additional remedial training and are able to meet qualification standards.
 - 15.1.3.2 For other failures, such as shotguns, patrol rifles, and back up guns, the officer will surrender the weapon to training staff, or for personally owned weapons, cease to carry the weapon on duty until they have completed appropriate training and have qualified.
- 15.1.4 Officers on administrative suspension will not be allowed to return to duty, except for assigned training as required by this policy, nor will they be allowed to work law-enforcement related side-jobs until they meet the minimum requirements.
- 15.2 Weapons training will be conducted only by certified instructors.
- 15.3 Each annual weapon qualification session will be accompanied with training on department Force response policies.



15.4 The Administration Commander will ensure that all training and proficiency is documented. Documentation will include who was trained, who conducted the training, what topics were covered, what weapons were used, and the date and time of the training.

15.5 Officers are responsible for the safe storage of all issued and authorized firearms. Firearms issued by the Greenville Police Department may not be handled by non-departmental personnel, except for authorized purposes.

15.5.1 Officers may allow other officers to use a weapon only during authorized training activities or under exigent circumstances.

15.5.2 Officers should use reasonable means to ensure that weapons cannot be accessed by unauthorized persons.

16.0 WEAPON MAINTENANCE

Issued weapons will be kept clean and operable at all times and are subject to inspection at any time. All department issued weapons will be inspected by a department armorer annually.

16.1 If a weapon is found to be in unsafe condition it will be immediately removed from service. The armorer removing the weapon will notify supply to have a new weapon issued. If the problem with the weapon is due to negligence or poor maintenance, the armorer will notify a training supervisor to document the issue.

16.2 All firearms will be inspected by a department armorer when turned in to supply to ensure they are clean and in good working order.

16.3 All issued weapons will be inspected prior to being used to ensure the weapon is in good working order:

- For firearms: by a department armorer
- For other weapons: by a qualified weapons instructor for that weapon.

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J. H. Thompson

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J.H. Thompson, Chief of Police

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