

Greer Police Department

General Order 520.2 Firearms Safety

This order consists of the following numbered sections:

- I. GENERAL SAFETY RULES
- II. USE OF FIRING RANGE
- III. FIREARMS TRAINING SAFETY RULES
- IV. CHARGING SEMI-AUTOMATIC WEAPONS

By Order of: *Matt Hamby*
Chief of Police

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I. GENERAL SAFETY RULES

- A. Treat every firearm as if it were loaded until proven otherwise.
- B. To prevent injury to officers and damage to property in the event of an accidental discharge of a weapon, a weapon clearing chamber has been placed in Roll Call. The chamber is to be used any time an officer needs to unload a weapon, such as during monthly weapons inspections; ERT callouts; and before placing a weapon into Evidence. The following procedure should be used when using the weapon clearing chamber:
 - 1. Point the muzzle of the weapon directly down into the chamber
 - 2. Remove the magazine from the weapon
 - 3. Clear the round from the firearm chamber
 - 4. Keep the muzzle pointed directly into the chamber when reinserting the magazine and charging the firearm chamber.
- C. Before permitting a firearm to be handled or inspected by another, the following will be performed:
 - 1. **Auto-pistol-** Utilizing a Weapon Clearing Chamber, remove the magazine from the weapon. Open and lock the slide back, catching the chambered round as instructed in training. Visually inspect the magazine well and chamber. In addition, perform a finger check in the chamber to ensure the chamber is clear of all rounds.
 - 2. **Shotgun-** Utilizing a Weapon Clearing Chamber, with the slide back, action opened and the safety on, visually check the chamber and the loading port for the presence of ammunition.
- D. The following procedures will be strictly followed when handing a weapon to another person:
 - 1. **Auto-pistol-** With the magazine removed and the slide locked open, the weapon will be presented grip first to the other person. The person receiving the weapon will visually check the magazine well and chamber to ensure the weapon is unloaded.
 - 2. **Shotgun-** With the slide back, action open and safety on, the weapon will be presented to the other person in port-arms position with the open action facing the receiving person. The receiving person will visually check the weapon to ensure it is unloaded.
- E. Unless at an authorized and supervised training session, an officer should never point a firearm (loaded or unloaded) at anyone without justifiable cause to display such force, or in the direction where an unintentional discharge could result in an injury to any person or damage to any property. This rule is especially important in connection with dry firing.

- F. Develop a habit of not placing the finger on the trigger or inside the trigger guard until ready to fire a weapon.
- G. Officers shall handle and maintain their firearm in a safe manner. Improper handling and/or care of a firearm depicts a poor level of professionalism and is likely to result in adverse consequences.
- H. Officers shall secure and store their weapons both on and off duty in such a way as to ensure that no unauthorized person will have access to or gain control over the weapon. Firearm locks are available at the Police Department.

II. USE OF FIRING RANGE

The safety of any person while on the Firing Range is the first concern. All use of the Firing Range must be conducted under the instruction of a Firearm's Instructor who is currently certified by the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy. The Range will be primarily used for the training and firearms qualifications of Greer police officers.

III. FIRING RANGE RULES

All personnel, sworn or civilian, on range property will comply with the following rules:

- A. Use of the range is limited to persons 18 years of age and older. Due to the discharge of lead from ammunition, pregnant females are not allowed on the Range during any firing of weapons without written permission from their Doctor.
- B. Rifles, shotguns, fully automatic weapons, and any weapon that fires more than once with one trigger pull and release is limited to law enforcement training approved by the Training Officer.
- C. No ammunition greater than a .45 caliber can be used unless approved by the Training Officer.
- D. Tracer or any ammunition considered to be incendiary or explosive is prohibited.
- E. All persons must wear the assigned ballistic vest and adequate hearing and eye protection while on the firing line.
- F. No smoking is permitted on or near the firing line at any time.
- G. No alcoholic beverages may be possessed at the firing range.
- H. No person under the influence of alcohol or drugs is permitted on the firing range.
- I. Non-Shooters must remain at least six feet behind the firing line whenever any shooter is at the firing line.
- J. All objects, trash, targets and spent cartridge shells must be removed by firing range users before leaving the range.
- K. Firearms must be pointed in a safe direction at all times. Treat all firearms as if they were loaded.

- L. Keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.
- M. Know your target and what is beyond.
- N. Shooters shall fire only at their designated target(s).
- O. No loaded weapons are allowed outside of the range area directly behind the firing line unless the person is under the direct supervision of the range officer.
- P. Unholstered weapons will have the actions opened at all times when a person is outside the range area directly behind the firing line.
- Q. No shooting at flying or thrown objects is allowed.
- R. Ammunition or brass dropped in front of the firing line will not be retrieved until the Firearms Instructor has declared the line safe
- S. No person shall move forward of the firing line until instructed to do so by the Firearms Instructor and only after all weapons have been secured.
- T. Except as required for training, there will be no running on the ranges or in concurrent training areas. Horseplay is prohibited at all times.
- U. Anyone that observes an unsafe act that endangers anyone has the responsibility to shout "Cease Fire". Upon hearing the command "Cease Fire" all firing on the range will immediately cease until the Firearms Instructor gives the command to fire again.
- V. Any injury sustained on the range will be reported immediately to the Firearms Instructor who will then notify the Training Officer immediately.
- W. Instructions from the Firearms Instructor are final.
- X. Weapons and ammunition are not stored at any firearms range utilized by the Greer Police Department.

IV. CHARGING SEMI-AUTOMATIC WEAPONS

Charging weapons will be done in a safe manner at all times.

- A. **On the range-** When charging a weapon with duty ammunition prior to leaving the range, the officer will walk onto the range with no one else down range. With the muzzle pointing down range, the officer will insert a loaded magazine into and charge the weapon. The weapon will then be returned to the holster. Next, the magazine will be removed and an extra round placed in the magazine. The magazine will then be re-inserted in the holstered weapon.
- B. **All other locations-** While charging weapons at any other location, officers will use extreme caution in not pointing the muzzle of the weapon in any direction that could cause injury to any person in the event of an unintentional discharge of the weapon. When in Roll Call, the Weapon Clearing Barrel will be utilized.