

Department and officer-owned service pistols will conform to current specifications as established and maintained by the Personnel Services unit.

Officers will be qualified with department-owned, alternate, personal, and back-up firearms before they may be carried in an on-duty capacity and at regular qualification intervals thereafter. Qualification will be conducted by the Department Range Master or other qualified firearms instructor.

All officers will be armed with a Department-issued, officer-owned, or alternate service pistol while on duty (exceptions – training, light-duty/injury, etc). All service pistols will be carried in a secure manner.

Service pistols will be carried with a round in the chamber, a fully loaded magazine, the hammer down with the trigger forward (if so equipped). At the officer's option, the pistols may be carried with the safety (if so equipped) placed in either the "safe" or "fire" position.

Officers should never display a firearm other than in the proper performance of duty. Firearms should be handled so as not to cause unwarranted danger to oneself, to other employees, to property, to family members, or to the public.

All non-uniformed police officers will carry the service pistol in such manner as authorized by their Commanding Officer. Non-uniformed police officers will carry at least one extra fully loaded magazine while on duty.

Firearms carried while in civilian clothing will be concealed from the public view except when performing a police duty or in or about police facilities.

Officers may be specifically relieved of carrying a firearm by mutual agreement with a command officer to facilitate a special assignment.

Whenever an officer is relieved of duty or requests disability leave, the Chief of Police or his/her designee will consider and may direct that the officer surrender all department-owned firearms, weapons, and devices in his/her possession.

Police recruits are authorized to carry a firearm only while engaged in a training activity.

Alternate Service Pistols

Officers may be authorized to carry a firearm other than the normal Department-issued service pistol when specifically approved by the Chief of Police to facilitate a special assignment.

Shotguns and Rifles

Shotguns and rifles are to be used in accordance with the same conditions pertaining to use of the service pistol. With the exception of emergency situations, loaded shotguns/rifles will not be brought into any Department building or facility. Shotguns will not be carried in the vehicle with a round in the chamber.

Pistol Mounted Light and Accessories

Pistol Mounted Light is a lighting device specifically designed to be affixed to pistols and illuminate areas or subjects when circumstances deem appropriate. Pistol mounted lights are standard issue on duty pistols for BPD personnel and must be carried in accordance with the following criteria:

1. Laser aiming devices are prohibited and may not be included as a stand-alone accessory or as an additional accessory contained within the pistol mounted light.
2. No pressure switch (remote switch) of any type is authorized.
3. Officers must attend standard BPD duty pistol training which includes policy review, proper light use guidelines, practical training, and passing a written test. Officers must also pass the standard Bellevue Police pistol qualification course with the approved light attached and while using the approved holster.
4. Specific pistol mounted light models may be authorized to be carried on Alternate or Back-Up pistols while on duty with prior approval by the Range Master. Pistol mounted light bearing holsters must also have prior approval from the Range Master.
5. The pistol mounted light must be affixed to the weapon and remain in place for the duration of the officer's shift when in a uniformed capacity. The only exception is when the pistol mounted light is damaged and cannot be affixed to the duty pistol.
6. Pistols must be safely unloaded at a designated clearing area before the pistol mounted light is removed for battery replacement.
7. The pistol mounted light may be removed for non-uniformed/plain clothes carrying of the duty pistol while on duty. The pistol must be safely unloaded at a designated clearing area before the pistol mounted light is removed or installed.
8. Use of the pistol mounted light is restricted to those situations where an officer would be authorized to have his/her weapon drawn and when there is specific threat of weapon that can be articulated. The pistol mounted light is not a substitute for an officer's hand-held light. Searches of persons, vehicles, properties, structures, buildings, or any other places, when no specific threat can be articulated, must be conducted with a hand-held light.
9. Officers shall not aim the pistol mounted light directly at subjects/suspects absent the imminent threat of deadly force.
10. Using strong-hand (gun-hand) fingers to activate the pistol mounted light has significant risk of inducing unintentional discharge. Officers shall only activate the pistol mounted light using the thumb or finger(s) of the support hand. Officers shall not activate the pistol mounted light using the fingers of the strong-hand (gun-hand).

Accessories other than those listed here are not authorized with the exception of the SWAT team. Nothing herein is to be construed as limiting the SWAT team from the use of equipment they currently have and are using.

Officers shall use due diligence while using pistol mounted light to avoid violating the four fundamental firearms safety rules including, "Never point a gun at anything you're not willing to shoot".

Violation of this policy will be reviewed by the Office of Accountability and may result in discipline.