

MINNEAPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

SPECIAL ORDER



BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

DATE ISSUED: July 19, 2024	DATE EFFECTIVE: July 26, 2024	NUMBER: SO24-006	PAGE: 1 of 2
TO: Distribution "A"			RETENTION DATE: Until Rescinded
SUBJECT: <b>Manual Revision – 5-401 <u>Safe Handling of Firearms</u></b>			APPROVED BY: <i>Chief O'Hara</i>

MP-8806

**Introduction:** This policy is being updated to require that handguns remain holstered except in the situations listed below, to prohibit dry firing except in limited circumstances, and to describe the pre-deployment firearm check.

Effective with the issuance of this Special Order, Section 5-401 of the MPD Policy and Procedure Manual shall be added as follows:

**5-401 Safe Handling of Firearms**  
(03/11/16) (12/17/18) (07/26/24)

~~A.~~ All employees shall safely handle firearms while performing on-duty assignments or while acting in a law enforcement capacity, in a manner consistent with MPD training and policy.

**A. Safe Handling**

To ensure firearms are handled in a safe manner, the following shall apply:

1. Employees shall keep their duty handguns holstered at all times while on duty or otherwise on City property, unless employees are:

- Transferring their handguns from one holster to another.
- Using the restroom.
- Conducting a pre-deployment firearm check.
- Engaged in training authorized by the Rangemaster or Training Division Commander or engaged in authorized SWAT Training.
- Providing it for inspection at the request of Range staff or a supervisor.
- Cleaning the handgun at the Range.
- Adjusting their RDS optic brightness for time of day or lighting concerns.
- Performing necessary field maintenance, such as cleaning their RDS optic.
  - Any maintenance requiring the firearm to be unloaded, such as changing the optic battery, shall be done using a clearing barrel.

- When performing field maintenance, officers shall ensure the firearm is always pointed in safe direction while it is unholstered.
  - Engaged in a law enforcement response to a call for service (in accordance with P&P 5-300).
2. Employees shall not dry fire their firearms while on duty or otherwise on City property unless engaged in training authorized by the Rangemaster or Training Division Commander or engaged in authorized SWAT training.
- a. Authorized dry firing shall not occur unless a proper safety check has been conducted to ensure the firearm is unloaded.
3. ~~B.~~ An employee's finger shall be kept out of the trigger guard and indexed on the frame of the handgun until the employee is on target and intends to fire the gun.

## **B. Pre-Deployment Firearm Check**

When conducting a pre-deployment firearm check of their handgun, employees shall:

- Check to verify their handgun is loaded with a full magazine and a round in the chamber.
- Check the overall condition of their firearm.
- Check the RDS optic (if equipped) to ensure it is working, witness marks haven't moved, and that the optic is set at the correct brightness for a given shift or lighting situation.
- Check that their weapon-mounted light is working (if equipped).

## **C. Responsibility for Discharge**

~~€.~~ Employees are responsible for any discharge of a firearm in their custody. Any unintentional, reckless, unlawful, or other discharge inconsistent with MPD training and policy may result in discipline.