

Patrol Shotguns

Date of Issue: May 17, 2016
General Order: #05-2016
Subject: Patrol Shotguns
Issued By: Annette M. Mecklenburg, Chief of Police

POLICY:

To insure that sworn police personnel are thoroughly trained in the use of patrol shotguns and that the equipment provided meets with the standards set forth by the Chief of Police.

PURPOSE:

The Cleveland Heights Police Department understands the need for patrol officers to be equipped with patrol shotguns for unique situations that may occur as set forth in this Policy.

AGENCY AUTHORIZED WEAPONS:

The police patrol shotgun shall be the Remington 870 in 12-gauge that shall be provided by the Department. The patrol shotgun shall normally be carried with a standard butt stock except in special cases where only a pistol grip will be fitted to the gun. All patrol officers shall be required to qualify annually with the shotgun as prescribed by OPOTA.

All ammunition used with the Remington 870 in 12-gauge by Cleveland Heights Police Officers shall be approved and provided by the Department.

GENERAL:

The patrol shotgun is a **special use** weapon, and **will** only be deployed in situations that cannot be adequately addressed utilizing the CHPD issued semi-automatic sidearm. The use of the patrol shotguns includes but, is not limited to:

- Active Shooter situations –active shooter is defined as **an individual actively engaged in killing or attempting to kill people in a confined and populated area.**

Issues that **must** be considered when using the patrol shotgun:

- Population density and target back drop
- Capabilities of the user – all users will be fully trained in the use of the patrol shotgun by an OPOTA certified range instructor.
- Nature of the offense

Only officers demonstrating proficiency in the use of agency authorized patrol shotguns shall be authorized to utilize such weapon. This is to insure that the patrol shotgun is used with the utmost degree of safety and efficiency. Unless emergency circumstances

dictate otherwise, the qualified member deploying the patrol shotgun will first obtain approval of its use in all situations from the Officer in Charge.

PROCEDURE

When not checked out by an officer on patrol, the patrol shotgun will be stored in the locked room across from the Evidence Room. When a general duty officer begins their shift, the officer will complete the sign-out sheet located in the OIC's office. At the completion of the officer's shift, said officer will return the patrol shotgun to the locked room and sign the weapon back in. **At no time** is the patrol shotgun to be left in a cruiser at the completion of an officer's shift.

The patrol shotgun will be stored as follows:

While in the station:

- In the shotgun rack located in the locked room across from the Evidence Room.
- Patrol shotgun will be loaded with four rounds in the magazine tube and the chamber empty. Officer will verify an empty chamber when signing weapon in.
- The selector switch will be on "safe."

While on patrol:

- Officer will verify an empty chamber when signing the weapon out prior to their shift.
- If so equipped, patrol shotgun will be secured in a gun rack located within the Police vehicle
- If a Police vehicle is not equipped with a gun rack, patrol shotgun will be locked in the trunk of the Officer's assigned Police vehicle.
- Patrol shotgun will be loaded with four rounds in the magazine tube and the chamber empty.
- The selector switch will be on "safe."

TRAINING

Patrol Officers authorized to carry a patrol shotgun will do the following:

- Complete a session on weapon orientation given by an OPOTA certified firearms instructor approved by the Chief of Police.
- Officers must qualify yearly on a state mandated course or departmental course approved by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy/Council.
- Demonstrate continued proficiency on weapon use and policy.

The patrol shotgun is a specialized piece of equipment that requires a competent operator. These weapons will be issued at the discretion of the Chief of Police.

Approved by the order of

Annette M. Mecklenburg, Chief of Police
(GENERAL ORDER #05-2016)

Date