



Police Firearms

I. INTRODUCTION

Police employees of the Ridgely Police Department are issued firearms to protect the public, officers, and themselves against a deadly force encounter. Officers will maintain the weapon systems in an operable and serviceable condition at all times.

II. POLICY

Employees of the Ridgely Police Department are to be considered available for recall/ duty at all times. When officers carry their firearms on duty or off duty they will carry their badge, RPD identification card, and MPCTC certification card.

III. GENERAL

- A. When on duty, officers shall be armed at all times. The RPD badge will be conspicuously displayed.
- B. When off duty, officers may conceal their weapons and badges. Officers may utilize a personal weapon in place of the issued service weapon. Officers will qualify on their personal weapon before carrying it off duty.
- C. When operating an RPD vehicle, the officer will be armed.
- D. When attending any court as a defendant in a criminal trial, a plaintiff or defendant in a civil trial, or while serving as a juror, officer will NOT carry any firearm.
- E. Only RPD *authorized* weapons will be used.

IV. WEAPON STORAGE

- A. RPD approved rifles and shotguns will be secured in the provided vehicular gun locks while on duty. If a gun lock is not available, the RPD range master will approve any securing method in RPD vehicles.
- B. RPD approved weapons will be removed from vehicles at the officer's residence at the end of their shift. The weapons will be stored unloaded, with a trigger lock engaged, and kept safely away from children and/ or family members. Ammunition removed from the weapons will be stored separately from the weapon if a gun safe is not available.

General Order No. 3-5 (Cont.)

C. RPD approved weapons will be secured per Maryland Law while at the officer's residence. Weapons will be unloaded with a trigger lock installed, and the ammunition kept separate from the weapons.

D. While on duty, RPD sidearms will remain in the officer's holster except in the following instances:

1. While processing prisoners.
2. While at the Caroline County Detention Center.
3. Where prohibited.
4. When requested by a Supervisor, Firearms Instructor, or the Chief.
5. Where authorized.

V. WEAPON CARE AND MAINTENANCE

A. Officers will clean their weapons after qualifications, inclement weather, monthly, or at the direction of a supervisor, firearms instructor, or the Chief. Weapons will be free of carbon residue, dust, dirt, lint, etc..

B. Officers will inspect their weapons regularly for any damage or excessive signs of wear.

C. Officers will submit a detailed report for any damage to RPD weapons.

D. Officers finding any unsafe condition to an RPD weapon will immediately notify a supervisor.

E. Modifications/ alterations to approved weapons will be brought to the attention of the Range Master. The Range Master will provide the first endorsement for final approval from the Chief.