

Bexar County Firearms Training Center

Standard Operating Procedures

PURPOSE:

The goal of the Bexar County Firearms Training Center shall be to operate in such a manner; as to provide the Law Enforcement Community of Bexar County a safe and professional training facility.

I. Bexar County Firearms Training Center Rules:

A. Range Safety Rules

RULE 1: Treat all firearms as though they are loaded.

RULE 2: Keep your finger off and outside the trigger guard until you are on target and ready to shoot.

RULE 3: Do not point the muzzle at anything or anyone you are not willing to shoot.

RULE 4: Be sure of your target and what is beyond it.

B. Bexar County Firearms Training Center/Range Safety Rules.

(See Attachment)

II. SPECIFIC RANGE RULES:

All ranges operated by the Bexar County Firearms Training Center shall be considered “hot ranges” in that the officers/shooter will be allowed to walk around the ranges with loaded weapons. The Range Master/Instructor at his/her discretion may run the range as a cold range. The instructors shall be allowed to operate the ranges as dynamic ranges requiring no fixed target line.

Baffled Ranges

1. All firing will be directed into the rubber bullet trap within the firearm’s bay. This Area is designated as the area in which the rubber medium is located.
2. All firing into this area must be fired in such a manner in that no rounds will Strike the concrete walls that are designed to enclose the shooting bay area.
3. In accordance with County Policy and munitions safety procedures the Bexar County Firearms Training Center is a **Tobacco Free Facility.**
4. **Prohibited** ammunition:
 - a. No “Armor Piercing” ammunition may be used without prior authorization or approval and inspection of the Range Master and/or the firearms instructor.
 - b. No incendiary or tracer ammunition
 - c. Any ammunition fired on the range other than department approved duty or Training ammunition must be approved by Range Master.
5. **“Frangible”** rifle ammunition may be used with the approval and inspection of the

Range Master and/or the firearms instructor.

6. Shoot at authorized targets only.

- a. Paper targets posted on cardboard backer
- b. IDPA or IPSC style card board targets
- c. With approval of the Range Master, steel targets may be used with the following restrictions:

1) Steel targets must be in good condition free of serious pitting that may cause a round to ricochet.

2) Steel targets may not be engaged at less than 10 yards with standard handgun ammunition. This includes **frangible** handgun ammunition as well.

3) **Steel targets** are;

- Set up in line with the Modular Line of Fire Frame System (MLOF) but not beyond.
- Placed on a stand-alone wood frame and not on concrete.
- **Not** placed on the Action Target pneumatic system.
- Wood sheathing along any walls that may be within 10 feet of the steel target(s) to prevent any damage to the floor and/or walls.
- Steel target can be hazardous therefore **body armor** shall be worn.
- Rifle caliber ammunition shall not be fired at steel targets that are not rifle rated. The minimum shooter to target distance shall be 25 yards for standard ammunition.
- Rifles may be fired at closer distance when firing frangible ammunition.

***Bowling Pins MAY NOT be used.**

*** All other targets must have prior approval of the Range Master.**

7. Weapons will remain holstered, or with the action open unless actually firing, or dry firing on the shooting line.

8. If you experience a misfire-STOP- wait 20 seconds before clearing the weapon and then check the barrel for any obstructions.

9. Eye and ear protection must be worn while firing is in progress. Ear protection must be a “Muff Style” which covers the entire ear. Plugs may be worn if the “Muff Style” interferes with required equipment while training, ex. helmets, and gas masks.

10. Patrol rifles and shotguns will remain slung or with the action open unless actually firing or dry firing.

11. If you experience a misfire -STOP- wait 20 seconds before clearing and then check the barrel for obstructions. **Dispose of dud or misfired rounds appropriately.**

Buckets will be placed on the rifle range for the dud or misfired ammunition.

12. Eye and ear protection must be worn while firing is in progress. The “muff Style” hearing protection is not required while firing on the rifle range is in progress.

13. Communication shall be kept established between the firing line and the range tower; therefore a law enforcement radio or cell phone must be present on the firearms range while conducting training or practice.

14. A red flag will be checked out from the range staff and flown while all firing is being conducted.

15. No vehicles shall be parked on the grass. All vehicles must be parked in the parking lot. Vehicles with equipment will be allowed to drive up to the bays or storage units to unload or load equipment. Once this is done the vehicles shall be removed and parked forward of the firearm bays.

16. Officers will be encouraged to wash up after they have completed firing and cleaning their firearms.

III REQUIRED PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT:

The Bexar County Firearms Training Center ranges shall require;

1. All shooters and spectators on the range shall wear eye and ear protection.
 - a. The hearing protection provided shall meet a minimum of 28 NRR as described by NIOSH and be a “Muff Style”. In addition, the “Muff Style” hearing protection shall have a minimum Db rating of 21. Ear plugs may be worn in conjunction with the “Muff Style” hearing protection.
 - b. The eye protection shall meet the minimum requirement for safety glasses of ANSI with polycarbonate lenses. Shooters shall be encouraged to wear a hat with a brim while shooting, but shall not be required.
 - c. Proper footwear must be worn at all times while on the ranges, ex. No flip flops or sandals will be allowed.
2. Any range personnel who is required to do maintenance to the trap systems shall be provided with a P100 rated half face filter mask and disposable rubber gloves. Any person who handles items used as intermediate barriers shall be required to wear protective gloves when handling the barriers after they have been shot. Officers will be encouraged to wash up after they have completed firing and cleaning their firearms.

IV APPROVED WEAPONS:

No firearm will be allowed on any of the ranges that are not in a safe working order. If a question arises about the safety of any firearm, the Range Master shall immediately inspect the weapon for a determination if it is safe to fire. No firearm of a .50 caliber or greater shall be fired on a range. Any question as to the type of firearm or caliber and the capabilities of the range traps or berms, shall be directed to the Range Master.

The following firearms are allowed on all bays, provided the ammunition does not exceed the rating of the trap system:

- Handguns
- Shotguns
- Sub-machine guns (three rounds burst only. NO FULL AUTO SELECT)
- Patrol Rifles
- Precision Rifles

Birdshot is not allowed to be fired in any of the covered bays. (rubber causes back splash)

V APPROVED TARGETS AND BARRICADES:

Law Enforcement Agencies shall provide their own supply of approved targets/backers for use. Any item(s) that are to be placed in front of the MLOF shall have prior approval of the Range Master before the item(s) are to be used as a target, barricade or an intermediate barrier.

Items used as intermediate ballistic barriers must be documented in a date specific range safety plan.

Barricades restrictions:

1. Barricades will be provided and only those items provided will be used on the ranges.
2. In the event barricades are needed other than those provided, the Range Master shall inspect them prior to their use on the range.
3. In the event barrier items are going to be shot on the range, , ex. body armor, vehicle doors, auto glass, etc., the Range Master or the group conducting the shoot, **shall write an SOP** for the test event or training in question.
4. No barrier shooting shall be conducted without prior approval from the Range Master.

The use of barricades shall be made of wood/PVC whenever possible and may be used with the following restrictions:

1. Barricades will be provided and only those items provided will be used on the ranges.
2. in the event barricades are needed other than those provided; the Range Master shall inspect them prior to their use on the range.
3. In the event barrier items are going to be shot on/at the range, ex. body armor, vehicle doors, auto glass, etc., the Range Master or the group conducting the shoot, shall write an SOP/Lesson Plan for the training event or training in question. If someone other than the Range Master writes the SOP, it will have to be reviewed by the Range Master prior to the shooting event.
4. No barrier shooting shall be conducted without prior approval from the Range Master

X Weather (Thunderstorms, Lightning)

The sound of thunder is a byproduct of the lightning piercing through the air as such a rate of speed that the air claps back together with such force we get the boom sound. The sound that comes after the flash in the sky is measure in time and distance. **For every 5 seconds that pass after the flash of lightning measures roughly 1 mile in distance from the strike.**

A general rule of thumb is to be in a sheltered location **before** there is less than 30 seconds between lightning flash and the sound of thunder (six miles) and, stay in shelter for at least 30 minutes after the last lightning strike in your area.

All training being conducted on the range **will stop** if Lightning is with six (6) miles of the Bexar County Firearms Training Center.

BEXAR COUNTY FIREARMS TRAINING CENTER FIREARMS AND RANGE SAFETY RULES

A. CARDINAL RULES OF FIREARMS SAFETY:

1. Treat all firearms as though they are loaded.
2. Keep your finger off and outside the trigger guard until you are on target and have decided to shoot.
3. Do not point the muzzle at anything or anyone you are not willing to shoot.
4. Be sure of your target and what is beyond it.

FITNESS CERTIFICATION:

1. Do you have any physical disability, limitation, illness or other condition that would affect your ability to participate safely in any aspect of this program? Yes ____ No ____ (Initials)
2. Are you under the influence of any prescription/nonprescription drug or alcohol that would influence your safe participation in any aspect of this program? Yes ____ No ____ (Initials)

PRINT NAME: _____

SIGN: _____

1. SPECIFIC RULES FOR RANGE SAFETY: NO HANDLING OF ANY FIREARMS WHILE SEATED IN THE BLEACHERS

1. Ear protection, wrap around eye protection are required to be worn at all times while shooting on the range. This applies to shooters, instructors and observers.
2. When you pick up a firearm, keep your finger off of the trigger, point the muzzle in a safe direction, open the action and check both visually and physically to see that it is unloaded.
3. Check a second time.
4. Never give or take a firearm from anyone unless the action is open for inspection.
5. Load/reload/unload only after positions are taken at the firing point and on command.
6. Keep the firearm pointed down range at all times.
7. Never draw a handgun from the holster on the range unless instructed.
8. Never draw/re-holster with your finger in the trigger guard or on the trigger.
9. NEVER holster a cocked weapon (cocked and locked weapons excluded). ____ (Initials)
10. Always wash hands and face in cold water after leaving the range and shower & change clothing at the end of a shooting day to reduce the possibility of lead contamination. Wash range cloths separately from family cloths.
11. Never go forward of the firing line unless instructed.
12. Never step back from the firing line unless your handgun is safely holstered, and the instructor directs you to do so.
13. When on the firing line, never bend over to retrieve dropped articles until instructed to do so
14. No talking on the firing line except by, or with an instructor.
15. No eating, chewing tobacco or smoking on the firing line.
16. Pay strict attention to the instructor, range safety officers and tower.
17. Never anticipate a command. When in doubt raise your non-shooting hand.
18. Never permit the muzzle of a firearm to touch the ground.
19. Conduct a proper safety check of the weapon before and after a training session.
20. Never dry fire on the range unless instructed to do so.
21. You are expected to use good judgment, and to refrain from attempting any exercise, which you may not be able to perform safely, based upon your own ability, equipment, prior training or physical condition. ____ (initials)
22. Eye protection MUST be worn when cleaning any firearm. ____ (Initials)

**REMEMBER: All safety precautions must be adhered to and will be enforced.
*Everyone has the responsibility for range safety.***

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE FIREARMS AND RANGE SAFETY RULES.

Print Name: _____ / Signature and Date: _____

Approved by: _____
Range Instructor Initials

10 June 2013/PL