

**LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT  
Stand Alone 7 – LD 35 Firearms  
Session No. 35 – POST Pistol Night Basic Test**

Hours: 4

**LD 35 (RBC Calendar Location Day Weeks 19-22 – Night 1 of 4 in Night Rotations)**

LOCATION: Classroom & Range

TRAINING NEEDS: None

HANDOUTS: None

**LD 35 V.D; VII.B1-6**

**I. Night One of Four – Nighttime Firearms Training and Testing**

A. Assemble the recruits in the classroom.

**B. Describe limitations officers may encounter when shooting under low light/nighttime conditions.**

**LD 35 V.D**

Peace officers must often function in situations under low light or nighttime conditions. Accuracy when shooting a firearm under such conditions can be greatly reduced unless officers make the necessary accommodations.

The following table identifies a number of problems and limitations that officers should be aware of when operating a firearm under low light/nighttime conditions.

Limitations	Explanation
Night vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adaptation to light and dark is only partly controlled by the pupil</li> <li>Although the eye becomes accustomed to bright light quickly, it may take from 10-30 minutes to allow the officer to see fully in the dark again.</li> </ul>
Limited Depth Perception	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As the lighting levels drops, depth perception become impaired</li> <li>Once the level drops to a point where colors cannot be distinguished, an officer's depth perception can be greatly limited</li> </ul>
Limited Target Identification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identification of subjects and hand-held objects becomes difficult</li> <li>As the amount of light continues to diminish or if the distance increases, accurate identification may be impossible without artificial light (e.g., flashlight)</li> </ul>
Flash Disorientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When the eye is subjected to repeated intense light (e.g., strobe light, numerous muzzle flashes), the perception of movement becomes difficult</li> <li>Disorientation become even more severe if the source of light is viewed directly</li> </ul>

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Officer Limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus and adaptation times can increase as the officer ages (particularly after 40)</li> <li>• Vision may also be impaired by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some prescription and nonprescription medications</li> <li>• Poor physical condition</li> <li>• Certain illness (e.g., diabetes) may degrade vision</li> <li>• Use of tobacco and/or caffeine</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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C. Introduction to Nighttime Rotations

1. Introduce the instructors and the 4-night curriculum and testing.
2. Overview what is expected of the recruits during their nighttime training.
  - a. Manipulations must be perfectly safe.
  - b. The Rangemaster won't be able to see all of the details occurring on the range because of the low light conditions.
  - c. No compromise on the Four Basic Firearms Safety Rules.
  - d. Protect your night vision, especially your dominant eye.
3. Explain about emergency duty ammo availability for each training session.
4. Make assignments for an emergency situation.
  - a. 2 Medics/ First Aid duties
  - b. 2 Runners up to the gate to escort the Fire Dept to the range
  - c. Communications duties – Contact the Fire Dept and the FTS Supervisor
  - d. 2 Ammo officers to put out the emergency duty ammo at SOW, along with the practice ammo and then secure all of the ammo at the EOW.
5. Instruct the recruits to travel in pairs when on breaks and at EOW.
6. Inform the recruits that they must all go EOW together as a group when they leave the locker room and go to their vehicles. That way, no one gets left behind.
7. Remind the recruits that they will need to keep their hand-held flashlights and weapon lights fully charged, cleaned, and extra batteries.

D. Conduct a group discussion to cover the following concepts and aspects of low-light shooting. Refer to Chapter 9 in the LAPD Basic Firearms Manual in guiding the group discussion.

1. Various sighting methods used in low-light shooting
  - a. Tritium Night Sights
  - b. Contrast Sight Alignment
  - c. Backlighting Technique
  - d. Muzzle-flash sight alignment technique
2. Develop good light discipline when using light sources.
3. Discuss Night Blindness and ways to protect your night vision.

E. Dismiss the recruits from the classroom and instruct them to meet as a group outside the range. Remind them to bring their shooting gear, bags, and flashlights to the range.

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- F. Assemble the recruits on the range and conduct a review of the hand-held flashlight techniques as per Chapter 9 in the Basic Firearms Manual.
1. Fire 1 magazine of 15 rounds using the Harries Flashlight Technique.
  2. Fire 1 magazine of 15 rounds using the Chapman Flashlight Technique.
  3. Debrief the shooting drill and ask recruits which technique they preferred. Point out that the technique they prefer is the one they should use in the next drill.
- G. Live-fire Range Drills: Skip Loading
1. 10L/ 5S – 36 foot line, Slow Fire body shots on 1 target.
  2. 15 Live – 21 foot line, Slow Fire, One-hand failure drills with both the primary hand and the support hand.
  3. 15 Live – 21 foot line, Failure Drills from the holster on 1 target (1 slow/ 4 fast).
  4. 15 Live – 36 foot line, Failure Drills from the low ready on 1 target (1 slow/ 4 fast).
  5. 15 Live – 30 foot line, Hand-held flashlight technique of choice, Failure drills to time on 1 target with a reload at the end.
  6. 10L/ 5S – 51 foot line, Slow Fire body shots using the barricade for support on 1 target.
  7. Put clean targets in the frames and mark them in preparation for the POST Pistol Night Basic Test.
  8. Instruct the recruits to load their magazines 15-15-15-9-8 and place them on their range bags. Then give the recruits a break.
- H. **TEST: Conduct the POST Pistol Night Basic Test.**

**An exercise test that requires the student to demonstrate competency in basic handgun shooting principles using a handgun, while wearing body armor and duty equipment, under low light/night conditions (for outdoor ranges testing must be done during the hours of darkness as defined in Vehicle Code Section 280) on a basic course of fire.**

**The student is required to shoot from multiple distances of 1 to 15 yards or greater using a presenter approved service handgun and fire a minimum of 50 rounds of service ammunition with acceptable accuracy standards and under time restrictions established by the presenter.**

**The student is required to tactically load and reload the handgun using the loading device authorized by the presenter and clear any malfunctions that may occur during the course of fire.**

**The student will demonstrate competency in the following performance dimensions:**

1. **Firearms Safety**
2. **Mechanical Functions**
3. **Manipulations**
4. **Basic Shooting Principles**
5. **Flashlight/Lighting System/Existing Light**
6. **Accuracy**

**(LD 35 VII.B1-6)**

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1. The course of fire is similar to the POST Pistol Day Basic Test.
2. The lighting is adjusted to low-light level with the first row of lights is dimmed and all the other rows of lights are off.
3. Recruits will use hand-held flashlights for the 30 foot line stage of Phase Two where they will fire all 4 failure drills from the low ready in 7 seconds.
4. When the recruits have finished firing the test, turn up the lights and have them clean up the range.
5. Have the instructors move forward and score the targets. The primary instructor will then record the test scores on the score sheet. The minimum passing score is 60% for night testing. Therefore, the minimum passing score for each phase of the POST Pistol Night Basic Course is 180 points.
6. Remind the recruits that tomorrow night they will take the POST Pistol Night Combat Test.
7. Remind them to leave the training facility grounds together as a group.