

**LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**Stand Alone 7 – LD 35 Firearms**  
**Session No. 41 and 42- Back-up/Off-Duty Handguns & Department Qualifications**

Hours: 8

**LD 35 (RBC Calendar Location Week 28 Tues & Wed – half the class each day)**

LOCATION: Range

TRAINING NEEDS: None

HANDOUTS: None

**LD 35 II.C1-3; V.C2**

**Learning Objectives:**

**II.C Describe the basic information about a revolver, including:**

- 1. Primary components and their functions**
- 2. Steps for loading/unloading**
- 3. Steps for rendering the revolver safe**

**V.C2 Describe the types of malfunctions and demonstrate clearing methods for revolvers.**

**Note to instructor:** Before beginning the instruction for this session, have the recruits assemble by the Armory and have them turn in their Department issued pistol for inspection of the slide, firing pin, and channel. Then assemble the recruits on the range.

**I. Revolver Back-up and Off-Duty Handgun Policy and Instruction**

- A. Assemble the class together and explain the following information.
- B. When carrying a firearm in the capacity of a police officer:
  1. Only Department authorized firearms shall be carried. Unauthorized firearms shall not be carried.
  2. Only Department authorized duty ammunition shall be carried. Unauthorized ammunition shall not be carried.
  3. Revolvers must be altered so that they can only be fired double-action.
  4. All firearms shall be inspected and approved by the Department Armory, and then entered into the officer's personal firearms file in FITS.
  5. Firearms should be registered with the CA Department of Justice (D.O.J.)

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**C. Back-up Handguns**

1. Carrying a back-up firearm is not required, but is highly recommended. It is a secondary firearm to be used in the event that the primary firearm cannot be deployed. Possible examples of this include:
  - a. The primary firearm breaks or jams.
  - b. All ammunition in the primary firearm has been expended.
  - c. The primary firearm is dropped or separated from the officer.
  - d. A suspect is fighting for control of the primary firearm.
2. A back-up firearm should be small and compact for easy concealment. Stainless steel is preferable to blue steel for improved rust resistance. A five shot, 2" barrel revolver is the most common back-up firearm. Wood stocks on revolvers may be replaced with rubber stocks. Rubber stocks are easier to conceal and may aid in comfort and recoil control. A revolver with no exposed hammer or one with a hammer shroud (S&W Model 49 and 649) should be seriously considered. These features prevent the hammer from snagging during the draw.
3. "Additional firearms carried on-duty. An officer carrying an additional firearm while on-duty shall ensure that it is concealed and contained in such a manner that the firearms will not fall out or become accessible to unauthorized persons." This policy is found in LAPD Manual 3/610.70 Back-up or Concealed Off Duty Firearms.
4. The location where back-up firearms may be carried is a matter of personal preference. As long as it is concealed and secure, it may be carried anywhere on the body. There are advantages and disadvantages to each location. The primary considerations are accessibility and comfort. If it is not accessible, it is useless. If it is not comfortable to carry, it may be left in the locker.

**D. Off-duty Handguns**

1. The primary function of an off-duty firearm is for protection, both personal protection and the protection of others. The LAPD does not require an officer to carry a firearm while off-duty. However, like back-up firearms, carrying a firearms off-duty is highly recommended.
2. A firearm should be carried off-duty for protection against an unexpected deadly threat. Officers are not encouraged to become physically involved in off-duty incidents unless they are life threatening or pose a threat of serious bodily injury.<sup>3</sup>
3. Firearms Carried Off-duty. A concealed firearm carried by an off-duty officer shall be limited to those which have been approved by the Department Armorer and authorized for carrying on-duty as either a primary or additional weapon.

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4. Proper holstering of concealed firearms carried by on and off-duty personnel. Every officer carrying a concealed firearm shall carry the firearm in a holster specifically designed for the firearm being carried. The holster must be constructed so the firearm may be drawn and holstered without difficulty. When the firearm is carried on the person, the holster used shall be designed to secure the firearm in the holster and prevent the firearm from being cocked. The holstered firearm shall be securely attached to the officer or may be carried concealed in a container under the officer's immediate control. Such a container may include but is not limited to, purses and briefcases. The container must be capable of being secured in such a manner that the holstered firearm will not fall out or become accessible to unauthorized persons. The container shall allow the officer immediate access to the firearm.
  
5. Explain and demonstrate the steps for Concealed Carry Presentation
  - a. The concealed carry presentation differs only in the movement necessary to clear the garment. If an open front (unbuttoned) coat or shirt is worn and the pistol is on the primary side, "sweep" the garment open with the primary hand prior to obtaining a firing grip on the holstered pistol. The lapel of the garment will be cleared by using either the thumb of the primary hand, or by using the tips of the curled fingers of the hand. Once the garment has been cleared and a shooting grip obtained, drawing will proceed as in the traditional presentation.
  
  - b. If the pistol is concealed under a sweater or other garment which is closed at the front, grasp the bottom of the garment below the pistol with both hands. Pull the garment up above the holstered pistol. Hold the garment up with the support hand. Acquire a shooting grip (trigger finger on the frame) and break the retaining strap on the holster in one continuous motion. Remove the pistol from the holster, raise the muzzle and lock the wrist above the holster. The support hand releases the garment when the hand is extended and meets the primary hand forming a two-hand grip. Holstering a pistol in a concealed holster requires the shooter to assume count two of the presentation. The small, ring, and middle finger of the primary hand grasps the lapel of the garment. The pistol is moved rearward until the muzzle is directly above the holster. As the pistol is rotated down into the holster the lapel is released. The holster is then snapped.

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**E. Describe the basic information about a revolver, including:**  
**(LD 35 II.C1-3)**

**1. Primary components and their functions**

Component	Description/Function
Frame	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main part of the revolver which contains the action, barrel, trigger, cylinder, and grip</li> </ul>
Cylinder and Chambers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Round device which contains a series of holes referred to as chambers</li> <li>• Each chamber holds a single cartridge</li> <li>• The cylinder rotates to place each chamber into a firing position</li> </ul>
Cylinder Release	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Latch which allows the cylinder to be opened out from the frame</li> </ul>
Extractor/Ejector Rod	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removes the cartridges from the cylinder when the cylinder is open</li> </ul>
Barrel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tube through which the bullet is discharged</li> </ul>
Barrel Rifling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spiral grooves machined into the interior of the firearm's barrel, which causes the bullet to spin when fired, giving it stability.</li> </ul>
Muzzle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The end of the firearm from which the projectile emerges</li> </ul>
Sights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Devices used to aid in aiming the firearm</li> </ul>
Trigger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Device which, when pulled, activated the hammer</li> </ul>
Trigger Guard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Device which circles the trigger</li> </ul>
Hammer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Device that drives the firing pin forward</li> </ul>
Firing Pin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Device which strikes the primer of the cartridge</li> </ul>
Grip	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portion of the firearm that is held in the hand</li> </ul>
Back Strap	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Back of the grip that the palm of the primary hand fits around</li> </ul>

**2. Steps for loading/unloading a revolver**

There are a number of basic guidelines that are common for the safe loading for all revolvers. When loading a revolver, officers should follow the steps noted below:

- a. Follow all fundamental rules of firearms safety
- b. Open the cylinder
- c. Place a single round in each chamber of the cylinder, one at a time
- d. Visually and physically inspect each chamber to make sure it contains a cartridge
- e. Close the cylinder and make sure it is locked in place

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When unloading a revolver, officers should follow the steps noted below:

- a. Follow all the fundamental rules of firearms safety
- b. Open the cylinder
- c. While holding the revolver muzzle up, push the extractor/ejector rod down to release cartridges or spent casings from each chamber of the cylinder
- d. Visually and physically inspect each chamber in the cylinder to verify that it is empty.

**3. Steps for rendering the revolver safe**

Officers must always remember that a revolver has been rendered safe only when:

- a. All rounds have been removed from each chamber of the cylinder
- b. The cylinder is left open

**F. Describe the types of malfunctions and demonstrate clearing methods for revolver (LD 35 V.C2)**

Malfunction	Description	Possible Cause
Failure to Fire	Trigger is pulled, hammer falls, but no projectile is discharged from the revolver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No round in the chamber</li> <li>• Defective cartridge</li> <li>• Defective firearm</li> </ul>
Slow Cylinder	Cylinder does not properly rotate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dirty firearm</li> <li>• Improperly seated primer in the cartridge</li> <li>• Broken spring</li> <li>• Loose ejector rod</li> <li>• Loose retaining screw</li> <li>• Defective firearm</li> </ul>
Stopped Cylinder	Cylinder fails to move at all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cylinder not completely closed</li> <li>• Defective firearm</li> </ul>

If a malfunction is encountered by an officer, that officer should:

- Open the cylinder
- Remove any observed defective cartridge(s)
- Reload new cartridge(s) into the chamber
- Close the cylinder
- Assess the threat
- Pull trigger again

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**II. Revolver Back-up Training and Qualification**

- A. Explain and demonstrate the proper techniques for drawing and holstering the revolver back-up.
- B. Explain and demonstrate the proper steps for skip loading, loading and unloading the revolver.
- C. Determine which recruits have a personally purchased back-up revolver with them to use during training and qualification today.
- D. Distribute the back-up revolvers obtained from the Armory to the remaining recruits for them to use during training and qualification today.
- E. Instruct all recruits to place the back-up revolver into their support-side front pants pocket.
- F. Instruct the recruits to take one box of .38 cal training ammo and move to their assigned shooting lanes at the 21 foot line with all of their required shooting equipment.
- G. Conduct skip loading drills to teach and reinforce the course of fire for the LAPD Back-up Handgun Qualification Course. Refer to the LAPD Basic Firearms Manual, Appendix D for the specific phases of fire. Note that every phase of fire involves firing 5 shots in 10 seconds.
- H. Start with no live rounds for the first five presses. Then continue adding one additional live round per five-press sequence (e.g. 1 live, 2 live, 3 live and finally 4 live rounds = 10 live rounds total).
- I. Utilize this format for both right and left-hand, one-hand shooting at the 9 foot line. Also use this format to include two-hand shooting at the 21 foot line.
- J. Replace the targets with clean targets and ensure that each recruit has 30 rounds in a pocket to use for the qualification course of fire.
- K. Conduct the LAPD Back-up Gun Qualification Test.
  - 1. This course is fired with a Department approved five-shot, two-inch barrel revolver. The course consists of 30 rounds total, fired on two silhouette targets, with 15 rounds fired on each target.
  - 2. The ring scoring method is used, i.e. a round in the 9 ring is worth 9 points, around in the 8 ring is worth 8 points, etc. Head shots anywhere in the head are scored 10 points. The maximum score on each target is 150 points, with a maximum of 300 total points for both targets. The minimum score required to qualify is 70% or 210 points.
  - 3. Each phase of fire is 5 rounds in 10 seconds. Phases one through four are fired from the 9 foot line, and phases five and six are fired from the 21 foot line.
  - 4. Refer to the LAPD Basic Firearms Manual, Appendix D for the specific procedures to run the Back-up Gun Qualification Course
- L. For any recruits with private purchase .380 caliber back-up guns, ensure that they have a box of Department approved .380 ammunition, and run them through the course of fire in order to qualify them to carry the .380 as a back-up or off-duty weapon. The course of fire is exactly the same. Allow the other recruits to take a break.

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- M. Provide instruction on how to clean and maintain the two inch barrel revolvers. Conduct this training in the cleaning area between the ranges.

**III. Decocker-Pistol Familiarization**

- A. The Primary Instructor should check out several decocker-type pistols from the Armory to be used during this segment of training.
- B. Assemble the recruits on the range in a class circle.
- C. Explain to the recruits that the purpose of this training is to enable them to safely handle and possibly deploy another officer's decocker pistol under exigent circumstances in the field.
- D. Demonstrate to the recruits how to safely handle, fire, and render safe a Department approved decocker weapon.
  - 1. Explain the concept of the double-action to single-action trigger action.
  - 2. Explain the purpose and function of the decocking lever.
  - 3. Explain how the decocker-down malfunction occurs and is cleared.
  - 4. Explain the magazine disconnect feature found on Smith & Wesson decocker pistols (not to be confused with the M&P pistol).
- E. Conduct a live-fire exercise with several stations set up on the range with instructors and decocker pistols in order to allow the recruits to handle, fire, and render safe different Department approved decocker pistols.
- F. Collect all of the pistols from the stations and answer any questions.
- G. Send the recruits to the Armory to pick up their Department issued pistols and have them return directly back to the range.

**IV. One-hand Pistol Manipulations**

- A. Refer to the LAPD Basic Firearms Manual, Chapter 8 when presenting and conducting one-hand pistol manipulations.
- B. Explain and demonstrate to the recruits the proper steps for one-hand pistol manipulations.
- C. Conduct dry-practice drills using snap caps to introduce and reinforce one-hand pistol manipulation skills.

**V. Department Qualifications Courses**

- A. The 30-round Department Qualification Course
  - 1. Assemble the class off the range and instruct them how to approach the registration window in order to register for qualification into the SQUAB system.

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Note: The recruits should be entered into SQUAB with qualifying intent code YES for the weapon system required to be qualified with for that particular Department qualification cycle. It should be noted that for the month of January, the shotgun should be entered as the weapon being qualified with, and for the months of July and August, which is the FOS qualification cycle, no SQUAB entry should be made for the recruits.

2. Instruct the recruits to load their magazines 6-7-6-6-5 in preparation for shooting the 30-round Department Pistol Qualification Course.
  3. Score the targets in order to determine that each recruit successfully met the qualification requirements. Then replace the targets with clean targets.
- B. The 40-round Bonus Course
1. Instruct the recruits to load their five magazines with 6 live rounds in each magazine. Also have them stage a box of ammunition with at least ten rounds in it at the 51 foot line.
  2. Have the recruits report to the 21 foot line to begin the Bonus Course of fire.
  3. Conduct the 40-round Bonus Course.
  4. At the conclusion of the Bonus Course, have the recruits score their targets using the ring-score methodology.
  5. If a recruit has a score that would result in an upgrade to their Bonus Shoot Medal, an instructor must verify the score by re-scoring the target. Then that score would be entered into SQUAB.
  6. Ensure that any recruits that have Private Purchase Remington 870 shotguns have pattern tested and qualified with their personal shotgun, as well as been issued a SQUAB receipt for that shotgun prior to taking it to the Armory to be registered into FITS.

## **VI. Armory Functions**

Note: The primary instructor should check with the Armory staff to verify what time they would like to conduct the following Armory Functions with the recruits. The primary instructor should then conduct this section during that particular time.

- A. Assemble the recruits in the hallway outside the Armory in alphabetical order.
- B. The recruits will receive their Department issued, duty ammunition.
- C. The recruits will then register any private purchase off-duty handguns and shotguns. Ensure that each recruit has the appropriate SQUAB receipt necessary to register the weapon into FITS.
- D. Instruct the recruits to return to the range after they have completed the necessary Armory functions.



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**VII. Shotgun Review**

Note: Ensure that any recruits that have a privately purchased Remington 870 shotgun use their shotgun during this review.

- A. Review BEEFSS.
- B. Review Slinging Techniques.
- C. Shoot the 6-round Department Shotgun course of fire.
- D. Introduce shotgun slugs to the recruits. Allow them to shoot a couple of slugs from the 75 foot line. The primary instructor will need to obtain the slug ammunition from the Armory prior to this session.

**VIII. Firearms Enhancement**

- A. Introduce and explain the Department Policies regarding the following weapon systems. Include the procedures for applying for and attending the appropriate transition school for each weapon system.
  - 1. The Patrol Rifle – AR-15.
  - 2. The Benelli M4 12 gauge, semi-auto shotgun.
  - 3. The 1911 semi-auto pistol.
- B. If time permits and the weapon systems are available, allow the recruits to fire the weapon systems at established shooting stations on the range under the supervision of an instructor.
- C. After a cease fire has been called, secure the weapons. Answer any questions.
- D. Conduct an open shoot time with the time remaining that will allow the recruits to shoot their privately purchased off-duty guns. All shooting should be conducted at the 30 foot line for all shooters.
- E. After a cease fire has been called, ensure that all weapons have been cleared and secured in a gun box or holster.
- F. Once the range has been declared safe by the rangemaster, have the recruits clean up the range.
- G. Assemble the recruits together, answer any final questions.
- H. The Primary Instructors should make some final remarks to the class and then give the class their final dismissal instructions.