

TACOPS | ROLL CALL BRIEFING SHEET

LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

TACTICAL FIREARMS

SAFE HANDLING OF REPLICA FIREARMS AND FIREARM CONVERSIONS



On a daily basis, the safety of our personnel and the community we serve remains the Department's highest priority. Criminal elements continue to engage in ways to arm themselves by circumventing the traditional means of obtaining firearms. Challenging field situations and best practices related to evidence recovery deserve constant revisiting to ensure that officers are updated and reminded on the safe methods for handling modified weapons.

In recent years, prohibitions and controls on handgun accessibility have led criminals to devise various means to mechanically alter easily accessible blank/replica firearms to make them function in such a manner as to fire live ammunition. This process is known as **firearm conversion** and usually starts with a blank/starter pistol, airsoft gun, air gun, or even a toy gun.

These can all be easily purchased in store or on-line and shipped anywhere with no required paperwork, background checks, record inquiries, or waiting periods as they are not subject to any firearm regulations. Despite their training and experience with real firearms, these replicas can appear as realistic as any of the real firearms that officers are accustomed to.

Alterations or modifications to replicas which were not manufactured or designed to fire live ammunition can make them

extremely dangerous and not subject to the same loading and unloading safety rules officers would expect. Once converted, these weapons may discharge live ammunition by non-traditional means, i.e.: without the need for pressing the trigger. Therefore, their operation is non-standard and, as a result, can require special handling to be rendered safe.

If you have questions about a firearm's condition or it is unfamiliar to you, do not jeopardize your safety or the safety of others by handling it.

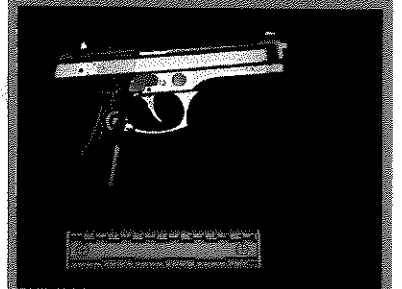
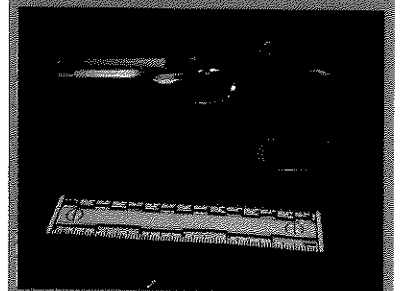
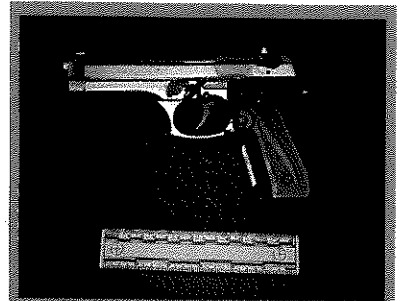
Note: All Firearm Safety Rules apply when handling firearms or firearm conversions.

Firearm Safety Rules:

1. All guns are always loaded
2. Never allow the muzzle to cover anything you are not willing to shoot.
3. Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are aligned on the target and you intend to shoot.
4. Be sure of your target.

All personnel are reminded that the Forensic Sciences Division (FSD) Firearms Analysis Unit (FAU) is available for advice or response to the field in situations where personnel have encountered unfamiliar firearms (including firearm conversions), or jammed/inoperative weapons where the safe handling or unloading cannot be assured. The FSD FAU can be contacted at (323) 415-8150 during normal business hours or off-hours through the Department Operations Center at (213) 484-6700.

Take Care of Each Other and Stay Safe Out There!



This P.A.K 9mm blank firing pistol was converted to fire live .380 caliber ammunition. Testing of the weapon revealed that it would discharge live ammunition without manipulation of the trigger, by simply allowing the slide to move forward.