

## Firearms/Shotgun Patrol Update Course Outline

### I. Sign-in/Introduction

Instructors will ensure all students are present, give an overview of the course and explain objective. The Four Safety Rules will be explained: I(c)

1. Treat all firearms as if they are loaded.
2. Never let your muzzle cover anything you are not willing to destroy.
3. Keep your finger outside the trigger guard until your sights are aligned and you have made the conscious decision to fire.
4. Be sure of your target, between you and the target, left and right of the target, and beyond the target. I(c) a.  
follow instructor commands/ follow range rules
  - a. strict weapon discipline and muzzle control
  - b. no “lasering” of personal body parts
  - c. movement and reloading only on double action
5. Review of Range Safety Rules

### II. Lethal Force Overview

I(c)

1. Legal/moral/ethical issues involving use of force/lethal force
2. civil implications of using force/lethal force
3. report writing and preliminary investigation overview

### III. Use of Force/Lethal Force and Firearms Policy

Ih,I,j

- A. Lethal force within the spectrum of force options
  1. Verbal, hands, less than lethal, lethal force
  2. Escalation and De-escalation process
- B. Department Policy
  1. Reasonable cause to believe
  2. Imminent Threat
  3. Death or Great Bodily Injury
  4. Fleeing Violent Felon Specifications
  5. Other policy areas and issues
- C. Supporting Case Law
  1. Tennessee vs. Garner  
Deadly force, fleeing felon
  2. Graham vs. Conner  
Reasonable force

### Presentation

### IV. Nomenclature and Maintenance

“External and Internal Nomenclature will be reviewed with the use of student hand out showing “exploded view” of shotgun.

## V. Functioning of Weapon

1. Sight System will be explained
2. Surefire Light system, as installed on department owned gun will be explained including operation, maintenance and battery replacement.
3. Magazine Tube/ Ejection Port Loading will be explained in classroom and repeatedly practiced on the range.
4. Unloading will be explained in classroom and repeatedly practiced on the range.
5. Pre-Service Inspection (SMALS) will be demonstrated and practiced.

Safety

Magazine

Action

Lights

Sights

## VI. Firing the Shotgun

I(d)

1. Three Secrets are sight alignment, sight picture and trigger control
  - A. Sight Alignment: This is the relationship between your eye, the rear sight and the front sight. To obtain correct sight alignment, place the top center of the front sight post exactly in the center of the rear sight aperture. The firer's eye should be focused on the top of the front sight post, leaving the rear sight and target blurred.
  - B. Sight picture: This is the relationship between your eye, the rear sight, the front site, and the target. Correct sight picture is when the front sight, rear site, and target are all perfectly in line ensuring the firer will hit the target. The vision is still focused on the front sight.
  - C. Trigger Control: This is the ability to slowly press the trigger to the rear so that when the weapon fires it surprises you. This is called "Surprise Brake." During the trigger press the weapon should not move off of the target.

### 2. Offhand Shooting Stance

Body should be as straight on to the target as possible. A slightly bladed stance is okay. Roll forward at the ribs. Primary side foot slightly back. Head is up looking downrange. Butt is pulled firmly into pocket of shoulder with firing hand. Cheek weld is firm. Support side hand holds slide.

### 3. Carry Positions

I(f)

Once in the correct shooting stance, the gun is carried one of three ways.

- A. Field Ready: Gun is lowered so that Support side arm is straight, muzzle is pointed toward ground on support side, and butt is slightly raised held along the primary side forearm.
- B. High Ready: Butt is held in close to primary side at belt. Muzzle is raised so it is just below shooters line of sight.
- C. Low Ready: Toe of butt is in pocket of shoulder. Muzzle is depressed low enough that it does not block shooters vision to the front.

### 4. Cycling the Action

As the Model 870 is a pump action firearm, it is imperative that the shooter instinctively cycle the action after each shot. Immediately following the brake of the shot, the action must be pulled fully to the rear and pushed fully forward. This cycling must be done during recoil.

5. Tactical Reloads

I(f)

One of the drawbacks of the shotgun is its relatively low magazine capacity. To counter this, the shooter must make a habit of continually “topping off” the weapon with additional ammunition. This is done by loading rounds into the magazine tube as often as possible after firing. A general rule of thumb is to load what you shoot or “shoot one, load one, shoot two load two.”

6. Chamber Check

I(f)

During the course of firing the shotgun it is possible to unintentionally end up with an empty chamber. This occurs for several for several reasons such a failing to fully cycle the action, shooting the weapon dry, or clearing a malfunction to name a few. It is therefore important that the shooter perform a Chamber Check as often as is practical. A Chamber Check is done by pushing the action release button with the middle finger of the primary side hand. The support side hand moves the action slowly to the rear just until they can reach the ejection port with the pinky finger of the support side hand. They then feel the area in front of the bolt with the pinky finger. If a shell is felt the action is closed back into battery. If the chamber is empty, the action is cycled again.

VII. Patterning

I(e)

Patterning is important as it lets the shooter know the effective range of the gun. With shotguns, there are three “zones” that identify the effectiveness of the weapon. They are known as Zone A, Zone B and Zone C.

- A. Zone A is that area from the muzzle out to where the pattern remains tight enough to make one large hold in the target.
- B. Zone B is the area where Zone A ends when the pattern spreads out to cover a larger area. It extends out to where the pattern is too large to be effective and most pellets are not striking the target.
- C. Zone C is the area where Zone B ends, where buckshot is no longer effective and an adversary could walk through the pattern unharmed. This is the area where slugs should be used and extends out to the maximum range that a hit with slugs can be performed consistently.

VIII. Malfunctions

I(f)

1. With the shotgun, it is important to diagnose the reason for the malfunction to be able to clear it. The reason for the malfunction will dictate the immediate action needed to clear it. There are three basic types of malfunctions that occur with a shotgun. They are known as Type 1, Type 2, and Type 3.

- A. Type 1 is when the weapon has an empty chamber or a spent hull in the chamber. When the trigger is pressed, the hammer falls and a click is heard. The shooter tilts the gun slightly toward the right as he works the action. If a shot is called for, it is taken. IF not, then a chamber check is performed.

- B. Type 2 is when there is a spent hull stuck partially in the action and protruding from the ejection port, commonly referred to as a “stove pipe.” When the trigger is pressed it will not click. The shooter tilts the gun slightly to the left so he can observe the ejection port. When the “stove pipe” is seen, the gun is tilted back toward the right while the action is worked.
- C. Type 3 is when the gun has two rounds stuck in the action, commonly referred to as a “double feed.” When the trigger is pressed it will not click. The shooter tilts the gun slightly to the left so he can observe the ejection port. When the “double feed” is seen, the shooter moves to cover and strikes the butt of the gun on the ground as he pulls the action to the rear. The action is then closed and a chamber check is performed to ensure the gun is ready.

## 2. Transition to handgun

The shotgun being primarily used as a close quarter weapon, it will in most cases be necessary to abandon it and transition to handgun when a malfunction occurs. Students will be shown and practice techniques that are applicable based on the sling system used on their gun.

## IX. Live Fire Training

I(a,b,c,d,e,f,g)

Each of the items below will be fired repeatedly to help students acquire the muscle memory needed to execute the moves under stress.

1. Range Orientation and Safety Briefing (Second range safety, and command sequence)
2. All Courses emphasize:
  - a. weapons safety
  - b. muzzle and fire discipline
  - c. fundamentals of shooting
  - d. five count presentation
1. Patterning
 

All guns will be fired with duty issue buckshot at ranges of 5, 10,15,20, 25, and 30 yards. This will enable shooters to know where their gun three zones are. Patterning cards will be prepared by each student that can be attached to the butt of the gun for future reference.
2. After Action Drills
 

Students will be taught and repeatedly practice After Action Drills. This is what should be done immediately after firing at a threat.
3. Close Quarter Hold
 

The close quarter hold technique is used in confined areas or when opening doors to keeps the gun in close to the body while still maintaining a firing position.
4. Ejection Port/Magazine Loading Drills
 

Students will repeatedly practice both loading techniques.

5. Failure Drills I(f)  
These drills are designed to ensure students stay focused on a deadly threat. It is imperative that deputies not assume a suspect is no longer a threat simply because he has been shot. Suspects wearing body armor or under the influence of controlled substances may not immediately respond to shots placed into the body. These drills will have students firing initially at the body, reassessing and firing to the head if needed.
6. Multiple Target Drills  
Students will be challenged with multiple targets and shown how to track the next target during recoil while working the action.
7. Shooting on the move  
Students will practice this skill to include tactical applications of movement.
8. Malfunction Drills I(f)  
All three types of malfunctions will be set up and cleared, as outlined above.
9. Transition of handgun Drills  
All students will practice transitioning to handgun when clearing of malfunction is not feasible.
10. Select Slug Drills

When the threat is located in “Zone C”, buckshot is no longer effective. Students will then select, load and fire a slug to stop the threat.

Testing: Any student scoring below standard on any exercise, as established by the presenter, will be remediated, tested until standard is achieved. I(b)

#### Re-Cap/Weapon Cleaning

Following the Live Fire period, students will have a review of topics covered, and thoroughly clean guns. I(b)