

BELL GARDENS POLICE DEPARTMENT
Patrol Rifle Certification – 4350-32075-
Safety Policy

It is the practice of the Bell Gardens Police Department (BGPLD) to conduct all training in a safe and secure manner. All instructors will manage and facilitate the learning process through constant safety and security evaluations.

I. Facilities

- A. Since we must use which ever facility we can obtain on a space-available basis, the need for safety rules and procedures specific to each facility is necessary. It is the instructor(s) responsibility to obtain the facility safety policy prior to the course presentation and familiarize all students and staff with the policy. In the event no pre-existing policy exists, instructors must conduct a safety inspection and develop a safety policy specific to the course training facility.
- B. Whenever possible, safety rules shall be clearly posted.
- C. Rifle training shall be in a controlled access area to ensure uninvolved vehicles and pedestrians present a safety hazard. Instructors shall limit access using barricades, fencing, caution tape and/or other appropriate warning methods.
- D. Safe areas shall be designated by signage and determined by the conditions at the time of the training.
- E. The rules for loading and unloading shall be communicated to all students. During live firing, the communications shall be conveyed via verbal commands and hand signals.
- F. Course design and site selection shall ensure the following is addressed:
 - 1. Minimum obstructions
 - 2. Minimum interference with other training exercises
 - 3. Minimum surface hazards
 - 4. Accessibility by fire, rescue, and other emergency vehicles
 - 5. Accessibility to drinking water and restroom facilities
 - 6. Communication equipment and additional safety equipment is available.
- G. Instructional staff shall monitor facility conditions:
 - 1. Safety hazards must be detected and corrected.
 - 2. Inspections of the rifle training area shall be conducted daily before students are permitted to commence rifle exercises.

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II. Equipment

- A. Rifles used for training shall be adequately equipped and approved by the presenter. Instructors shall inspect and approve all rifles, magazines, ammunition, and other gear/equipment included in rifle training.
- B. Instructors shall require students to use approved safety equipment such as eye and ear protection. The instructional staff will conduct pre-training inspection to ensure compliance. Eye, ear and soft body armor protection shall be worn during live fire exercises. Department issued uniformed duty belt and carrying holster shall be worn.
- C. Students shall wear clothing that allow for movement flexibility. Proper clothing and protective wear such as boots, knee and elbow pads must be worn.
- D. Instructional staff shall wear clothing that clearly designates them as instructors. Department badge/patch and instructor's name shall be worn.
- C. Instructors shall inspect all safety equipment prior to use.
- D. First aid and trauma kits shall be immediately available at each training site.
- E. Frequent inspection of rifles, magazines, etc. shall be done. Rifle components can wear unpredictably or become stressed to a degree failure may occur.
- F. Equipment necessary to ensure the safety of instructors and students during high intensity training will be provided.

IV. Instructor Qualifications

- A. Each instructor shall be required to complete a POST-certified Rifle Instructor Course or its equivalent non-POST course.

V. Presentation

- A. Safety Policy and rules will be provided to all students and reemphasized to students prior to and during training.

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- B. Instructor to student ratio: One or more instructors per five students. Instructors shall lower the instructional instructor-to-student ratio for higher risk exercises where circumstances require. Certain exercises such a running, close quarter searches, tactical drills and etc. may require altering the instructor-to-student ratio. The number of instructors will depend on the specific type of exercise and the potential injury risk to the student/instructor. In some cases, the ratio may be one-to-one.
- C. The training staff shall provide advance notice to prospective students and their agencies regarding anticipated physical demands and/or physical performance expectations.
- D. Instructors shall be aware of physical fatigue factors which may affect the ability of students to perform safely. Long periods of training can unduly fatigue students and increase accident potential. Extreme heat, smog, visibility, and other environmental conditions that affect student safety shall be considered
- E. Instructors shall be aware of environmental factors such as weather and air quality and adjust instruction as necessary.
- F. The primary instructor or designee shall review specific safety rules with students/instructors.
- G. Specific safety rules shall be incorporated into lesson plans.
- H. Safety rules shall be reemphasized to students immediately prior to actual rifle firing.
- I. Instructors shall adhere to the expanded course outline as submitted to POST.
- J. Instructors shall advise students of their responsibility to report and/or stop unsafe actions during training.
- K. Instructors shall exhibit constant safety and professional demeanor.
- L. Instructors shall be provided with course instruction safety policy prior to class commencement.

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- M. Instructors must maintain an appropriate level of control and discipline over students at all times. Students failing to follow instructions and/or overly aggressive students may be dismissed from the training when the instructor determines they are a danger to themselves or others.
- N. Shade structures and water will be provided during hot weather.
- O. When taking breaks or before eating, students will be required to wash their hands and face thoroughly to remove traces of lead and like deposits. The dangers of lead exposure and the affect on children and pregnant women will be discussed.
- P. The training staff shall ensure emergency communications (phone, radio, or other means) are accessible at all training sites.
- Q. At least one member of the instructional staff, or other person, either directly involved in the training event or immediately available at the training site, shall be trained in First Aid and CPR.
- R. Student emergency notification information shall be maintained for the duration of the course.
- S. Instructors shall identify available medical facilities and emergency services subject to call in the event of an emergency or injury.
- T. All weapons will be checked for safety prior to the start of live fire training, and upon return from breaks.
- U. Each rifle technique and manipulation skill will first be demonstrated by the instructor(s), and then practiced by students. Instructors will monitor progress and correct as needed. Evaluations will be conducted of each student.
- V. In the event of nighttime training, safety issues will be identified and discussed. Portable lighting will be provided to illuminate the ranges when appropriate.
- W. Instructors and students shall use the command “Cease Fire” to stop action during training when conditions exist that can cause an injury or accident.

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VI. Response to Injuries

- A. In the event of an injury, the following actions shall be taken:
1. Immediately cease fire and give the “Cease Fire” command.
 2. Render first aid
 3. Obtain appropriate medical assistance. In all cases where a patient loses consciousness, an evaluation shall be sought from a competent medical authority before the injured is allowed to return to training.
 4. Notify BGPD and facility administrations
 5. Initiate other appropriate notifications or actions as required (student emergency notification information, agency notification requirements).
 6. Investigate and complete an accident report using appropriate reporting form(s) and protocol
 7. Patients who sustain an injury requiring treatment by a physician shall obtain a medical release before they will be allowed to resume training and provide the BGPD with a copy of the physician or agency medical release form.
- B. Nearest Emergency Facility:
1. Foothill Presbyterian Hospital
250 S Grand Ave
Glendora, Ca 91740
(626) 963-8411

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