

**Merced Police Department, 3130**  
**POST PERISHABLE SKILLS PROGRAM (PSP)**  
**I - TACTICAL FIREARMS COURSE**  
**CCN: 29501 | POST Certification II | Reimbursement Plan \_\_ | 4 hours**

**STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:**

The course will provide the trainee with the minimum topics of tactical firearms and lethal force required in the POST Perishable Skills Training Program (PSP). The trainee will develop the necessary firearms tactical knowledge and skills to survive and win a realistic lethal force encounter.

The course consists of a hands-on/practical skills firearms training for in-service officers.

**TACTICAL FIREARMS**

**Minimum Topics/Exercises:**

- a. Safety Policy/Orientation
- b. Moral obligations
- c. Use of Force considerations (options)
- d. Policy and/or legal standards
- e. Sight Alignment, Trigger Control, Accuracy
- f. Target recognition and analysis
- g. Weapons Clearing/Manipulations
- h. Live Fire Tactical/or Simunitions Tactical/Marking Cartridges
- i. Basic Tactical Firearms Situations, Judgment and Decision Making Exercise(s) - expanded outline must define each exercise and its terminal objective(s)
- j. Class Exercises/Student Evaluation/Testing

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

The trainee will:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of their individual Department Use Of Force/Firearms Policy.
2. Identify the tactical analysis key points related to tactical firearms as reported in the POST Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted (LEOKA) Studies (1994 to Present).
3. Demonstrate a minimum standard of tactical handgun proficiency with every technique, exercise, and course-of-fire, to include:
  - A. Judgment and Decision Making
  - B. Firearms Safety
  - C. Fundamentals of Marksmanship
  - D. Safe Drawing and Presenting Firearms
  - E. Threat Assessment/Identification
  - F. Speed, Accuracy and Effectiveness under stress and movement conditions
  - G. Shot Placement: Combat Effectiveness
  - H. Malfunctions Clearing
  - I. Loading/Reloading

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**Minimum standards of performance shall be tested by an instructor observing the trainee during their performance of each technique, exercise and course-of-fire. If the trainee does not meet minimum standards, as established by the presenter, remediation will be provided until the standard is met.**

**EXPANDED COURSE OUTLINE**

**I. INTRODUCTION/ORIENTATION**

A. Introduction, Registration and Orientation

B. Course Objectives/Overview, Exercises, Evaluation/Testing

C. Weapons Safety Orientation, Review of Range and Shooting Safety Rules

(Pre-range weapons unloading procedures and lunch/extended break reload/unload rules)

**I (a)**

1. All Weapons are to be considered loaded
2. Never point the muzzle at anything you are not willing to shoot at
3. Keep finger off trigger and out of guard until you are ready to fire
4. Be sure of your target, background and foreground
5. Range and Tactical Safety
  - a. Follow Range Rules
  - b. Follow Instructor commands
  - c. Strict Weapon Discipline and Muzzle Control
  - d. No lasering of personal body parts
  - e. Firearms should be placed on safety of decock prior to holstering
  - f. Cover primary elements as a checklist with students
  - g. Local emergency/first aid procedures to include radio/telephone procedures, closest medical facility

**II. LETHAL FORCE OVERVIEW**

**I (b, c, d)**

A. Legal Standards/Case Law

1. AB 392

- a. What has changed
- b. How are the changes reflected in agency's Use of Force Policy?

2. Supporting Case Law

- a. Tennessee vs. Garner
  1. Deadly Force
  2. Fleeing Felon
- b. Graham vs. Connor
  1. Objectively Reasonable Force
  2. PC 835a

B. Moral/Ethical Issues involving Use of Force/Lethal Force

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- 1. Moral obligations
  - 2. Ethical concerns
  - C. Civil Implications of using Force/Lethal Force
    - 1. Department liability
    - 2. Personal liability
  - D. Report Writing and Preliminary Investigation Overview
    - 1. Report writing and articulation
    - 2. What happens during preliminary investigation
- III. USE OF FORCE/LETHAL FORCE AND FIREARMS POLICY **I (c, d)**
- A. Use of Force Options
    - 1. Lethal Force within the spectrum of force options
    - 2. Verbal, Hands, Less than Lethal, Lethal Force
    - 3. Escalation and De-escalation Process
  - B. Department Policy /SB 230
    - 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
    - 6. Shooting at vehicles after violent fleeing specifications
- IV. FUNDAMENTALS OF SHOOTING **I (e, f)**
- A. Sight Alignment
    - 1. Equal height front sight to the rear sight
    - 2. Equal light front sight centered in the rear sight notch
  - B. Sight Picture
    - 1. Sights align relative to target
    - 2. Eye Focus – Front sight tip
  - C. Trigger Control
    - 1. Smooth, continuous pressure straight to the rear
    - 2. Without disturbing sight picture
  - D. Follow through
    - 1. Manage recoil
    - 2. Reset the trigger to the ready position and get another sight picture
  - E. Stance
    - 1. Athletic stance, Balanced Ready Position
    - 2. Weight shifted slightly forward
    - 3. Torso squared toward target
  - F. Grip

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1. High firm grip
2. Two hands on firearm

V. FIVE COUNT PISTOL PRESENTATION

- A. Threat Assessment
  1. Assess the Threat
  2. De-Cock to Double Action
  3. Tactical Reloading
  4. Reassess
- B. Holstering
  1. ONLY when the tactical situation warrants
  2. Gently place firearm back into holster
  3. Secure all retentions
- C. Count One
  1. High firm grip
  2. Defeat retentions
  3. Support hand/arm into center line
- D. Count Two
  1. Draw
  2. Pistol is rocked up and forward
  3. Wrist is positioned above holster
  4. Forearm parallel to ground
  5. Trigger finger is indexed
- E. Count Three
  1. Meet both hands for two handed grip
  2. Low ready positioning
- F. Count Four
  1. Present pistol for a two-handed grip
  2. Pistol raised to eye level raise front sight to eye level
  3. Eye focus to front sight
  4. Estimate proper sight picture
  5. Begin trigger press
- G. Count Five
  1. Weapon at full presentation (We do not shoot every time we draw)
  2. Sight alignment/sight picture is verified
- H. Target Recognition and Analysis
  1. Did I hit?
  2. Did it Work?
  3. Low Ready
- I. Threat Assessment
  1. Assess the Threat

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- 2. De-Cock to Double Action
- 3. Tactical Reloading
- 4. Reassess
- J. Holstering
  - 1. ONLY when the tactical situation warrants
  - 2. Reverse of the draw count
  - 3. Gently place firearm back into holster
  - 4. Secure all holster retentions

**VI. DRILLS AND COURSES-OF-FIRE**

**I (g, h, i, j)**

- A. Range Orientation and Safety Briefing (Second range safety, and command sequence)
  - 1. Conduct second range safety briefing
  - 2. Review command sequence
- B. All Courses emphasize:
  - 1. Weapons Safety
  - 2. Muzzle and Fire Discipline
  - 3. Fundamentals of Marksmanship
  - 4. Five Count Draw
- C. Marksmanship Warm Up Drill
  - 1. Review grip, stance, and draw
  - 2. Perform one shot drills from the holster
  - 3. 7-yard line
  - 4. As many times as needed to observe student proficiency
- D. Speed/Emergency Reload
  - 1. Drop magazine as bringing weapon to workspace and grabbing new magazine
  - 2. Properly index the magazine
  - 3. Insert fresh magazine
  - 4. Send slide home either by slide stop or overhand grip
- E. Tactical Reload
  - 1. Handgun to workspace
  - 2. Index a fresh magazine
  - 3. Replace partial magazine with fresh magazine from workspace
  - 4. Retain partial magazine
  - 5. Handgun back on target
  - 6. Utilize cover if possible
- F. Malfunction Drills
  - 1. Failure to Fire
    - a. Failure to fire/eject
    - b. Bring handgun to workspace
    - c. Tap magazine to support hand to ensure fully seated
    - d. Roll to right (for left or right-handed to orient the ejections port to the ground) and rack slide

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- 2. Double Feed Drill
- G. Flashlight Shooting Drills
  - 1. Weapon Mounted
    - a. Use support side thumb to activate light or use grip activated switch
    - b. Deactivate when no longer necessary
  - 2. Handheld Flashlight Tech
    - a. Alternate flashlight shooting techniques
    - b. Safety precautions
    - c. Dry fire practice
    - d. Reloading/flashlight retention
    - e. Handgun presentation with a secondary light

VII. TESTING/REMEDICATION

I (j)

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