

Management of Weapons and Control Devices

513.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy will address the availability and control of weapons, chemical agents, and control devices within juvenile institutions.

513.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Department that the presence and use of weapons in the facility will be tightly controlled and supervised to reduce the potential for injury. Only officers who are trained, qualified and authorized will carry and use weapons and control devices.

513.3 FIREARMS AND WEAPONS LOCKER

There should be a secure weapons locker located outside of the secure perimeter of the facility.

Armed personnel shall secure all firearms and ammunition in gun lockers located at the entry points prior to entering the secure perimeter. Firearms shall not be stored inside the secure perimeter at any time. If it is necessary to load or unload a firearm, personnel shall use the clearing barrels (if available) located outside the facility's secure perimeter to facilitate the safe loading and unloading of firearms.

Firearms shall only be allowed in the secure perimeter of the facility when it is necessary to protect the safety and security of department members, youths, or the public.

Firearms shall only be allowed inside the secure perimeter with the approval of the Division Chief or the authorized designee and under the direct supervision of a supervisor (see the Facility Emergencies policy).

Other weapons prohibited inside the facility, such as knives, conducted energy weapons, impact weapons and chemical agents not issued by the facility, must be placed in a secure weapons locker outside the secure perimeter of the facility.

513.4 INVENTORY OF FACILITY-ISSUED ITEMS

The Division Chief should designate at least one properly trained staff member (e.g. storekeeper, training officer, control center supervisor) to be responsible for maintaining all chemical agents and control devices in a safe and secure manner, and to inventory and report the condition and availability of the facility's chemical agents and control devices on a monthly basis.

To facilitate the inventory, all chemical agents and control devices shall be stored in a locked and secure location. A log sheet shall be maintained in the secure location at all times, detailing who removed the item, the date and time of removal, and the reason for removal. An additional log entry shall be made indicating the date and time of the item's return.

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The Watch Commander and the Division Chief shall be immediately notified if any chemical agent or control device is determined to be missing. An immediate and thorough search of the facility shall take place to locate the item (15 CCR 1324).

513.5 REVIEW, INSPECTION, AND APPROVAL

Every control device and chemical agent will be periodically inspected for serviceability and expiration dates by the Division Chief's designee or the instructor designated to train on the use of a particular control device or chemical agent. The Division Chief's designee or the designated instructor is responsible for ensuring replacement of outdated or unserviceable items (15 CCR 1324).

When issued equipment prior to duty, officers should inspect their gear prior to use to ensure it is present and functional.