

3-03/280.00 - Holsters

The Weapons Training Unit shall post and maintain a list of approved duty holsters at the Sheriff's ranges and on the Sheriff's Department Intranet.

All holsters shall be of good quality commercial construction, specifically shaped to fit the weapon carried. Holsters shall be securely riveted, stitched, or bolted to the holster shank/belt loop, and shall fully cover the handgun's trigger guard opening when the weapon is holstered.

No clamshell, automatic, or "trick" holsters of any kind shall be worn in lieu of the specified holsters.

Deputies who request that the Department replace a stolen, lost, or damaged issued holster will, on approval, be issued the holster currently issued by Central Supply/Logistics. We have two primary weapon systems; striker fired (no external hammer) and semiautomatic pistol with an external hammer.

Duty Holsters

Armed uniformed personnel wearing a gun belt shall wear either the Department-issued holster or a Department-approved optional duty holster. Optional duty holsters shall be purchased and maintained at the member's expense. Personnel electing to use an optional duty holsters are responsible for achieving proficiency with the equipment.

Duty holsters shall have at least one additional retention feature within the holster to retain the pistol when the over the hammer safety strap or rotating hood is disengaged.

Duty holsters shall be constructed of black leather, Kydex material, or simulated leather/polymer. Holsters worn with leather belts shall have a professional "basket weave" design and brass snaps. Holsters worn with nylon fabric belts shall have a plain black or simulated nylon fabric finish. Duty Holster shank/belt loops may be high ride, standard, or low lengths.

Tactical Holsters

Tactical holsters include those holsters that are suspended from the belt by a flexible webbing strap and secured to the thigh by one or more additional straps. Armed personnel wearing bulky external body armor or entry vests may wear a tactical holster in lieu of the Department issued holster or a Department approved optional duty holster during tactical operations only.

Tactical holsters shall not be worn while performing routine law enforcement duties and are specifically prohibited for personnel wearing a Class A or Class B uniform.

Other On-Duty Holster

All armed, uniformed personnel, not wearing a gun belt, shall wear a "top draw" holster with an over-the-hammer safety if their weapon has an exposed hammer. Personnel carrying "striker fired" weapons may wear a locking holster that covers the trigger and trigger guard. The holster must retain the pistol if the holster is held upside down.

The holster shall be worn on the "strong side." Construction material shall be black leather, simulated leather, black polymer, or Kydex type material.

Plain clothes personnel and personnel assigned to administrative duty may wear any of the following holsters, providing they are approved:

- Inside open top holster;
- Outside open top holster; or
- Shoulder holster (plain clothes personnel only).

NOTE: Sworn members assigned to specialized investigative units may, with sufficient justification, request approval from their division chief or division director to carry firearms and holsters other than those which are authorized.

Off-duty and Secondary Handgun Holsters

Sworn members electing to carry a Department-authorized handgun off-duty or as a secondary "back-up" handgun on their person or inside baggage, shall carry the firearm in a holster. Members shall select a holster that retains the handgun securely for the manner they intend to carry it. Any type of holster that fully covers the handgun's trigger guard when the weapon is holstered to prevent accidental movement of the trigger is acceptable.

Department personnel transporting a loaded striker fired handgun, that is not affixed to their body in a holster, shall transport the handgun in a holster which is:

- Contained in a bag or case that is free of any other objects; or
- Contained in a separate compartment of a bag or case which is free of any other objects.

Department authorized striker fired handguns include the Department issued Smith and Wesson M&P and the compact version of that handgun, as well as all models of Glock handguns.
