

BOP GUIDANCE ON CONDUCTING ANNUAL FIREARMS TRAINING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The following guidance is to be used specifically when developing training for this year's annual firearms certifications throughout the country to include Annual Training and Basic Prisoner Transport courses of fire.

Range:

- Communal or mass type transit to the range is discouraged. Institutions using vans or buses to transport staff to the range must take in to consideration seating arrangements to allow for distancing. All staff using communal transportation to the range must wear appropriate face coverings in the vehicle.
- Hand washing areas must be available, visibly marked, and provided with ample hand soap.
- Additionally, hand sanitizer should be made available to all staff. The provision of hand sanitizer is not a substitute for hand washing stations and both hand washing stations and hand sanitizer are to be provided.
- Individual bottles of water should be provided instead of communal water fountains or jugs.
- To allow for social distancing, every other firing position should be used.
- Prior to each session, firearms instructors should dispense the proper number of rounds to each participant.
- Any unspent munitions which have been handled by participants should be collected and discharged down range at the end of each session.
- Targets should be hung by staff wearing a face covering.
- Each participant should use their own pen when initialing the range documentation. There should be no communal sharing of instruments without prior sanitization.
- All instructors and participants engaged in each training evolution must take mandatory hand washing breaks between each evolution (hanging targets, cleaning up spent munitions, courses of fire).

Safety Briefing

- All briefings should be conducted in an open air environment.
- All staff should be reminded of the COVID-19 guidance for social distancing and wearing appropriate face coverings when not on the firing line as well as any time social distancing is not attainable.
- Instructors should wear face coverings at all times since the nature of their work does not allow for social distancing while providing instruction.
- The importance of hand washing and sanitizing should be addressed during the Safety Briefing to ensure that all participants are aware of the location of the hand washing stations and hand sanitizer and the importance of hand hygiene.

- The instructor should enforce all safety precautions detailed in this guidance during the course of training.
- Individuals not adhering to the guidance provided in this document may not be able to complete the qualification in question until they are able to comply with the safety requirements.

Weapons

- To the extent possible each participant should be issued a weapon for their use during each evolution.
- The practice of multiple participants using a single weapon during the same evolution should be discouraged. If this is not possible, the weapon must be disinfected after each use.
- Each weapon should be disinfected with a manufacturer approved disinfectant between courses of fire. In addition, each weapon should be disinfected in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations.
- Full cleaning of firearms should be completed by the armors multiple times throughout the course of the training. The use of an ultrasonic cleaner is recommended if available.

Equipment

- Safety Glasses and outer hearing protection should be disinfected after each session, morning and afternoon. Each item should be sprayed with cleaner, cleaned, and then an approved disinfectant should be applied prior to allowing the items to air dry. This should be completed by one of the firearms instructors at the end of each session.
- Inner Hearing Protection is disposable and should be thrown in the solid waste receptacle.
- Ballistic vests must be cleaned and disinfected between users in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations.
- Staple guns used to secure the targets should be sprayed with an alcohol based sanitizer after each use.
- Jackets used for BPT should be properly laundered between each user.
- Any gear/equipment (web belts, holsters, magazine pouches, etc.) used during the course of fire should be disinfected in accordance with manufacturer's recommendation.