



Kern County Sheriff's Office

Policies and Procedures

TITLE: FIREARMS-GENERAL PROVISIONS-BACKUP WEAPONS		NO: G-702	
APPROVED: Donny Youngblood, Sheriff-Coroner			
EFFECTIVE: August 23, 1996	REVIEWED: 08/07/2020	REVISED: 06/10/1997	UPDATED: 11/12/2007

POLICY

A backup weapon is a secondary handgun carried concealed on the officer's person, to be used during an emergency when the officer's standard duty pistol is lost, out of ammunition, broken, or otherwise unavailable. The Sheriff's Office authorizes qualified officers to carry a backup weapon under the following conditions:

- All backup weapons must be inspected and approved by the Rangemaster or Assistant Rangemaster;
 - Acceptable calibers include .22, .25, .32, .380, .38, .357, 9mm, 10mm, .40, .44, and .45.
- Ammunition carried in backup weapons must be approved by the Rangemaster or Assistant Rangemaster:
 - Only factory ammunition will be approved. (No reloads).
 - .41 Magnum and .44 Magnum loads **will not** be approved for backup weapons.
- Backup weapons must be carried concealed;
- Officers must qualify with their backup weapon a minimum of one time per year, on a course of fire approved by the Rangemaster or Assistant Rangemaster;
- Officers carrying a firearm in calibers other than those issued by the Sheriff's Office are responsible for providing their own ammunition for both qualification and duty use; and
- Officers are responsible for repairs made to, maintenance, damage to, or loss of personally owned backup weapons.