



CLEVELAND DIVISION OF POLICE

GENERAL POLICE ORDER



EFFECTIVE DATE:	CHAPTER: 4 - Field Operations	PAGE: 1 of 2	NUMBER: 4.08.02
SUBJECT:	WEAPON CLEARING TRAPS		
CHIEF:			

Substantive changes are italicized

PURPOSE: To provide guidelines for the use of weapon clearing traps.

POLICY: It is the policy of the Cleveland Division of Police to charge and clear firearms in a safe manner.

DEFINITIONS:

Primary Firearm – the firearm issued to an officer by the Division and used during annual requalification.

PROCEDURES:

I. General Guidelines

A. Weapon clearing traps shall be used to clear and/or charge firearms in a safe manner.

1. To clear a *primary* firearm, officers shall:

- While holstered*, remove the magazine from the firearm.
- Keep your finger off the trigger and along the frame during the entire process.*
- Unholster and insert the barrel approximately one inch into the weapon clearing trap.
- Pull the slide rearward, ejecting any possible live ammunition.
- Lock the slide back, check, and recheck the firearm to ensure it is unloaded and safe.*

2. To charge a *primary* firearm, officers shall:

- While holstered, insert a full magazine into the firearm.
- Keep your finger off the trigger and along the frame during the entire process.*
- Unholster and insert the barrel approximately one inch into the weapon clearing trap.

PAGE: 2 of 2	SUBJECT: WEAPON CLEARING TRAPS	NUMBER: 4.08.02
-----------------	---------------------------------------	--------------------

- d. Pull the slide rearward *and release*, charging the firearm.
- e. Holster the firearm, remove the magazine and insert an additional round to bring it to maximum capacity, and reinsert it into the firearm *ensuring the magazine is seated*.
- B. *Members shall not clear and/or charge a shotgun and/or patrol rifle in the weapon clearing trap.*
- C. The weapon clearing trap shall not be utilized for discharging firearms.
- D. The discharge of any firearm into a weapon clearing trap requires *the immediate supervisor to notify the Communications Control Section (CCS) of the nature and time of the incident and request they notify the Commander of the Bureau of Special Investigations (refer to General Police Order [2.01.07](#) Force Investigation Team)*.

II. Maintenance

- A. The Officer-in-Charge *of a district/unit* shall:
 - 1. Inspect the weapon clearing trap monthly for any obstructions or foreign objects and remove same.
 - 2. Maintain a log of any firearm discharges into the weapon clearing trap.
 - 3. After 200 discharges, notify the *Firearms Training Unit* to perform maintenance on the weapon clearing trap.
- B. Questions on the maintenance of the weapon clearing trap shall be directed to the *Firearms Training Unit* Officer-in-Charge.

THIS ORDER SUPERSEDES ANY PREVIOUSLY ISSUED DIRECTIVE OR POLICY FOR THIS SUBJECT AND WILL REMAIN EFFECTIVE UNTIL RESCINDED OR SUPERSEDED.