



### Handheld Flashlights vs. Weapon Mounted Lights

#### **HANDHELD FLASHLIGHTS**

A handheld flashlight is a versatile tool and may be utilized for the purpose of illumination in low threat situations.

*Examples of these situations include:*

- Conducting interviews with subjects on lawful detentions or calls for service in low light situations.
- Searching for evidence or missing persons in controlled environments.
- Directing vehicle or pedestrian traffic.

*Advantages / Disadvantages*

- Ability to illuminate areas or subjects without displaying a weapon in their direction.
- Multiple methods of holding and activating a handheld light.
- One handed shooting and weapon manipulation if the situation changes (decreased accuracy).

#### **HANDGUN WEAPON MOUNTED LIGHTS**

A handgun weapon mounted light (WML) may be used in situations where it is reasonable to believe a potential threat exists.

*Examples of these situations include:*

- Clearing/searching an area, vehicle, building where a wanted subject is at large.
- High risk vehicle stops.

*Advantages*

- WML's are small, easily manipulated, and deployed simultaneously with your duty firearm in potential threat situations.
- Ability to illuminate a subject while using a two-handed shooting grip (increased accuracy).
- Ability to use your non-dominate hand for additional tasks (opening doors and moving items).





## **POLICY 380.7 HANDGUN WEAPON-MOUNTED LIGHTS (WML)**

The handgun weapon mounted light (WML) systems is required for all sworn uniformed Members assigned to and working in Patrol Operations. The WML is voluntary for all other Members. Those Members presenting good cause may be exempt from applicable sections of this policy by the Training Division Commander with the concurrence of the Member's Commander. Written exemption must be presented to the Range staff upon qualification or during the Member's annual duty handgun inspection. The following directives shall provide the guidance necessary to implement the use of WMLs for general enforcement Members:

- If the Department-issued duty handgun is issued with a WML, it shall be attached to the weapon and carried for all uniformed duty enforcement.
- The WML shall be activated by use of the standard toggle type switch and shall have an output of at least 500 lumens.
- The duty holster shall be designed for the handgun with the WML attached. If the Department Member elects to purchase his/her own Department-approved duty holster, the holster shall comply with Policy 1046.23 Holsters.
- The Training Division Commander shall maintain an addendum of approved WML brands and models.
- The WML shall be attached to the handgun when using a holster designed for a handgun with WML.
- All mandated qualifications (quarterly, monthly, etc.) shall be completed with the WML system attached to the handgun.
- Members shall have their WML inspected annually by the Department Armorer as part of the annual duty handgun inspection.

## **POLICY 300.5.7 DISPLAYING OF FIREARMS**

Members should carefully evaluate each tactical situation and use sound discretion when drawing a firearm in public by considering the following guidelines (Government Code § 7286(b)):

- If a Member does not initially perceive a threat but reasonably believes that the potential for such threat exists, firearms should generally be [REDACTED].
- If the Member reasonably believes that a threat exists based on the totality of circumstances presented at the time, firearms may be [REDACTED].
- If a Member is involved in an inherently high-risk situation, which calls for the use of tactics that include directing firearms at individuals (e.g., high-risk stop, tactical entry, sniper/spotter operation, incidents requiring a tactical response), the Member may do so [REDACTED].
- A Member shall not draw their firearm, direct it toward a person, and threaten to shoot if the person is compliant and does not present a danger.

