

AXIEL PD



Firearms Safety

This is the part that will train you in how you handle firearms because they are extremely dangerous in untrained hands. The sections included will be when having to transport suspects (if necessary) and processing them when at custody. You will need to know about crossfire so there's no unnecessary injuries or risks to life.

During your patrols you need to be thinking of the following:

- Transport
- Weapon Safety in Custody
- Weapon safety while on a scene

Weapon safety while on a scene: When you have arrived on scene to a call where the presence of firearms is needed before you point or draw your weapon you need to make sure the direction your pointing is safe in the event you do need to discharge your firearm, to know it's safe you need to check that your backstop is clear. Your backstop is what's on the other side of your barrel/sight. The only time it would ever be acceptable to discharge your firearm with officers and or civilians in the "backstop" or "crossfire" would be if there's an immediate threat to the public "i.e a terrorist attack or a gunman that has already shot towards officers or civilians and has caused fatal injuries."

Transport: MO19(Met Operations 19) Officers typically known as AFOs (Authorised Firearms Officers) do not typically transport suspects, however there may be an odd occasion where you may need to. During the transport you need to make sure your weapon locker is locked and secure. If you locked is in the console of your ARV (if applicable). This next part may not apply to you. Centre If your locker is a replacement for the back seat make sure the suspect is on the other side and can not move towards it and or touch it. You should only transport if you are a double crewed unit

Note: This should only be an option if there are no RTPC or CN units available to transport

Weapon Safety in Custody: When your suspect is being taken into the custody suite there's something you need to do before you enter. Removing your firearm from your persons is easy due to it being /neck. The removal of your firearm is to keep everyone safe. In the event you need to enter the cell and you do have your firearm the suspect may overpower you and remove it from your holster. To prevent this, we ask you take it off while you are at your ARV

When should firearms be used

In the UK the use of firearms should be a very last resort meaning all of your less lethal options have been used I.E. Negotiations, Taser and Baton Launcher have all be attempted to bring a peaceful resolution to the situation or the situation that you have been called to is that great of a threat to officers and the public you feel there is no time for use of Taser or Baton Launcher and the only feasible option is your Firearm.

Standard Firearms Authority: This allows you to arm yourself with your MCX carbine and or baton launcher, this **DOES NOT** give you authority to discharge your firearm as that is down to the individual choice. This will be given by Metro Alpha or a member of brass or silver command. This is typically when a situation such as a male sighted with a firearm and is posing a lethal threat to officers and the public.

Self Authorisation: This option is used on rare occasions. This is used when a suspect initially poses a non-lethal threat to officers and the public however during the scene pulls out a lethal weapon i.e firearm and now poses a lethal threat to officers then this would fall into the criteria of a self authorisation.

METRO ALPHA Authorization (MxA)

When a firearms call comes in and it's declared a firearms incident METRO ALPHA will give you arming authority. This will normally be a brief radio transmission and will contain information regarding the call and the tactics you have along with the legislation you will be acting under. They will then assign a TFC/OFC for that job (if available) who will liaise with you a rendezvous point (RVP) if it's not a straight to scene call which is self-explanatory.

OFC:

The job of the Operational Firearms Commander is to liaise with officers and METRO ALPHA to make sure there are enough units on the call and to get medical on standby. If it goes into a negotiation phase they will also make sure those needs are met.

TFC:

The job of the Tactical Firearms Commander is to get all officers on scene situated with what's happening and what the plan for that call will be. They will also be liaising with the OFC to make sure everyone is happy with the plan of action.

Communication to Control

This section is obviously only applicable when MET Control is active, and for when they are listed on this page will be the manner in which you as an officer should be communicating with control.

For Trojan assets MET control is “Metro Alpha” and should be addressed as such by officers, i.e “Metro Alpha Trojan XXX” the recipient of the transmission must always be stated first.

In the event of a shooting, you must call “Metro Alpha Trojan XXX urgent message shots fired can we have LAS started to {road name here} suspect is/has {injury observations here}.

On the other side of it being the Metro Alpha side, in the event that you are deployed to a scene where firearms are required you will be provided with a “brief” regarding the appropriate action for the deployed officers and an assigned OFC/TFC (if the correct people are available that is)

Pursuit Phases

If a pursuit is initiated and is not involving a firearm therefore (not a firearms pursuit) as soon as a traffic car is in the pursuit you must pull off and let the traffic car past (where it's safe to do so).

Firearms Pursuit examples:

Subject seen with a firearm by officers and or the public

Subject involved in the murder of emergency service workers

Subject involved in a stabbing/assault with weapons with a fatal outcome

Intel relating a suspect and or vehicle to firearms offences

Firearms Pursuit and what it means for all involved, especially the first three units (at a minimum) should be firearms, yes traffic and response can be seen within the pursuit as they are there to assist with closures/safeties for when the pursuit comes to an end via either tactical options or a decamp.

Vehicle Tactics

All below must be authorised by a member of brass (if they are available)

Reinforced Armed Stop:

This is the equivalent of a T-PAC but for firearms officers, this can be used in a pre-emptive tactic and or a moving stop. All officers must take crossfire into account with it being close quarters.

Armed Vehicle extraction:

This is conducted in the same way as a Reinforced armed stop, however the only change is the suspects are forcefully removed from the vehicle in question by officers on the scene. Again all officers must take crossfire into account with it being close quarters.



On Foot Tactics

All below must be authorised by a member of brass (if they are available)

Firearms Enquiry: Lowest level of firearms deployment. Officers will approach the suspect with the necessary equipment. For example, your carbine along with less than lethal bean bag launcher.

The section you will search most under is Section 47 of the firearms act, This gives you as a constable the right to search a suspect for firearms without the presence of a warrant to do so.

Contain and call out: This is used when a suspect is barricaded within a property officers will use their cars as hard cover and give commands to the suspect(s)



Armed Intervention: This is used when a suspect has been sighted with a weapon/firearm. Officers will use their cars as blockades, they will then have firearms drawn on the suspect(s) and be challenging them/giving the commands to show hands etc.



Medical

AFO's are trained to treat ballistic injuries stab wounds and GSW's (gunshot wounds), blast and any crush injuries. Where medical assistance is either on route or not available, AFO's must use their training to help reduce further medical injuries and preserve life.

As an AFO, you are the most advanced person to administer emergency first aid.



[Click here](#) for a guide for
Medical advice on scene

Legislation

Firearms Act 1968:

Section 19: Carrying firearm in a public place.

Section 18: Carrying firearm with criminal intent.

Section 16: Carrying a firearm or ammunition with the intent to endanger life or to allow another person(s) to do so

Section 16A: Possession of a firearm or imitation firearm with intent to cause a person to believe that unlawful violence would be used against them or another.

Section 17(1): it is an offence for a person to use or attempt to use a firearm (other than a prohibited weapon or a relevant component part of a lethal barrelled weapon or a prohibited weapon) or imitation firearm with intent to resist or prevent the arrest of themselves or another;

Section 17(2): it is an offence for a person to have possession of a firearm (other than a prohibited weapon or a relevant component part of a lethal barrelled weapon or a prohibited weapon) or imitation firearm at the time of committing or being arrested for certain offences set out in Schedule 1, unless that person shows that they had possession for a lawful object;

Legislation

Firearms Act 1968:

Section 19: it is an offence for a person to have with them in a public place without lawful authority or reasonable excuse a loaded shotgun, an air weapon (whether loaded or not), any other firearm (whether loaded or not) together with ammunition suitable for use in that firearm, or an imitation firearm.

Section 20: it is an offence for a person, whilst having with them a firearm or imitation firearm, to enter or be in any building or part of a building or to enter or be on any land as a trespasser and without reasonable excuse.

Section 21(4): it is an offence for certain persons previously convicted of criminal offences to possess a firearm or ammunition: where a person has been sentenced to three or more years' imprisonment, the prohibition is for life; where a person have been sentenced to at least three months but less than three years' imprisonment, the prohibition is for five years from the date of release (or from the second date after the sentence is passed where it is suspended); and, there may also be such a prohibition included in a community order.

Section 21(5): it is an offence for a person to sell or transfer a firearm to someone whom they know or have reasonable grounds for believing is subject to a prohibition under section 21, or to repair, test or prove a firearm or ammunition for such a person.

More sections may be found at - <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1968/27>

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