


<b>POLICY 119.4</b>	<b>ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE OF FIREARM</b>	
	REVISED: 1/93, 10/00, 07/05, 12/13, 06/15, 06/16, 1/17	RELATED POLICIES:
	CFA STANDARDS:	REVIEWED: AS NEEDED

**A. POLICY**

It is the policy of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department that any accidental discharge of a firearm by a Department member be reported and investigated. Any Department member involved in an accidental discharge of a firearm which results in injury or death shall be relieved from duty until a preliminary assessment is conducted.

**B. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to establish and maintain guidelines for members of the Fort Lauderdale Police Department regarding any incident resulting in an accidental discharge of a firearm.

**C. DEFINITIONS**

- 1. Accidental discharge: Any unexpected or unintentional expulsion of a projectile from any firearm. Incidents occurring while hunting or target shooting, which do not result in injury, are not included.
- 2. Department member: Any Department employee.

**D. ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE WITHIN THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE**

In the event a Department member accidentally discharges a firearm within the City of Fort Lauderdale:

- 1. If the accidental discharge does not result in an injury;
  - a. The member accidentally discharging the firearm shall notify a supervisor immediately after the occurrence and secure the scene for processing.
  - b. The supervisor shall respond to the scene and immediately notify the Communications Center, the Shift Lieutenant, the involved member's Captain, the Internal Affairs Commander and the Homicide Sergeant. The Homicide Sergeant shall determine whether a Homicide Investigator will respond to the scene.
  - c. The supervisor will ensure that an offense report is completed.
  - d. The Shift Lieutenant shall assign a supervisor to conduct a complete and thorough investigation of the incident including statements from any witnesses, photos of the scene and collection of any evidence.

- e. A copy of the completed investigation and offense report shall be forwarded, via channels, to the Office of Internal Affairs and Homicide Unit for review.
2. In the event an accidental discharge results in an injury or death, the Chief of Police or designee shall have the discretion to request the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) to be the lead investigating agency.
  3. Department member's responsibilities:
    - a. The member accidentally discharging a firearm shall immediately render aid and request the appropriate medical assistance.
    - b. The member accidentally discharging a firearm shall immediately notify a supervisor and secure the scene.
    - c. The supervisor shall respond to the scene.
    - d. The Shift/Duty Lieutenant shall ensure that the following personnel are immediately notified:
      - (1). Chief of Police
      - (2). The Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) (at the discretion of the Chief of Police)
      - (3). Assistant Chiefs of Police
      - (4). Majors
      - (5). Internal Affairs Commander
      - (6). Criminal Investigations Captain
      - (7). Homicide Sergeant
      - (8). Public Information Office
      - (9). Police Chaplain
      - (10). Support Services Facilities Captain
      - (11). The Fraternal Order of Police
    - e. The supervisor will ensure that an offense report is completed and the scene is secured for processing and maintained until the Homicide Unit or FDLE completes its investigation.
    - f. A Homicide Investigator or FDLE shall respond and investigate all accidental discharges resulting in injuries or death.

- g. A copy of the completed investigation shall be forwarded, via channels, to the Office of Internal Affairs. Internal Affairs shall conduct an internal investigation of the incident.
- 4. All non-involved Department members on the scene at the time of the occurrence shall complete a supplement to the original offense report.

**E. ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE OUTSIDE THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE**

In the event a Department member accidentally discharges a firearm outside the City of Fort Lauderdale:

- 1. The member shall immediately contact the appropriate agency to investigate the incident and secure the scene.
- 2. The member accidentally discharging a firearm shall notify a supervisor as soon as practical after the occurrence and shall provide the supervisor with the investigating agency's case number.
- 3. The supervisor shall determine whether it is necessary or practical to respond to the scene and immediately notify the involved member's Bureau Assistant Chief, Major, Captain, Lieutenant, Homicide Sergeant and the Internal Affairs Commander.
- 4. As soon as possible after the incident, the involved member's Captain shall assign a supervisor to conduct an investigation of the incident. The investigation shall include a copy of the investigating agency's report.
- 5. A copy of the completed investigation shall be forwarded, via channels, to the Office of Internal Affairs and Homicide Unit for review.
- 6. If the accidental discharge results in an injury or death:
  - a. The member shall request appropriate medical assistance.
  - b. When practical the Internal Affairs Commander shall assign an investigator to respond to the scene.
  - c. The Office of Internal Affairs shall obtain a copy of the completed investigation from the investigating agency.