

300.4.2

DISPLAYING OF FIREARMS

S t a t e

Given that individuals might perceive the display of a firearm as a potential application of force, officers 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)(5)):

- a. If the officer does not initially perceive a threat but reasonably believes that the potential for such threat exists, firearms should generally be kept in the low-ready or other position not directed toward an individual.
- b. If the officer reasonably believes that a threat exists b a s e d on the totality of circumstances presented at the time (e.g., high-risk stop, tactical entry, armed encounter), firearms may be directed toward such threat until the officer no longer perceives such threat.
- c. Firearms may be displayed consistent with training when circumstances create a reasonable belief that the displaying of a firearm would help establish or maintain control in a potentially dangerous situation.

Once it is reasonably safe to do so, officers should carefully secure all firearms. Any intentional pointing of a firearm at an individual by an officer shall be reported.