

FIREARMS STORAGE BEST PRACTICES

The topic of firearms in district buildings, on district property, and in district vehicles is a hot political topic. SDIS has significant risk management concerns with district policies and practices regarding firearms in the workplace and is currently working with DPSST to develop a best practices document. In regards to SDIS liability insurance coverage for district employees and volunteers, SDIS does not have specific liability coverage restrictions relating directly to firearms. However, for employees or volunteers to be covered, they must be acting within the course and scope of their duties. If an employee/volunteer is performing activities not authorized by the district, the district and SDIS is under no obligation to indemnify that employee/volunteer. This must be made clear to the employees/volunteers that their own insurance would be primary and any legal fees would be their burden when they are acting outside the course and scope of their duties.

An example might be if a district volunteer shoots someone in the parking lot breaking into his car. This is the type of scenario that would most likely not be considered acting in the course and scope of his/her duties as a fire district volunteer.



Storage Best Practices:

- **NEVER** point the muzzle of a firearm at a person unless you are **legally justified** and willing to kill them
- **NEVER** play "show and tell" with the firearm
- Treat **ALL** firearms as if they are loaded (Remember most firearms accidents occur with an "unloaded " gun)
- Be sure of your backstop when the firearm is not secured in a holster
- Finger outside the trigger guard at **ALL** times
- Storage of firearms should be in a secure holster on your body or in a lockable storage cabinet
 - o If storage is in a sleeping quarters, it is critical that it requires a conscious effort to retrieve the firearm



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