

MICHIGAN COMMISSION ON LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDS

# **Basic Training Firearms Standard**

## **Primary Duty Handgun Standard**



**Live Fire Qualification Course**

**INSTRUCTOR GUIDE**

## **Instructor Commentary for the Live Fire Responses to Life-Threatening Assaults and Situations**

**Overall Intent of this pass/fail live fire course:** To safely assess the recruits' proficiency with their duty gear (weapon, holster, flashlight, etc.) and their ability to apply realistic firearms tactics and shooting techniques as they proceed through a standardized course of live fire.

**Firearms Training Safety:** Close-quarter-combat concepts that involve movement and realistic shooting techniques must be taught and assessed in a safe training environment. To reduce risk, utilizing simulated or inert weapons, less-lethal training munitions, and video simulations when initially introducing these concepts is strongly recommended. For example, while initially training the non-primary hand to be up, tactically engaged in some manner and out of the line of fire during the response to an extreme close-quarter assault, the risk of injury is greatly reduced by utilizing less-lethal training munitions. Bottom line, range safety must be maintained at all times.

**During the Response to Extreme Close-Quarter Life-Threatening Assault (2-Yard),** the emphasis is on drawing quickly while moving off-line and utilizing a one-handed bent-elbow, weapon-tucked, "body point" style of shooting. Although recruits could actually "punch" their weapon out and *point shoot* at this distance, the intent during this exercise is to safely assess a tucked shooting technique. This is extremely relevant considering that approximately 50 percent of all officer-involved-shootings occur within 5 feet of the suspect.

**During the Response to Close-Quarter Life-Threatening Assault (3-Yard),** the emphasis is on drawing quickly while moving off-line and utilizing a threat-focused, point-shoot style of shooting. Although recruits could bring their gun up to eye level and use the sights at this distance, the intent is to safely assess a quick and natural threat-focused shooting concept, "punching" the weapon out with one and two hands, and instinctually aiming the weapon. As noted, this type of response is extremely relevant. These concepts also apply to the response in low-lighting (3-yard).

**During the Response to Life-Threatening Assault Utilizing Cover (4/7 Yard),** the emphasis is on the immediate movement to cover and shooting utilizing the tactical and safe use of cover. The proper tactics to minimize exposure while shooting from behind cover include staying back a few steps from cover when advantageous and utilizing the "slice the pie" concept to acquire the threats. This could be accomplished by bending at the waist and slowly leading with the weapon and outside eye to see around cover. At these distances, recruits should be utilizing their sights.

**During the Response to Life-Threatening Assault from a Distance Requiring Precision Fire (10/15 Yard),** the emphasis is on assessing basic marksmanship (e.g., stance, sight alignment, trigger control, breathing, etc.). An aiming point is allowed. To emphasize marksmanship in a law enforcement setting, the officer shall draw; move to cover, and engage the target on multiple exposures, focusing on sighted fire for precision bullet placement. At the 10-yard line the shooter shall stand, and all rounds must be in the marksmanship scoring area (center mass ring). At the 15-yard line the shooter chooses position (standing, kneeling, or prone), and all rounds must be in the combat scoring area (bottle).

**During the Response to Life-Threatening Assault in Low Light Requiring Illumination,** the emphasis is on assessing the ability to illuminate a possible threat in two common situations: 1) low lighting with flashlight on and in support hand, and 2) low lighting with flashlight off and in support hand. This is not necessarily to teach them to always use a flashlight to illuminate an obvious threat. The intent is to assess the recruits' tactical use of a flashlight to illuminate a potential threat prior to shooting.

## **Instructor Commentary: Themes and Essential Concepts that Shall be Incorporated Throughout Firearms Training**

- ✓ Recruits shall take at least one step “off-line” right or left, angled, etc. while drawing and reloading. This concept should be incorporated throughout the course, on every exercise, and during other related training. The intent is to cause unconscious competence movement (habit) during a tactical response to an assault.
- ✓ Recruits shall deploy a “high guard” or some type of tactical move with the non-primary hand during the response to an extreme close-quarter assault (2-yard), ensuring the support hand is not in a dangerous position while shooting. This shall also be emphasized in related training (e.g., Subject Control).
- ✓ Realistic verbal commands shall be used throughout the course of fire, when appropriate. The recruits shall not lock into any one phrase; they shall clearly communicate appropriate commands based on the circumstance they face. This shall also be emphasized throughout academy training.
- ✓ Instructors shall incorporate combat breathing throughout firearms training, during live fire exercises, and during other stressful training.
- ✓ During the 65-round course of fire, one tactical reload and one combat reload (from behind cover if practicable) is required. These reloads shall occur at different points throughout firearms training and during the assessment.
- ✓ Additional time is allowed for reload and to appropriately handle weapon failure and/or stoppages. The emphasis shall be on getting the weapon in working order to get back in the gunfight.
- ✓ Recruits shall scan for additional threats and maintain a position of advantage throughout the live fire qualification.
- ✓ As a counter to body armor, head and pelvic shots (within the bottle) should be considered when applicable throughout training and during the live fire qualification.
- ✓ Moving to a tactical ready position with their handgun after shooting shall be emphasized with the recruits. Immediately re-holstering their duty weapon after shooting should be avoided.

## 65-ROUND COURSE OF FIRE (LIVE FIRE WITH PRIMARY DUTY WEAPON, HOLSTER, AND GEAR)

RESPONSE TO EXTREME CLOSE-QUARTER LIFE-THREATENING ASSAULT (Movement - Bent Elbow Shooting Concept)					
Distance	Time	Target	Rounds	DESCRIPTION OF RESPONSE	RANGE INSTRUCTOR COMMENTARY
<b>2 Yards</b>	<b>3 seconds</b> per target exposure	<b>One Target</b> with MCOLES designated combat scoring area ( <b>bottle</b> ).	<b>8</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Exposure A</b></p> <p><b><u>Bent Elbow</u> shooting:</b> From the holster, draw while stepping off-line and fire 2 rounds in 3 seconds.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Exposure B</b></p> <p><b><u>Bent Elbow</u> shooting:</b> From the holster, draw while stepping off-line and fire 1 round in 3 seconds.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Exposure C</b></p> <p><b><u>Bent Elbow</u> shooting:</b> From the holster, draw while stepping off-line and fire 2 rounds in 3 seconds.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Exposure D</b></p> <p><b><u>Bent Elbow</u> shooting:</b> From the holster, draw while stepping off-line and fire 1 round in 3 seconds.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Exposure E</b></p> <p><b><u>Bent Elbow</u> shooting:</b> From the holster, draw while stepping off-line and fire 2 rounds in 3 seconds.</p>	<p>This is to simulate responding to a life-threatening assault where the suspect is in very close proximity to the officer, possibly in physical contact with the officer.</p> <p>The desired outcome is to respond appropriately to this type of life-threatening assault. The shooting tactic/technique shall be a realistic countermeasure to this type of assault.</p> <p>The general concept of this type of response should be personalized depending on each recruit's size, strength, and ability.</p> <p><b>All 8 rounds must be within the combat scoring area (bottle). Stepping off-line and utilizing a one-handed bent elbow, weapon tucked, "body point" concept is <u>mandatory</u>.</b></p> <p>Range Master Note: These exposures may be conducted in any order, ensuring (3) double-taps and (2) single-taps with 8 total rounds fired.</p> <p><b>Range Safety Note: Recruits shall demonstrate physical competence in the mechanics of this shooting style prior to attempting this assessment with live fire.</b></p>

**RESPONSE TO CLOSE-QUARTER LIFE-THREATENING ASSAULT (Movement - Threat Focused/Point Shooting Concept)**

Distance	Time	Target	Rounds	DESCRIPTION OF RESPONSE	RANGE INSTRUCTOR COMMENTARY
<b>3 Yards</b>	<b>4 Seconds</b> per target exposure	<b>Two Targets</b> with MCOLES designated combat scoring area ( <b>bottle</b> ).  Approximately 3 feet apart	<b>12</b>	<p align="center"><b>Exposure A</b></p> <p><b><u>One-Handed</u> threat-focused shooting:</b> From the holster, draw while stepping off-line and fire 1 round at each target in 4 seconds.</p> <p align="center"><b>Exposure B</b></p> <p><b><u>One-Handed</u> threat-focused shooting:</b> From the holster, draw while stepping off-line and fire 2 rounds at each target in 4 seconds.</p> <p align="center"><b>Exposure C</b></p> <p><b><u>Two-Handed</u> threat-focused shooting:</b> From the holster, draw while stepping off-line and fire 2 rounds at each target in 4 seconds.</p> <p align="center"><b>Exposure D</b></p> <p><b><u>Support Hand Only</u> shooting:</b> With the handgun in the support (non-primary) hand, step off-line and fire 1 round at each target in 4 seconds.</p>	<p>This is to simulate responding to a life-threatening assault where the suspect is in close proximity of the officer, but far enough to “punch” the weapon out and point shoot.</p> <p>The desired outcome is to respond appropriately to this type of life-threatening assault. The shooting tactic/technique shall be a realistic countermeasure to this type of assault.</p> <p><b>All 12 rounds must be within the combat scoring area (bottle). Stepping off-line and utilizing a threat-focused, point shooting concept is <u>mandatory</u>.</b></p> <p>Range Master Note: These exposures may be conducted in any order, ensuring (2) one-handed shooting exposures, (1) two-handed shooting exposure, and (1) support-hand-only exposure.</p>

**RESPONSE TO LIFE-THREATENING ASSAULT UTILIZING COVER (Move to Cover – Back off from Cover - Slice Pie – Sighted Fire)**

Distance	Time	Target	Rounds	DESCRIPTION OF RESPONSE	RANGE INSTRUCTOR COMMENTARY
<p align="center"><b>4 Yards</b> (1 target)</p> <p align="center">and</p> <p align="center"><b>7 Yards</b> (1 target)</p>	<p align="center"><b>4 seconds</b> per 2 shot target exposure</p> <p align="center"><b>Emphasis</b> on tactical use of cover</p> <p align="center"><b>6 seconds</b> per 4 shot target exposure</p>	<p align="center"><b>Two Targets</b> with MCOLES designated combat scoring area (<b>bottle</b>).</p> <p align="center">Approximately 3 feet apart</p>	<p align="center"><b>10</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Exposure A</b></p> <p><b>Shooting from <u>Behind Cover</u>:</b> From the holster, draw while moving to cover. From behind cover, fire 1 round at each target in 4 seconds.</p> <p align="center"><b>Exposure B</b></p> <p><b>Shooting from <u>Behind Cover</u>:</b> From the ready position, move to cover. From behind cover, fire 2 rounds at each target in 6 seconds.</p> <p align="center"><b>Exposure C</b></p> <p><b>Shooting from <u>Behind Cover</u>:</b> From the ready position, move to cover. From behind cover, fire 2 rounds at each target in 6 seconds.</p>	<p>This is to simulate responding to a life-threatening assault when cover is available and readily accessible and movement toward cover is advantageous.</p> <p>The desired outcome is to seek cover and appropriately use cover during a life-threatening assault. Moving to cover and then tactically backing a few steps back from cover is often desired and shall be emphasized.</p> <p>The tactical use of cover is to be emphasized. Accordingly, the proper use of cover and shot placement is the assessed pass/fail skill, not the time limitations.</p> <p><b>All 10 rounds must be within the combat scoring area (bottle). Moving to cover, backing off from cover, and shooting from behind cover, utilizing “slice the pie” concept is <u>mandatory</u>.</b></p> <p>Recruit chooses a different cover position on each exposure.</p> <p>Range Master Note: These exposures may be conducted in any order. The timed exposure shouldn't start until after recruits are tactically positioned behind cover.</p>

RESPONSE TO LIFE-THREATENING ASSAULT FROM A DISTANCE REQUIRING PRECISION FIRE (Move To Cover – Marksmanship)					
Distance	Time	Target	Rounds	DESCRIPTION OF RESPONSE	RANGE INSTRUCTOR COMMENTARY
10 Yards	30 Seconds	One Target with MCOLES designated marksmanship scoring area (center mass ring).	10	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Exposure A</b></p> <p><b>Precision Fire:</b> From the holster, draw while moving to cover. From behind cover, fire 5 rounds in 30 seconds.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Exposure B</b></p> <p><b>Precision Fire:</b> From the holster, draw while moving to cover. From behind cover, fire 5 rounds in 30 seconds.</p>	<p>This is to simulate responding to a life-threatening assault or situation at such a distance that marksmanship and the ability to precisely place a shot would be necessary. The shooting tactic/technique shall be a realistic countermeasure to this type of assault.</p> <p>The desired outcome is to accurately place shots from a standing position with precision at distances that require the fundamentals of marksmanship to respond to a life-threatening assault.</p> <p><b>All 10 rounds must be within the marksmanship scoring area (center mass ring). Moving to cover and utilizing the fundamentals of marksmanship, with emphasis on sighted fire and precision bullet placement is <u>mandatory</u>.</b></p> <p>Range Master Note: This is to be conducted while standing. An aiming point is allowed.</p>

**RESPONSE TO LIFE-THREATENING ASSAULT FROM A DISTANCE REQUIRING PRECISION FIRE (Move to Cover - Marksmanship)**

Distance	Time	Target	Rounds	DESCRIPTION OF RESPONSE	RANGE INSTRUCTOR COMMENTARY
<p align="center"><b>15 Yards</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>30 Seconds</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>One Target</b> with MCOLES designated combat scoring area (<b>bottle</b>).</p>	<p align="center"><b>5</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Exposure A</b></p> <p><b><u>Precision Fire:</u></b> From the holster, draw while moving to cover. From cover, fire 5 rounds in 30 seconds.</p>	<p>This is to simulate responding to a life-threatening assault or situation at such a distance that marksmanship and the ability to precisely place a shot would be necessary. The shooting tactic/technique shall be a realistic countermeasure to this type of situation.</p> <p>The desired outcome is to accurately place shots with precision at distances that require the fundamentals of marksmanship to respond to a life-threatening assault or situation.</p> <p><b>All 5 rounds must be within the combat scoring area (bottle). Moving to cover and utilizing the fundamentals of marksmanship, with emphasis on sighted fire and precision bullet placement is <u>mandatory</u>.</b></p> <p>Range Master Note: Shooter may choose standing, kneeling, or prone position. Aiming point is allowed.</p>



RESPONSE TO CLOSE-QUARTER LIFE-THREATENING ASSAULT IN LOW LIGHT (Movement - Threat Focused/Point Shooting)					
Distance	Time	Target	Rounds	DESCRIPTION OF RESPONSE	RANGE INSTRUCTOR COMMENTARY
3 Yards	3 or 4 Seconds per target exposure	Two Targets with MCOLES designated combat scoring areas ( <b>bottle</b> ).  Approximately 3 feet apart	12	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Exposure A</b></p> <p><b><u>One-Handed</u> threat-focused shooting in Low-Light:</b> From the holster, draw while stepping off-line and fire 1 round at each target in 3 seconds.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Exposure B</b></p> <p><b><u>One-Handed</u> threat-focused shooting in Low Light:</b> From the holster, draw while stepping off-line and fire 2 rounds at each target in 4 seconds.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Exposure C</b></p> <p><b><u>Two-Handed</u> threat-focused shooting in Low Light:</b> From the ready position, step off-line and fire 2 rounds at each target in 4 seconds.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Exposure D</b></p> <p><b><u>Support Hand Only</u> shooting in Low Light:</b> With the handgun in the support (non-primary) hand, step off-line and fire 1 round at each target in 4 seconds.</p>	<p>This is to simulate responding to a life-threatening assault or situation in low lighting, yet enough light to identify the threat prior to shooting.</p> <p>The desired outcome is to respond appropriately to this type of life-threatening assault. The shooting tactic/technique shall be a realistic countermeasure to this type of assault.</p> <p><b>All 12 rounds must be within the combat scoring area (bottle). Stepping off-line and utilizing target-focused, point shooting concept is <u>mandatory</u>.</b></p> <p>Range Master Note: These exposures can be conducted in any order, ensuring (2) one-handed shooting exposures, (1) two-handed shooting exposure, and (1) support-hand only exposure.</p> <p><b>Range Safety Note: There must be enough light to conduct the exercise safely and for recruits to identify the threat.</b> Handheld flashlights and weapon mounted lights <b><u>shall not</u></b> be used, and any artificial light must be placed in front of the shooter so that it does not illuminate the shooter or shooter's firearm. Artificial lighting devices shall be placed in such a manner that they do not present a safety hazard, and all targets shall have essentially the same amount of illumination.</p>

**RESPONSE TO CLOSE-QUARTER LIFE-THREATENING ASSAULT IN LOW LIGHT REQUIRING ILLUMINATION  
(Movement – Illumination - Threat Focused/Point Shooting)**

Distance	Time	Target	Rounds	DESCRIPTION OF RESPONSE	RANGE INSTRUCTOR COMMENTARY
<b>3 Yards</b>	<b>5 Seconds</b> per target exposure	<b>One Target</b> with MCOLES designated combat scoring area ( <b>bottle</b> ).	<b>8</b>	<p align="center"><b>Exposure A</b></p> <p><b><u>Flashlight On</u> and in the support hand:</b> From the holster, draw while stepping off-line, illuminate threat, and fire 2 rounds in 5 seconds.</p> <p align="center"><b>Exposure B</b></p> <p><b><u>Flashlight On</u> and in the support hand:</b> From the ready position, step off-line, illuminate threat and fire 2 rounds in 5 seconds.</p> <p align="center"><b>Exposure C</b></p> <p><b><u>Flashlight Off</u> and in the support hand:</b> From the holster, draw while stepping off-line, illuminate threat and fire 2 rounds in 5 seconds.</p> <p align="center"><b>Exposure D</b></p> <p><b><u>Flashlight Off</u> and in the support hand:</b> From the holster, draw while stepping off-line, illuminate threat and fire 2 rounds in 5 seconds.</p>	<p>This is to simulate responding to a life-threatening assault or situation in low lighting when illumination would be required to identify a threat.</p> <p>The desired outcome is to quickly and tactically illuminate potential threats to identify them as a life-threatening threat prior to shooting.</p> <p><b>All 8 rounds must be within the combat scoring area (bottle). Tactically utilizing a flashlight to illuminate the threat prior to shooting is <u>mandatory</u>.</b></p> <p>Range Master Note: These exposures can be conducted in any order, ensuring (2) exposures start with the flashlight <u>on</u> and (2) exposures start with the flashlight <u>off</u>.</p> <p><b>Range Safety Note: There must be enough light to conduct the exercise safely.</b> Handheld flashlights shall be carried in the support hand during all exposures, and recruits <b><u>shall illuminate</u></b> and identify a life-threatening threat prior to shooting. Weapon mounted lights <b><u>shall not</u></b> be used during this assessment, and artificial lighting shall be placed in such a manner that it does not present a safety hazard.</p>