

Neither the other vehicle nor its driver were ever identified or located.

No criminal charges were filed against the deputy. The case was reviewed by DSD command staff, the OIM, and the Manager of Safety's Office. The deputy's conduct violated several DSD rules and policies, including the DSD's use of force policy. The deputy was ultimately terminated by the Manager of Safety's Office, and the OIM concurred with this decision. The deputy has appealed this decision.

2013 DPD & DSD Accidental Shootings

2013 Accidental Shooting #1, DPD

On January 21, 2013, officers responded to a homeless camp to arrest an armed suspect. The officers started searching the area, opening tents, and looking inside. One of the officers opened a tent flap and attempted to use the tactical flashlight attached to his handgun. The light is activated by applying pressure, usually with the middle finger, to a switch just below the trigger guard on the pistol grip. When the officer went to look inside the tent, he accidentally pulled the trigger on his weapon instead of activating the flashlight switch. The weapon fired one time through the tent floor into the ground. The tent was empty at the time and no one was injured by the accidental discharge. The DPD's Use of Force Review Board met on July 24, 2013 and found the shooting to be out of policy. The OIM concurred with this decision.

2013 Accidental Shooting #2, DPD

On March 15, 2013, a detective was sitting in his car at an intersection when he witnessed a car strike another vehicle. A male and female ran from the car and the detective gave chase. A witness contacted the detective and informed him that the male who was running had thrown a gun over a fence. The detective searched the location and found a 9mm handgun on the ground between a chain link fence and a seven-foot wood fence. The detective asked for rubber gloves, but none were available, so he was given a large clear plastic bag to pick up the gun. The hammer on the gun was cocked. The detective held the gun with the plastic bag and pointed it at the ground while he attempted to clear it. As he attempted to release the magazine, the gun discharged into the ground. No one was struck or injured as a result of the accidental discharge. The DPD's Use of Force Review Board met on

July 24, 2013 and found the shooting to be out of policy. The OIM concurred with this decision.

2013 Accidental Shooting #3, DPD

On August 19, 2013, at night, an officer was investigating a stolen motor vehicle report when he observed a vehicle possibly matching the description parked along the side of the road. The officer attempted to make contact with the person inside the possibly stolen vehicle. The officer had his gun drawn and was utilizing the tactical light on his gun to see inside the car. The officer grabbed the car door handle to open it. The driver quickly sped off, and the officer lost his balance and stumbled backwards. The gun accidentally discharged in an upward direction. The officer believed this might have happened when his finger slipped off the tactical light switch on the gun when he stumbled. The stolen vehicle was later found abandoned with a bullet entry hole through the driver's side window and an exit bullet hole through the windshield. There was a small amount of blood on the driver's seat and center console. The suspect driving the vehicle was not found.

The Denver District Attorney reviewed the incident and declined to file charges against the involved officer. The DPD Use of Force Review Board met on February 4, 2014 and concluded that the shooting was out of policy. The case was also sent to a Tactics Review Board for a review of the tactics used in this situation. The OIM concurred with this assessment.

2013 Accidental Shooting #4, DSD

On September 8, 2013, during weapons training at the DPD Range, a DSD recruit bent down to retrieve her handgun, which had been placed on the ground. While picking up the gun, the recruit lost control of it, and as she attempted to regain control of it, she accidentally pulled the trigger. The weapon discharged one round into the concrete floor down range. Three recruits standing nearby were struck with fragments dislodged from the floor where the bullet struck, and they were all treated for superficial wounds. On January 28, 2014, the Executive Director of Safety found that the shooting was out of policy. The OIM concurred with this assessment.

DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVE

TO: All DPD Sworn Personnel

FROM: Robert C. White, Chief of Police

DATE: October 2, 2013

NUMBER: 13-05

SUBJECT: Authorized Weapon Mounted Flashlight Systems

Effective immediately; only standard weapon mounted lights which are activated with a paddle or rocker-style switch IN FRONT of the trigger guard are authorized for use. Any weapon mounted flashlights that are activated by a FRONT STRAP PRESSURE SWITCH are UNAUTHORIZED and shall be removed immediately. Officers that fail to comply with this directive will be in violation of Denver Police Operations Manual Section 111.01(1), Requirements – Uniform and Equipment.

Acceptable weapon mounted lights include, but are not limited to the below brands/products:

- Insight Technologies
- Streamlight TLR (without “contour remote” switch)
- Surefire (without front strap switch)

Unauthorized weapon mounted lights include, but are not limited to the below brands/products:

- Crimson Trace Lightguard
- Streamlight TLR series with “contour remote” switch
- Surefire with “DG” front strap switch

Examples of unauthorized weapon mounted light systems illustrated on following page.

Any questionable weapon light or switch system will be brought to the Firearms Section for inspection. Final approval will be made by the Commander of Operations Support Division or their designee.

Department Directive 13-05

Examples of Unauthorized Weapon Mounted Flashlight Systems

