

**San Jose Police Department M.E.R.G.E. Unit**  
**Tactical Pistol Course**  
***Expanded Course Outline***  
Rev. 12/22/2020

**Tactical Pistol Course Curriculum**

- Course Title:** Tactical Pistol Course – 40 Hours  
Includes revolvers and semi-automatic pistols.
- Course Goal:** To provide students with the information and hands-on experience needed to effectively deploy a pistol in a tactical environment.
- Audience:** Sworn Peace Officers, assigned to Tactical Units or in a Patrol capacity, who utilize the above weapon as their primary sidearm. These Officers will qualify and carry it on duty in the scope of their employment.

**Course Objectives**

Under the supervision of an instructor, and using their assigned pistol each student will:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the Range Safety Rules.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of loading / unloading of the weapon.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of malfunction clearances.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of modern technique of the pistol.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of the principles of marksmanship.
6. Pass the written and practical performance test.

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**Expanded Course Outline**

**Day 1**

1. Registration / Orientation / Instructor Introductions / Overview of week
  - A. Range Procedures
    1. Range commands
    2. Dry Fire Procedures
  - B. Range Safety
    1. Four "Range Safety Rules"
    2. Health Hazards - lead exposure, snakes, dehydration, heat, etc.
    3. Health Hazards when shooting at armor plating – backsplashes when closer than 15 yards
    4. Mandatory Safety Procedures
  - C. [REDACTED]
  - D. Legal Aspects
    - a. PC § 196PC - Justifiable Homicide
      1. AB392 revised definition to rely more heavily on PC 835a
      2. PC 196 identifies the circumstances when a peace officer is justified to commit a homicide
        - a. In obedience to any judgment of a competent court order
        - b. When the homicide results from a peace officer's use of force that complies with Penal Code Section 835a
    - b. PC § 835a
      1. Discuss how agency policy has changed relative to AB 392 and SB230

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### 3. Equipment Overview

#### A. Pistol accessories

1. Holsters
2. Weapon mounted Lighting Systems
3. Primary and secondary lighting systems
4. Magazines

#### B. Nomenclature of the Pistol

1. Backstrap
2. Frontstrap
3. Pistol stocks
4. Magazine release button
5. Trigger
6. Safeties and/or Decocking levers
7. Sighting system

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**LUNCH BREAK**

11. Range Safety Review

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5. Firing Line Drill

A. Dry Fire Exercise- By the Numbers

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**LUNCH BREAK**

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**Day 3**

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2. Firing Line Drill
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B. Dry Fire Exercise

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6. Firing Line Drill

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- 13. Firing Line Drill
  - A. Practice Qualification Course

**LUNCH BREAK**

- 14. Range Safety Review
- 15. Low Light Safety Lecture

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- B. Range Commands

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**Day 4**

1. Range Safety Review
2. Firing Line Drill
  - A. Qualification Course (Pass / Fail)
  - B. Fail- Remediation and Re-Qualification

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4. Firing Line Drill (Non-Qualification Group)
  - A. Identification of weak area during qualification course
    1. Refinement and review of techniques, movement and marksmanship
5. Firing Line Drill (Second Attempt if Necessary)
  - A. Qualification Course (Pass / Fail)
  - B. Pass- Receives a Certificate of Completion
  - C. Fail- Receives a Certificate of Attendance

**LUNCH BREAK**

6. Range Safety Review
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8. Admin

A. Course Evaluations

B. Issuance of Certificates

1. Course Completion or Course Attendance