



OAKLAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE TRAINING BULLETIN

June 28, 2022

Equipment Maintenance & Duty Ammunition

The Sheriff's Office Training Unit continues to stress that chambered duty rounds are not to be reused or rechambered in any weapon carried while on duty. Range staff will continue to require leaving the chambered duty round in the weapon and firing it as part of the required course, regardless of the course, or ammunition requirement for that course. This procedure ensures that the duty round is not damaged, avoiding the possibility of the round failing to fire or eject.

There are a couple reasons why the duty rounds could fail to fire or eject, if chambered and unchambered multiple times.

1. Every time the round is chambered and unchambered, the extractor and ejector cause minor impressions to the casing, which can cause failures to extract/eject.
2. There is a possibility that the bullet portion of the duty round would be pushed farther into the casing. When the bullet gets pushed deeper into the casing, it creates a gap between the primer and striker/firing pin, not allowing a solid strike of the primer.
3. There is a possibility that the primer material itself is damaged during the chambering and unchambering process. When the primer material is put into the primer, it is wet and is a paste like consistency. When the primer material dries, there is a possibility of it flaking or moving inside of the primer housing after the round is chambered multiple times. The force of the slide going forward can also disturb the primer material, not allowing the primer to properly ignite.

Although, all three of the possibilities are remote, they are still possible. Recently, range personnel were present when an issued duty round failed to fire. The duty round had what appeared to be a sufficient primer strike. Upon further inspection, it also appeared to have been chambered and unchambered multiple times.

The failed round was evaluated by the OCSO Crime Lab. It was determined that there were at least two clear ejector marks on the casing, the bullet itself had been pushed farther into the casing, and there was additional wear on the casing. All of which are indicative of being unchambering multiple times, and cause for the failure to fire.

