

TENNESSEE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Forensic Services Division

Violent Crime Response Team Standard Operating Procedures

Rendering a Firearm Safe



10.1 Rendering a Firearm Safe

10.1.1 Purpose

This procedure provides general guidelines on the safe handling of firearms.

10.1.2 Equipment & Reagents

Recovered firearm
Flagging device (e.g., cable tie, crumpled paper, etc.)
Packaging materials

10.1.3 Procedure

10.1.3.1 Assume all firearms are loaded.

10.1.3.2 Make the firearm safe:

- Point the muzzle in a safe direction
- Keep your finger off the trigger
- Remove detachable magazines
- Open the action and visually inspect the chamber
- Clear any rounds from the chamber

10.1.3.3 Attach a cable tie or other flagging device through the action of the firearm to indicate that the firearm has been rendered safe and is incapable of loading another live round. Never use metal or other marring objects as flagging devices.

10.1.3.4 Document the date and initials of the person clearing the weapon on the outer packaging.

10.1.3.5 Any firearm whose condition prevents visual examination of the firearm's chamber must be assumed to be loaded. Every reasonable effort must be made to minimize the possibility of discharging the firearm. The weapon can then be packaged properly and transported. The outer packaging shall be clearly marked to identify as containing a weapon that has not been rendered safe.

10.1.3.6 Every reasonable effort will be made to protect transient evidence which may be located on the firearm. Once the firearm is rendered safe, handling shall remain limited.