

California Department of Justice FIREARMS DIVISION Randy Rossi, Director	INFORMATION BULLETIN	
Subject: Gun Show Safety and Security Responsibilities ADDITIONAL REMINDER	No.: 2004 FD-02	For further information contact: Firearms Division (916) 263-4887
	Date: 5/26/04	

TO: ALL GUN SHOW PRODUCERS AND ALL CALIFORNIA FIREARMS DEALERS

A recent accidental discharge of a firearm at a gun show dramatically emphasizes the importance for strict gun show producer and vendor adherence to the provisions of Penal Code sections 12071.1 and 12071.4.

Penal Code section 12071.4, subdivision (a) (5) states that all gun show vendors shall certify in writing to the gun show producer that they, "Will verify that all firearms in their possession at the show or event will be unloaded, and that the firearms will be secured in a manner that prevents them from being **operated** except for brief periods when the mechanical condition of a firearm is being demonstrated to a prospective buyer." While this mandate permits the vendor to briefly unsecure a firearm in order to demonstrate its mechanical condition, **vendor firearms must remain unloaded at all times** during the gun show.

Penal Code section 12071.1, subdivision (j) states that the gun show producer shall be responsible for informing prospective gun show vendors of the requirements of Penal Code sections 12071.1 and 12071.4 that apply to vendors. Moreover, Penal Code section 12071.1, subdivision (l) states that if a licensed firearms dealer fails to cooperate with a producer or fails to comply with the applicable requirements of Sections 12071.1 and 12071.4, the gun show producer shall not allow that person to participate in the gun show.

The gun show producer must also ensure that members of the general public comply with important security mandates imposed by Penal Code section 12071.4. The gun show producer must provide sufficient oversight to ensure that each member of the general public bringing a firearm into the gun show does not also possess ammunition for that firearm. The gun show producer must also ensure that all weapons brought to the show by the public are checked, cleared of any ammunition, and secured in a manner that prevents them from being **operated**. The gun show producer must also ensure that each individual bringing firearms to the gun show completes and signs an identification tag or sticker and attaches it to the firearm.

A violation of the responsibilities mandated by Penal Code section 12071.4 is a crime, punishable by a fine. Knowing violations, or second, or subsequent violations can be punished by a fine and up to one year in jail. (Penal Code section 12071.4, subdivision l).

For the purpose of Penal Code section 12071.4, "secured in a manner that prevents them from being **operated**" means a firearm must be secured in such a manner to ensure that it cannot be readily operated by any person at the gun show. The fastening of a hard plastic strap through the action of the firearm preventing the firearm's operation will meet this requirement. Merely tying the hammer back with a string would fail this requirement.

In order to ensure the safety of all gun show participants, it is essential that gun show producers and gun show vendors fully adhere to all the requirements of Penal Code sections 12071.1 and 12071.4. DOJ enforcement personnel will vigorously enforce firearms safety and security requirements at gun shows.

If you have any questions, please contact the Firearms Division at (916) 263-4887.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Rossi", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

RANDY ROSSI, Director –
Firearms Division

For BILL LOCKYER
Attorney General