

CONCEALED WEAPONS POLICY AND PROCEDURE – NUMBER 2813

THE LANGUAGE USED IN THIS DOCUMENT DOES NOT CREATE AN EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT BETWEEN THE EMPLOYEE AND THE AGENCY. THIS DOCUMENT DOES NOT CREATE ANY CONTRACTUAL RIGHTS OR ENTITLEMENTS. THE AGENCY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REVISE THE CONTENT OF THIS DOCUMENT, IN WHOLE OR IN PART. NO PROMISES OR ASSURANCES, WHETHER WRITTEN OR ORAL, WHICH ARE CONTRARY TO OR INCONSISTENT WITH THE TERMS OF THIS PARAGRAPH CREATE ANY CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT.

Forestry Commission employees that possess a valid South Carolina Concealed Weapons Permit may, upon request, be authorized to carry a concealed weapon and ammunition in agency facilities and vehicles after providing appropriate documentation to the agency and receiving State Forester and Law Enforcement Chief written approval.

Employees that receive approval to carry a concealed weapon and ammunition while conducting official business of the Forestry Commission must comply with all requirements and restrictions set forth in the South Carolina Law Abiding Citizens Self Defense Act of 1996, SC Code 23-31-205, as amended.

Approval to carry a concealed weapon and ammunition while conducting official business of the Forestry Commission does not confer or imply any law enforcement authority to agency employees that are not commissioned law enforcement officers. This approval is granted only to provide employees the ability to defend themselves or others from harm due to wrongful and/or criminal activities of another.

CONCEALED WEAPONS- PROCEDURE

Agency employees that possess a valid South Carolina Concealed Weapons Permit can request authorization to carry a concealed weapon and ammunition in agency facilities and vehicles.

To request authorization, the employee must provide a copy of their current Concealed Weapons Permit to their supervisor. The supervisor will forward the information to the Law Enforcement Chief.

Upon review of the documentation, the Law Enforcement Chief will notify the State Forester. The employee and their supervisor will be notified in writing by the Law Enforcement Chief if they are authorized by the agency to carry a concealed weapon and ammunition in agency facilities and vehicles. A copy of the Concealed Weapons Permit and the authorization letter will be kept on file by the Agency's Training & Safety Manager.

Employees authorized to carry a concealed weapon and ammunition must provide the Training & Safety Manager a copy of their Concealed Weapons Permit upon each renewal. If the employee fails to renew their Concealed Weapons Permit or becomes ineligible for a Concealed Weapons Permit, the employee must notify the Law Enforcement Chief immediately. The agency may rescind the authorization provided above at any time by providing either written or verbal notification to the employee.

South Carolina Forestry Commission

Employees authorized to carry concealed weapons and ammunition must comply with all requirements and restrictions set forth in the South Carolina Law Abiding Citizens Self Defense Act of 1996, SC Code 23-31-205, as amended. The Forestry Commission authorizes valid Concealed Weapon Permit holders to carry concealed weapons and ammunition in agency facilities and vehicles solely to allow employees to protect themselves or an innocent third party from harm due to the wrongful and criminal activities of another. Employees may not openly display their concealed weapon.

Employees authorized to carry a concealed weapon and ammunition must maintain control of their weapon and ammunition at all times and secure the weapon when it is not on their person.