



ADAMS COUNTY SHERIFF

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Officer Safety Equipment Warning

On 11.01.17 a 115 grain Winchester 9mm round Cooked-off or (Thermally induced firing) at FLATROCK Regional Training Center. The round was being stored loosely with 3 other 9mm rounds in a backpack in an outer pouch. The Cook-off damaged the backpack and the round came to rest about 2 feet outside the backpack. Nobody was injured during the incident, however due to the capacity for tragedy we wanted everyone to know about a dangerous practice in the hopes of keeping everyone safe out there and deterring a similar incident from happening.

The 4 rounds in the backpack were next to a rechargeable Streamlight Nickel Cadmium battery. After the Cook-off the battery was discovered to be too hot to handle. The casing of the round was damaged and the primer was blown out. The battery's plastic coating appeared to have been burnt and peeled away.

It should be noted these batteries were purchased between 6-8 years ago and the Cadet two weeks prior, had 1 battery from that batch overheat in his flashlight causing the flashlight to be damaged to the point he had to throw it and the battery away.

The Detective Division and lab investigated and determined the 9mm round cooked-off due to the close proximity or even touching the battery that was overheating. Our Detectives were able to create a short with an expended shell casing and the battery causing it to heat up. Upon further research Streamlight already anticipated this problem and created a "Safety Bulletin" (see additional attachment).

While it is unclear whether the loose rounds caused a short or if the battery went bad from age or defect and then overheated it appears a sound strategy to keep spare batteries away from ammunition. Military Veterans I spoke with about the incident told me they tape the ends of their spare batteries to prevent a short like this.





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