

CHAPTER 549
Weapons and Explosives

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| 549.01 Definitions. | 549.99 Penalty. |
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CROSS REFERENCES

See sectional histories for similar State law
Permit to sell fireworks at wholesale - see Ohio R.C. 3743.321
License or permit to possess dangerous ordnance - see
Ohio R.C. 2923.18
Hunting prohibited - see GEN. OFF. 505.11
Reporting gunshot and stab wounds - see GEN. OFF. 525.05(b)
Property destruction by tear gas device, etc. - see
GEN. OFF. 541.03

549.01 DEFINITIONS.

As used in this chapter:

- (a) "Deadly weapon" means any instrument, device or thing capable of inflicting death, and designed or specially adapted for use as a weapon, or possessed, carried or used as a weapon.
- (b) (1) "Firearm" means any deadly weapon capable of expelling or propelling one or more projectiles by the action of an explosive or combustible propellant. "Firearm" includes an unloaded firearm, and any firearm which is inoperable but which can readily be rendered operable.
(2) When determining whether a firearm is capable of expelling or propelling one or more projectiles by the action of an explosive or combustible propellant, the trier of fact may rely upon circumstantial evidence, including, but not limited to, the representations and actions of the individual exercising control over the firearm.
- (c) "Handgun" means any of the following:
 - (1) Any firearm that has a short stock and is designed to be held and fired by the use of a single hand;
 - (2) Any combination of parts from which a firearm of a type described in subsection (c)(1) of this section can be assembled.
- (d) "Semi-automatic firearm" means any firearm designed or specially adapted to fire a single cartridge and automatically chamber a succeeding cartridge ready to fire, with a single function of the trigger.

- (e) "Automatic firearm" means any firearm designed or specially adapted to fire a succession of cartridges with a single function of the trigger. "Automatic firearm" also means any semi-automatic firearm designed or specially adapted to fire more than thirty-one cartridges without reloading, other than a firearm chambering only .22 caliber short, long or long-rifle cartridges.
- (f) "Sawed-off firearm" means a shotgun with a barrel less than eighteen inches long, or a rifle with a barrel less than sixteen inches long, or a shotgun or rifle less than twenty-six inches long overall.
- (g) "Zip-gun" means any of the following:
 - (1) Any firearm of crude and extemporized manufacture;
 - (2) Any device, including without limitation a starter's pistol, not designed as a firearm, but which is specially adapted for use as such;
 - (3) Any industrial tool, signalling device or safety device, not designed as a firearm, but which as designed is capable of use as such, when possessed, carried or used as a firearm.
- (h) "Explosive device" means any device designed or specially adapted to cause physical harm to persons or property by means of an explosion, and consisting of an explosive substance or agency and a means to detonate it. "Explosive device" includes without limitation any bomb, any explosive demolition device, any blasting cap or detonator containing an explosive charge, and any pressure vessel which has been knowingly tampered with or arranged so as to explode.
- (i) "Incendiary device" means any firebomb, and any device designed or specially adapted to cause physical harm to persons or property by means of fire, and consisting of an incendiary substance or agency and a means to ignite it.
- (j) "Ballistic knife" means a knife with a detachable blade that is propelled by a spring-operated mechanism.
- (k) "Dangerous ordnance" means any of the following, except as provided in subsection (l) hereof:
 - (1) Any automatic or sawed-off firearm, zip-gun or ballistic knife;
 - (2) Any explosive device or incendiary device;
 - (3) Nitroglycerin, nitrocellulose, nitrostarch, PETN, cyclonite, TNT, picric acid and other high explosives; amatol, tritonal, tetrytol, pentolite, pecretol, cyclotol and other high explosive compositions; plastic explosives; dynamite, blasting gelatin, gelatin dynamite, sensitized ammonium nitrate, liquid-oxygen blasting explosives, blasting powder and other blasting agents; and any other explosive substance having sufficient brisance or power to be particularly suitable for use as a military explosive, or for use in mining, quarrying, excavating or demolitions;
 - (4) Any firearm, rocket launcher, mortar, artillery piece, grenade, mine, bomb, torpedo or similar weapon, designed and manufactured for military purposes, and the ammunition therefor;
 - (5) Any firearm muffler or silencer;
 - (6) Any combination of parts that is intended by the owner for use in converting any firearm or other device into a dangerous ordnance.

- (l) "Dangerous ordnance" does not include any of the following:
- (1) Any firearm, including a military weapon and the ammunition therefor, and regardless of its actual age, which employs a percussion cap or other obsolete ignition system, or which is designed and safe for use only with black powder;
 - (2) Any pistol, rifle or shotgun, designed or suitable for sporting purposes, including a military weapon as issued or as modified, and the ammunition therefor unless such firearm is an automatic or sawed-off firearm;
 - (3) Any cannon or other artillery piece which, regardless of its actual age, is of a type in accepted use prior to 1887, has no mechanical, hydraulic, pneumatic or other system for absorbing recoil and returning the tube into battery without displacing the carriage, and is designed and safe for use only with black powder;
 - (4) Black powder, priming quills and percussion caps possessed and lawfully used to fire a cannon of a type defined in subsection (l)(3) hereof during displays, celebrations, organized matches or shoots, and target practice, and smokeless and black powder, primers and percussion caps possessed and lawfully used as a propellant or ignition device in small-arms or small-arms ammunition;
 - (5) Dangerous ordnance which is inoperable or inert and cannot readily be rendered operable or activated, and which is kept as a trophy, souvenir, curio or museum piece.
 - (6) Any device which is expressly excepted from the definition of a destructive device pursuant to the "Gun Control Act of 1968," 82 Stat. 1213, 18 U.S.C.921(a)(4), and any amendments or additions thereto or reenactments thereof, and regulations issued thereunder. (ORC 2923.11)
- (m) "Explosive" means any chemical compound, mixture, or device, the primary or common purpose of which is to function by explosion. "Explosive" includes all materials that have been classified as division 1.1, division 1.2, division 1.3, or division 1.4 explosives by the United States Department of Transportation in its regulations and includes, but is not limited to, dynamite, black powder, pellet powders, initiating explosives, blasting caps, electric blasting caps, safety fuses, fuse igniters, squibs, cordeau detonant fuses, instantaneous fuses, and igniter cords and igniters. "Explosive" does not include "fireworks", as defined in Ohio R.C. 3743.01, or any substance or material otherwise meeting the definition of explosive set forth in this section that is manufactured, sold, possessed, transported, stored or used in any activity described in Ohio R.C. 3743.80, provided the activity is conducted in accordance with all applicable laws, rules and regulations, including, but not limited to, the provisions of Ohio R.C. 3743.80, and the rules of the Fire Marshal adopted pursuant to Ohio R.C. 3737.82. (ORC 2923.11)

549.02 DISCHARGING FIREARMS.

- (a) No person shall discharge any air gun, rifle, shotgun, revolver, pistol or other firearm within the corporate limits of the Municipality.
- (b) This section does not apply when firearms are used in self defense, in the discharge of official duty or when otherwise lawfully authorized.
- (c) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.

549.03 THROWING OR SHOOTING MISSILES.

(a) No person shall throw, shoot or propel an arrow, missile, pellet, stone, metal or other similar substance capable of causing physical harm to persons or property, in or on any public place, in or on the property of another, or from any private property into or onto any public place or the property of another. This section does not apply to supervised archery ranges or instruction nor when otherwise lawfully authorized.

(b) Whoever violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.

549.99 PENALTY.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: See Section 501.99 for penalties applicable to any misdemeanor classification.)