

Gun discharges; wounds deputy

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A Benewah County deputy will return to regular duty this week after he suffered a gunshot wound.

Deputy Bryan Dickenson was on temporary leave after his 45-caliber pistol accidentally discharged, shooting him in the lower leg, according to Sheriff Dave Resser. The incident happened Feb. 27.

Sheriff Resser said the incident happened when he was out of town. He said Deputy Dickenson immediately notified dispatch and an investigation into the incident was conducted by the St. Maries City Police Department.

"The consensus is that he was getting ready to come on duty and he had retrieved his pistol from the shelf to holster it. When he holstered it, it went off. The only thing he said he thought might have happened is that he inadvertently put his finger on the trigger," Sheriff Resser said.

Sheriff Resser said it was a flesh wound and there was no damage to the bone or tendons. He added the weapon will be checked out to see if there was any mechanical failure.

"I've already had a meeting with my deputies to reiterate that when your hand touches that pistol your full attention has to be there," Sheriff Resser said. "We handle weapons everyday and we're all very safety conscious, but as it happens when you deal with something constantly sometimes your focus lapses a bit."

Sheriff Resser said Deputy Dickenson is doing fine after the incident and was expected to return to regular duty this week.