

JACKSONVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Policy: 9-7
Effective: 03-12-17
Revised: 01-13-21

LESS-LETHAL IMPACT MUNITIONS

PURPOSE: To establish policy and procedure for the training, qualification, and deployment of less-lethal impact munitions.

POLICY: The Jacksonville Police Department has issued less-lethal “bean bag” shotguns and impact munitions, to select trained officers, to provide additional response to resistance options for gaining compliance of resistant or aggressive individuals in arrest and other enforcement situations. It is the policy of this department that personnel may use the less-lethal bean bag shotgun when warranted, but only in accordance with the guidelines and procedures set forth in this policy and in the department’s Response to Resistance policy.

PROCEDURES:

I. AUTHORIZATION

- A. The department will issue dedicated less-lethal shotguns for the sole purpose of discharging less-lethal impact munition projectiles. All less-lethal shotguns will be distinctively marked with an orange stock and fore end. Optionally, a black fore end, which is equipped with a Surefire light, may be used.
- B. Only the dedicated department issued 12 gauge shotgun and issued 12 gauge less-lethal shells are authorized for use. The Special Response Team is permitted to use a variety of impact munitions and delivery systems outside of this policy.
- C. Officers who carry a less-lethal “bean bag” shotgun are prohibited from carrying another shotgun or lethal shotgun ammunition. (Officers assigned to the Special Response Team are exempt from this provision).
- D. The designated less-lethal shotgun will never be loaded with conventional shotgun rounds. Shotguns that are not designated as less-lethal will never be loaded with less-lethal impact munitions.

II. DEPLOYMENT

- A. Properly trained officers are authorized to use department issued less-lethal “bean bag” shotguns as an alternative to resolve incidents in a less-lethal manner to include:
 - 1. Protect officers and other persons from harm,
 - 2. Protect a suspect/subject from self-inflicted injury,
 - 3. End incidents involving those who are combative, armed, or believed to be armed with weapons other than firearms, or
 - 4. Violent suspects.
- B. Officers shall not interpret this policy to mean that a bean bag shotgun replaces the use of deadly force when deadly force is justified.
- C. These weapons may be deployed (consistent with training) in circumstances including, but not limited to, the following:
 - 1. Suicidal subject where a weapon is displayed,
 - 2. Subject armed with a knife or other weapon (not a firearm).

3. Subject violently resisting arrest, where the use of other defensive weapons or tactics would place officers at risk by being in contact range of the suspect.
 4. Hostile or aggressive animals where the discharge of a firearm would be inappropriate.
- D. Prior to the deployment of a less-lethal weapon, lethal cover must be provided for the less-lethal weapon operator. All officers should remain mindful of the “reactionary gap” should the need for deadly force arise.

III. WEAPON DISCHARGE

- A. Prior to discharging a less-lethal shotgun, the officer will identify himself and state their intention to shoot, when feasible.
- B. The officer will also announce his intent to discharge the weapon by stating “bean bag,” to warn other officers.
- C. Once the officer has stopped firing the weapon, the officer should announce that he has ceased firing, by stating “all clear.” This will allow other officers to effect an arrest, when practical.
- D. Unless the use of lethal force is appropriate, the officer will not target the head, face, neck, or groin; nor will the less-lethal shotgun be discharged at a distance of less than 20 feet from a subject.

IV. WEAPON TRANSPORT

- A. The less-lethal impact munitions shotgun will be issued with a six rounds of less-lethal bean bag ammunition. NO CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION (buckshot, slug, etc.) will ever be placed in or carried with the less-lethal “bean bag” shotgun.
- B. The less lethal “bean bag” shotgun will be carried in “SAFE STORAGE” condition. Safe storage condition is:
 1. Action CLOSED
 2. Hammer DOWN (Trigger Pulled)
 3. Safety ON
 4. Magazine tube EMPTY
 5. Chamber EMPTY
- C. The impact munitions shells will be carried on a tactical shell carrier mounted to the shotgun (i.e., side saddle or buttstock mounted shell carrier).

V. MEDICAL AID REQUIRED (6.07)

- A. Officers will immediately notify a supervisor of the use of the less-lethal “bean bag” shotgun.
- B. Officers will render appropriate medical aid, as soon as practicable and as qualified, and request an ambulance to the scene without delay.
- C. All subjects who have been shot with impact munitions will be transported to the closest hospital for a medical evaluation and/or treatment as a precaution.

VI. REPORTING RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE

- A. Whenever the less-lethal “bean bag” shotgun is utilized, the on-duty Supervisor should be notified. A Response to Resistance Report will be completed in accordance to the Jacksonville Police Department’s Policy 9-6: Reporting Response to Resistance.
- B. Accidental discharges of the less-lethal “bean bag” shotgun will be reported to the immediate supervisor as soon as possible.