

JACKSONVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

LESS-LETHAL IMPACT MUNITIONS

Policy: 9-7
Effective: 03-12-17
Revised: 04-29-19

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).