

JACKSONVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Policy: 9-4

PEPPERBALL LAUNCHER & MUNITIONS

Effective: 01-01-09

Revised: 04-29-19

PURPOSE: To establish acceptable applications of the pepper ball projectile launcher and training related to the use of the pepper ball launcher.

POLICY: The use of the pepper ball launcher is to facilitate the safe and effective response to situations that may jeopardize the life and safety of personnel and citizens. The pepper ball launcher shall be deployed as an additional law enforcement tool and is not intended to replace firearms or self-defense techniques.

PROCEDURES: It is the intent of this policy that the Pepperball Launcher shall be used in compliance with the Jacksonville Police Department's Response to Resistance Policy. Officers must clearly justify the proper amount of force and are accountable for its use. Officers shall use the Pepperball Launcher only if that force is objectively reasonable, given the totality of the circumstances, to effectively bring an incident under control.

I. AUTHORIZATION TO CARRY

Only those who have successfully completed the Jacksonville Police Department required training course for the operation of the Pepperball Launcher are allowed to carry and deploy the weapon.

A. Approved personnel assigned to deploy the pepper ball launcher will be responsible for ensuring that the appropriate pepper ball projectile is loaded in the launcher and verifying the operational status of the launcher by ensuring that:

1. The launcher is on "safe" prior to deployment;
2. The HPA bottle has enough air and is properly seated in the pepper ball launcher;
3. The charging handle is pulled to the rear of the launcher; and
4. Whenever possible, the operational status of the launcher should be verified by another qualified officer prior to use.

B. Once the pepper ball launcher is no longer needed, the officer assigned to the launcher will be responsible for properly storing it back to its assigned storage area. Prior to storing the launcher, personnel will ensure that:

1. The launcher is on "safe";
2. The charging handle is cocked to the rear;
3. The HPA bottle pressure gauge is not less than fifteen hundred pounds per square inch(1500 psi); and
4. The hopper has an adequate supply of projectiles.

II. USE OF PEPPERBALL LAUNCHER

A. The decision to use pepper ball, as with any response to resistance, should be objectively reasonable for the situation in which it is used. Pepper ball is unique in the application of the response to resistance because it combines chemical agents and an impact weapon together.

B. Although the impact of a pepper ball projectile is less than that of a baton strike, officers must take into account the impact characteristics when determining if direct impact is objectively reasonable for the situation.

C. The following are examples of where pepper ball may be used. This list is not an exhaustive list, but is provided to demonstrate where pepper ball use would be justified:

1. When a person exhibits violent or potentially violent behavior that threatens the safety of others after attempts to subdue the subject by using verbal communication skills, defensive