

BATON ROUGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

General Order
No.135.2

Effective Date
07-01-2004

Revised Date
N/A

Subject: Less-Lethal Impact Projectiles

Reviewed 9/1/16

POLICY

Less-lethal impact projectiles or bean bag rounds are an effective weapon to resolve confrontational situations quickly and in a method less likely to result in death or serious injury. The department recognizes bean bag rounds as an intermediate weapon. Any deployment will be consistent with the established use of force or less lethal policies. Less-lethal shotguns and bean bag rounds will be issued to employees who have received training through the department from a certified weapons instructor.

Use of force incidents involving the deployment of less-lethal impact projectiles will be investigated in the same manner as any police shooting. Investigators from Internal Affairs and the police shooting team will respond to the scene. Incidents will be reviewed by the chain of command and the Weapons Use Review Board.

PROCEDURES

I. Training

- A. Only employees who have successfully completed an approved training course conducted by a certified weapons instructor will deploy bean bag rounds.
- B. Employees trained in the use of bean bag rounds will be re-certified each year as part of their in-service training. Only employees who are currently certified may use or carry bean bag rounds.

II. Deployment

- A. The decision to use bean bag rounds will be based on the employee's determination that other less-lethal weapons (e.g. ASR or baton) would place employee(s) and/or suspect(s) unacceptably close to one another. Employees must consider the actions of the offender(s) or threat facing the employee(s), as well as the totality of the circumstances surrounding the incident.
- B. Bean bag rounds are not meant to replace deadly force. A second employee, who is prepared to use deadly force, should be present when bean bag rounds are deployed.
- C. Proper consideration and care should be taken when using bean bag rounds on offenders in elevated positions or other circumstances where a fall may cause substantial injury or death. Employees should not target the face or head unless the only other recourse would be deadly force.
- D. Whenever possible a warning will be given that bean bag rounds will be deployed. An announcement will be shouted stating "bean bag, bean bag, bean bag" in order to notify other employees that a bean bag deployment will occur.

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- E. Bean bag rounds should not be deployed under certain circumstances.
 - 1. Bean bag rounds should not be deployed on suspect(s) armed with firearms.
 - 2. Bean bag rounds will never be used punitively or for purposes of coercion.
 - 3. Bean bag rounds should not be deployed in circumstances or environments where flammables are obviously present.
 - 4. Bean bag rounds should not be used on pregnant offenders unless the only other option is deadly force.

III. Post-deployment Care

- A. Immediate action should be taken to protect and secure the offender and to protect the scene.
- B. EMS will be called to the scene regardless of the offender's apparent condition.
- C. A supervisor will respond to the scene. He or she will:
 - 1. Assure the offender receives medical treatment, including transportation to the hospital, if necessary.
 - 2. Assure that the offender has been properly restrained
 - 3. Assure that Internal Affairs and the police shooting team are notified.
 - 4. Assure that the Use of Force report is properly completed and filed.
- D. Each bean bag round deployment is to be reported.
 - 1. The use of bean bag rounds will be reported with the standard Use of Force report.
 - 2. Bean bag round deployment data records will be reviewed annually as part of the use of force analysis.

IV. Equipment Care and Maintenance

- A. Only less-lethal shotguns and bean bag rounds issued by the department will be used by employees. Employees issued less-lethal shotguns will regard them as firearms and secure them in the same manner as a firearm at all times.
- B. The less-lethal shotguns and bean bag rounds will be kept in the issued gun sock except when prepared for use.
- C. Employees issued less-lethal shotguns and bean bag rounds are responsible for maintaining the weapon and bean bag rounds.