

USE OF LESS-LETHAL EXTENDED RANGE IMPACT DEVICES	Document Number	GO 816
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1. PURPOSE

To establish departmental guidelines and procedures regulating the use of less-lethal extended range impact devices for police service.

2. PERSONS AFFECTED

All sworn personnel.

3. POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Hawai'i Police Department that certain members shall be trained and qualified in the use of extended range less-lethal weapons and projectiles for the purpose of applying a less-lethal force option to de-escalate potentially violent confrontations.

4. DEFINITIONS

- 4.1. Extended Range Impact Projectiles – Munitions which can be fired, launched, or otherwise propelled for the purpose of encouraging compliance, overcoming resistance or preventing serious injury without posing a significant potential of causing death. Examples of less-lethal impact projectiles include beanbags, launchable wooden, foam, or rubber batons, rubber pellets, and other like items.
- 4.2. Less-lethal Force Philosophy – A concept of planning and force application which meets operational objectives with less potential for causing death or serious physical injury than conventional methods.
- 4.3. Kinetic Energy Impact Projectiles – Flexible or non-flexible projectiles which are intended to incapacitate a subject with a minimal potential for causing death or serious physical injury when compared to conventional projectiles. Also referred to as a *less-lethal round*.
- 4.4. Dedicated Weapon – A conventional firearm which has been solely designated to utilize only *Kinetic Energy Impact Projectiles*. This weapon will be clearly marked in a manner to easily identify it if lethal ammunition is in department inventory which is of the same caliber.

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4.5. Sympathetic Fire Response – An inadvertent human response that, if not properly controlled, will cause the operator to fire his weapon in a high stress situation into the threat area upon hearing the sound of gunfire.

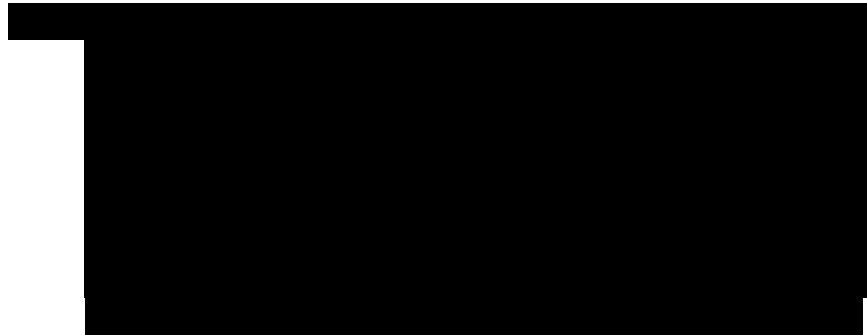
5. RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1. Members

5.1.1. Only Officers who have received and effectively passed the Departmental less-lethal qualification course for that particular weapon and corresponding *Kinetic Energy Impact Projectile* will utilize the less-lethal extended range option.

5.1.2. Qualified/authorized officers assigned the dedicated less-lethal weapons will visually and physically inspect the chamber and magazine each time the weapon comes under their control (beginning of shift, and/or any time the weapon was out of their direct control) to ensure the total absence of lethal ammunition.

a. Officers will visually check and identify each and every round loaded as a *Kinetic Energy Impact Projectile* to verify that he/she is not loading a lethal or barricade round instead.



5.2. Commanding Officers

5.2.1. Commanders shall ensure strict adherence to this directive by their subordinates. Any misapplication or misuse of *Kinetic Energy Impact Projectiles* may result in disciplinary action.

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5.3. Police Chief

5.3.1. The Police Chief shall have sole authority to rescind, revise, or otherwise alter the specifications of authorized less-lethal extended range impact devices and associated projectiles.

5.3.2. The Police Chief shall have the authority to revoke the certification of any member authorized to use less-lethal extended range impact weapons for good cause.

6. PROCEDURES

6.1. Justification For Use

6.1.1. Circumstances justifying the use of these munitions include, but are not limited to:

- a. Restoration or maintenance of order during civil disturbances/riot situations;
- b. Safely controlling violent persons;
- c. Subduing vicious animals;
- d. Situations wherein the authorized person deems their use necessary to safely resolve the incident.

6.1.2. The employment and use of these devices are decisive actions that can assist in achieving the goal of protection of life and property, and/or the restoration of order. They should be considered whenever the use of less-lethal options would assist in enabling an arrest, restoring order, and/or reduce the risk of more serious injury.

6.1.3. Less-lethal extended range impact devices (*Kinetic Energy Impact Projectiles*) are intended for use in incidents as described in Section 6.1.1 above. It is less likely to cause permanent or life threatening injuries when used properly, although the situation may escalate to a level where these impact devices will be used as deadly force by changing the aiming point of the weapon.

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[REDACTED]

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6.2.9. The maximum desired effect of impact munitions is *blunt trauma*. This is described as an impact from an object that leaves the body surface intact, but may cause sufficient (non-life threatening) injury to distract, control, or incapacitate the subject.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

6.3. Documentation/Medical Treatment

6.3.1. Spent *Kinetic Energy Impact Projectiles* along with any shell casings will be recovered as evidence. As soon as practical following the securing of subject, photographs shall be taken to document extent of injuries sustained.

6.3.2. Suspects who are struck by a less-lethal round SHALL be transported to a medical facility for examination and documentation purposes. This is equally important because some type of injury will not break the skin but may cause substantial damage under surface of the skin, which can be readily identified with proper medical attention.

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6.3.3. The entire incident will be fully documented in police reports and a memorandum generated to the Police Chief regarding the circumstances surrounding the use and the effectiveness of the less-lethal *Kinetic Energy Impact Projectiles* employed.

- a. The use of less-lethal munitions shall be documented on a Department approved form specifically designed to evaluate the effectiveness of the less-lethal munitions used, the physical injuries sustained, the level of incapacitation, and the effects of impact through various types of clothing.
- b. The completed evaluation form shall be submitted to the Tactical Commander of the Special Response Team, so that a continuous evaluation on the munitions and its use can be made.

6.3.4. The Office of Professional Standards will be responsible for review of each case involving the use of *Kinetic Energy Impact Projectiles*.

6.4. Storage and Disposal

6.4.1. Less-lethal impact munitions will be stored in a cool dry secure location.



6.4.4. Disposal of outdated or otherwise unusable impact munitions/pyrotechnic items will be in accordance with applicable EPA regulations.