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			Distribution: All
Title: IMPACT WEAPONS		Section: Weapons	
Issued: 5/8/2012	Effective: 5/16/2012	Revised: 12/14/2015	
Rescinds: All Previous		Amends:	
CALEA References: 1.3.4, 1.3.5, 1.3.6a,b,c, 1.3.8, 1.3.9a,c,d,e, 1.3.10, 1.3.11a,b,c, 1.3.12, 33.1.5			
Review: Annual	Authority: Chief Michael A. Keller 		

I. Purpose

The purpose of this General Order is to establish guidelines for the use of impact weapons.

II. Policy

The Andover Police Department has made available impact weapons to provide officers with additional use-of-force options for gaining compliance of resistant or aggressive individuals in arrest and other enforcement situations (1.3.4). It is the policy of the Andover Police Department that officers use impact weapons when warranted, but only in accordance with the guidelines and procedures set forth in General Order O2102 Use of Force.

III. Definitions

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IV. Regulations

- A. Members will not engage in unsafe handling of impact weapons. A member is responsible for and will be held accountable for any incident that occurs from the unsafe handling of impact weapons (B).
- B. Impact weapons will be properly secured at all times to prevent unauthorized use (B).
- C. Prior to carrying impact weapons, the impact weapon must be authorized and the member must successfully complete Use of Force and impact weapon training (C).

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V. Procedures

A. Authorization

1. Only officers who have completed the prescribed course of instruction on the use of impact weapons are authorized to carry the device (1.3.10).
2. Uniformed officers shall carry only department authorized impact weapons in the prescribed manner on their duty belt. Non-uniformed officers may carry impact weapons in alternative devices as authorized by the agency.



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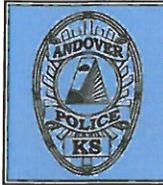
3. The department's Defensive Tactics Instructor will maintain a list of impact weapons approved by the Chief of Police for the agency use. The list will include the brand and type of each (1.3.9a, 1.3.9e).
4. The Defensive Tactics Instructor will inspect all impact weapons prior to being issued and annually during the Defensive Tactics training to ensure the weapon is not defective and is an approved weapon for the department. If the Defensive Tactics Instructor finds a deficiency in a weapon, the weapon will be immediately removed from service and the officer will be given another weapon (1.3.9c, d).
5. Impact weapon retraining will occur biennially and will be monitored, if not conducted, by a certified defensive tactics instructor and will include training on the content of General Order O2102 Use of Force and this General Order (1.3.11a, 1.3.12).
6. The training coordinator must maintain documentation of the training and individual proficiency results (1.3.11b, 1.3.12).
7. Officers who are unable to demonstrate proficiency with impact weapons will not be authorized to carry the weapon until they have completed remedial training and successfully demonstrated proficiency (1.3.11c, 33.1.5).

B. Usage Criteria

1. Impact weapons are considered a use of force and shall be employed in a manner consistent with General Order O2102 Use of Force.
2. Impact weapons may be used when:
 - a. Verbal dialogue has failed to bring about the subject's compliance; and
 - b. The subject has signaled their intention to actively resist the officer's efforts to make the arrest.
3. Whenever practical and reasonable, officers should issue a verbal warning prior to using impact weapons against subjects.
4. An officer may use deadly force to protect himself from the use or threatened use of impact weapons when the officer reasonably believes that deadly force will be used against the officer if the officer becomes incapacitated.
5. Once a subject is incapacitated or restrained, use of impact weapons is no longer justified.

C. Usage Procedures

1. When deployed as non-deadly force, impact weapons will be directed at those areas of the body recognized as "green" areas for general impact weapon strikes according to the department's impact weapon training.



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2. Areas in the "yellow" may be considered if/when the targeting of the "green" areas have proven ineffective or is inappropriate based upon the totality of the circumstances.
3. When impact weapons are employed as deadly weapons, they may be directed at any area of the body, to include those areas recognized as "red," which are areas that when struck may cause death or serious bodily harm.
4. Impact weapons shall not be utilized as the sole means of force to counter a potentially deadly threat. Lethal weapons must be immediately available to counter deadly force directed at an officer or another.

D. Officer Response

1. All subjects shall be handcuffed as soon as possible after impact weapons have been employed. Officers should also be prepared to employ other means to control the subject to include, if necessary, other force options consistent with agency General Orders if the subject does not respond sufficiently to impact weapons and cannot otherwise be subdued.
2. Immediately after an impact weapon has been used, officers shall be alert to any indication that the individual needs medical care. Upon observing any indication that the individual needs medical assistance, the officer shall immediately summon emergency medical aid (1.3.5).
3. Subjects that have had impact weapons used on them will be monitored continuously for indications of medical problems and shall not be left alone while in police custody without first being examined by emergency medical services (EMS) or other medical professionals.

E. Reporting Procedures

1. Any time impact weapons are used against a subject the officer will report the incident to their immediate supervisor as soon as possible.
2. A Use of Force Report Form, APD FORM 9, will be filled out and included on reports when an impact weapon is employed as per General Order O2102 Use of Force (1.3.6b, c).
3. The procedures in General Order O2519 Officer's Use of Deadly Force will be followed whenever a person who has had an impact weapon used on them dies proximately to the deployment (1.3.8).

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F. Issue and Replacement

1. The initial issue and any subsequent replacement of an impact weapon will be conducted by the departments Defensive Tactics Instructor. An impact weapon will be issued to officers following the successful completion of impact weapon training.

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2. Upon issuance or replacement of an impact weapon, the department's Defensive Tactics Instructor will forward the information to the departments Administrative Assistant.
3. The department's Defensive Tactics Instructor will maintain a supply of extra impact weapons as a part of the department's operational readiness, as well as, initial issuance and replacement.
4. All impact weapons shall be maintained in a clean and safe operational condition stated by assigned personnel. It is the responsibility of the officers to obtain replacements for damaged, unsafe or inoperable devices (1.3.9d).