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			Distribution: All
Title: LESS LETHAL SHOTGUNS		Section: Weapons	
Issued: 09/15/2010	Effective: 09/22/2010	Revised: 10/02/2013	
Rescinds: All Previous		Amends:	
CALEA References: 1.3.9a,b,c,d,e,f, 1.3.10, 1.3.11a,b,c 1.3.12			
Review: Annual	Authority: Chief Michael A. Keller 		

I. Purpose

The purpose of this General Order is to provide police officers with direction on when and how to use less lethal shotguns.

II. Policy

The availability of less lethal shotguns can assist officers in de-escalation of potentially violent confrontations and provide additional alternatives to the use of deadly force. Less lethal shotguns are an important component of this agency's less lethal force equipment. Officers are authorized to employ less lethal shotguns in accordance with provisions of this policy and this department's overall policy on use of force.

III. Definitions

- A. Impact Projectile:** Often referred to generically as "bean bags and rubber bullets." It is designed to incapacitate a subject with minimal potential for causing death or serious physical injury as compared to conventional projectiles when used in accordance with agency policy and training guidelines.
- B. Less Lethal Shotgun:** A clearly marked and identifiable police shotgun used to shoot less lethal ammunition to stop and control individuals while causing less harm than a traditional police shotgun.
- C. Firearms Qualification:** Periodic testing required of officers to determine their competency to carry authorized firearms.

IV. Regulations

A. General Firearms Regulations

1. Members of the Department shall not engage in the unsafe handling of a firearm, including less lethal shotguns. A member is responsible for and will be held accountable for any incident that occurs from the unsafe handling of a weapon [C].
2. All firearms, including less lethal shotguns, will be properly secured at all times [B].

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B. Carry/Use Authorized Firearms/Equipment

1. Prior to using the less lethal shotgun the member must have successfully completed use of force training, less lethal firearms training and qualified with the firearm [C].
2. When taking official police action, on or off duty, a member shall use only firearms they are authorized and qualified to use [E].
3. Only authorized members shall carry and use less lethal ammunition, and only authorized ammunition is allowed to be carried and used [D].
4. The less lethal shotgun is considered a firearm and members must adhere to the regulations and procedures found in General Order O2701 Firearms, unless otherwise stated in this General Order.

V. Procedures

A. General Provisions

1. The department approved less lethal shotgun shall be a 12-gauge shotgun from a reputable manufacturer and approved by the Chief of Police that is clearly marked with a orange butt stock and fore grip (1.3.9a).
2. Only less lethal ammunition that has been approved by this agency shall be used in authorized less lethal firearms.
 - a. The Chief of Police has the sole authority to authorize less lethal ammunition for use in authorized less lethal firearms. Any ammunition authorized by the Chief of Police for authorized firearms must be manufactured by a reputable company (1.3.9b).
 - b. The department armorer will maintain a list of less lethal ammunition approved by the Chief of Police. The list of ammunition must include the manufacturer and type of ammunition, and must have attached written documentation signed by the Chief of Police authorizing the ammunition.
3. Provisions for approval, review, inspection, removal of unsafe weapons, record keeping and storage of less lethal shotguns shall be in accordance with General Order O2701 Firearms (1.3.9c,d,e,f).
4. Only officers who have successfully passed a less lethal firearms training and qualification and the use-of-force training course prescribed by this agency shall be authorized to use the less lethal shotgun (1.3.10).

B. Guidelines for Use of Less Lethal Shotguns

1. The less lethal shotgun may be used as one of many weapons if consistent with General Order O2102 Use of Force.

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2. All uses of the less lethal shotgun shall be consistent with this agency's policy on use of force. Use of the less lethal shotgun generally falls below that of deadly force.
3. The less lethal shotgun is primarily designed for use against subjects who appear to pose a threat of death or serious bodily injury to themselves or others.
4. There is a broad range of scenarios in which use of a less lethal shotgun may be justified. Major factors to consider when deciding whether such use is justified include the following:
 - a. Seriousness of any crime committed by the individual.
 - b. Whether the individual is armed and, if so, the potential lethality/threat.
 - c. Propensity of the individual to be violent.
 - d. The urgency of the situation and potential impact of actions that may be committed by the suspect.
 - e. The ability of officers to use the less lethal shotgun against the suspect in accordance with policy and training.
 - f. The potential for collateral damage to officers, other persons, or property should the less lethal shotgun incapacitate the suspect (e.g. the suspect is or is allegedly holding a triggering device connected to explosives or other destructive devices).
5. Consideration may be given to the use of the less lethal shotgun against those who are posing a threat of death or serious bodily injury to themselves or others.
6. Deployment of the less lethal shotgun should be at the direction of a supervisor or other senior officer unless it is reasonably likely that failure to take immediate action would result in injury, death, or serious property damage.
7. Only officers who have met this agency's training requirements for use of the less lethal shotgun are permitted to carry or deploy the less lethal shotgun (1.3.10).

C. Deployment and Follow Up

1. Less lethal shotguns shall be definitively marked with an orange butt stock and fore grip. These shotguns shall not be used for any other purpose, shall be loaded only with less lethal impact projectiles, and shall be kept only by authorized personnel in a manner designated by the department.
2. Where possible, officers should inform other police personnel in the immediate vicinity that the less lethal shotgun will be deployed in order that the shot will not precipitate the use of firearms by other officers.
3. Suspects who are struck with an impact projectile should be restrained as necessary and transported to a medical facility for examination.
4. Use of the less lethal shotgun is a use of force and is subject to the same reporting and investigative requirements as other types of force incidents and General Order O2102 Use of Force shall be followed accordingly.

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D. Training

1. Impact projectiles fired from less lethal shotguns shall be directed at suspect target areas based on the circumstances at hand, established safety priorities, the exigency of the situation, and the level of force that is authorized.
2. Officers authorized to deploy less lethal shotguns shall receive designated training and must qualify with the weapon biennially (1.3.11).
 - a. Training must be administered by a certified firearms instructor (1.3.11a).
 - b. The training coordinator must maintain documentation of the training and individual proficiency results (1.3.11b).
 - c. Officers who do not qualify with the less lethal shotgun will follow the procedure for remedial training described in General Order O2701 Firearms before being allowed to use a less lethal shotgun (1.3.11c).
3. Officers shall receive training specifically designed to simulate actual deployment situations and conditions to enhance officer's discretion and judgment in using less lethal shotguns.
4. Before being authorized to use a less lethal shotgun, and at least biennially thereafter, officers authorized to carry the weapon shall receive a copy of General Order O2102 Use of Force, be provided training and shall be required to demonstrate their understanding of the law and agency orders relating to the use of force.
 - a. The department training coordinator must maintain documentation of the training, knowledge test results, and documentation that each officer received a copy of the aforementioned General Order (1.3.12)