



USE OF LESS - LETHAL FORCE

This rule is issued to establish guidelines for the use of less-lethal force by members of this Department in the performance of their duties, and to establish appropriate training, reporting, and documentation for such use of force.

Sec. 1 DEFINITIONS:

1.1 Less-Lethal Force Philosophy is a concept of planning and force application that meets operational objectives, with less potential for causing death or serious physical injury than the use of deadly force.

1.2 Reasonableness is moderate and/or fair action within reason, suitable to the confrontation.

1.3 Super Sock Round, also known as a flexible projectile, is fired through a 12 gauge shotgun.

Sec. 2 GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The Department has adopted the less-lethal force philosophy to assist in the de-escalation of potentially violent situations. The less-lethal force philosophy shall not preclude the use of deadly force.

Sec. 3 TRAINING AND QUALIFICATION:

Training shall consist of Department approved training and qualification program in the use of a 12 gauge shotgun. Supervisors and personnel assigned to the Special Operations SWAT Team, shall be trained and qualify two times per year in the proper use of a less lethal shotgun. Supervisors and personnel assigned to the Special Operations SWAT Team trained in the use of this weapon will be held accountable for proficiency as well as compliance with Department policy in the use of such weapon.

Sec. 4 SECURING OF LESS LETHAL SHOTGUN AND AMMUNITION:

Each less lethal shotgun shall be stored in a District gun locker in a safe condition (i.e. safety on, action open, chamber and magazine empty). Flexible projectile rounds shall be stored and secured along with the weapon in the District gun locker. The less lethal shotgun will have an orange colored stock. The words "less lethal" will be noted on the stock to identify that the less lethal shotgun is used strictly for flexible projectile rounds. Every Thursday the day tour Duty Supervisor shall perform a visual inspection to verify

that the shotgun is stored in a safe condition, as well as insure that the requisite number of flexible projectile rounds are accounted for. This information shall be recorded in a District Control Log.

During the Patrol Supervisor's tour of duty, the less lethal shotgun shall be loaded with four flexible projectile rounds in the magazine, with an empty chamber, with safety lock on, and secured in the locking device located in the trunk of the Patrol Supervisor's vehicle.

SWAT Team personnel shall secure, inspect, issue and transport the less lethal shotgun according to protocol established by the commander of the Special Operations Division. The SWAT armory and tactical car vaults will be utilized for secure storage as appropriate.

Sec. 5 AUTHORIZATION AND USE OF LESS LETHAL WEAPONS:

Only supervisors and SWAT Team personnel who have completed the Department training and qualification program shall be authorized to use a 12 gauge less lethal shotgun.

If the possibility of the use of less lethal force is determined to be an option the Patrol Supervisor shall be notified and respond to the scene. If the possibility of the use of less lethal force is determined to be a reasonable option by the Patrol Supervisor, then the Patrol Supervisor shall notify the Boston Emergency Medical Services to respond. Before each and every round is discharged, the Patrol Supervisor shall announce in a loud and clear voice the word "BEANBAG."

SWAT Team personnel shall deploy the less lethal weapons in accordance with their training and/or at the direction of SWAT Team supervisor(s). Where feasible, SWAT team personnel shall notify the Boston Emergency Medical Services to respond and before each and every round is discharged, the SWAT team personnel shall announce in a loud and clear voice the word "BEANBAG."

The Patrol Supervisor shall designate an on-scene officer to provide lethal force coverage and, if deemed appropriate shall designate two or more officers for suspect take down.

Upon discharge of the shotgun the District Commander and Duty Supervisor shall be notified. Suspects who are struck by a flexible projectile round shall be transported to a medical facility for examination.

Sec. 6 REPORTING AND INVESTIGATION:

Any discharge of a less lethal shotgun other than training shall be investigated pursuant to Rule 303.

William B. Evans
Police Commissioner