

Policy – Wauwatosa Police Department

POLICY: Less Lethal Extended Range Impact Devices

CHAPTER & SECTION: 6.1.3

DISTRIBUTION: Sworn Officers

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Wauwatosa Police Department recognizes that combative, non-compliant, armed and/or violent subjects cause handling and control problems that require special training and equipment. Thus, the Department has adopted the less-lethal force philosophy to assist with the de-escalation of these potential violent confrontations. This policy supersedes policy # 20-05.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. Less-Lethal Philosophy:** A concept of planning and force application which meets operational objectives with less potential for causing death or serious physical injury than conventional police tactics.
- B. 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.
- C. Incapacitation:** The state of not having the necessary ability, qualification, or strength to perform some specified act or function.
- D. Safety Priorities:** The Department safety priorities are established as follows:
 - 1. Hostages
 - 2. Involved non-subject civilians

3. Police Officers

4. Subject (The person who is the focus of the police operation)

III. PROCEDURE

A. Less-Lethal Extended Range Impact Devices

1. There are many projectiles considered “less-lethal”. The primary types used by the Wauwatosa Police Department are:

(a) Flexible Baton – [REDACTED]

(b) Pepper Ball - [REDACTED]

B. Evaluation of Projectiles

1. The approved kinetic energy projectile of the Wauwatosa Police Department will be evaluated on the following criteria:

(a) Accuracy

- i. This is the primary consideration since the proper shot placement greatly assists in controlling the other two evaluation criteria.
- ii. This will be evaluated based on the anticipated ranges of deployment.
- iii. A minimal standard of accuracy for such rounds is:

(a) [REDACTED]

(b) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

(b) Effectiveness

- i. This is the potential of the round to cause incapacitation and reduce the subject’s ability to continue the inappropriate behavior.
- ii. The level of energy necessary to cause incapacitation creates the potential for injury, but when properly deployed, there is a lower probability for causing serious physical injury or death.

(c) Potential for causing death or serious physical injury

- i. The potential for causing death or serious physical injury with such projectiles is a reality. This potential is greatly reduced when impacts to the head and neck are avoided and when appropriate medical examination is provided in cases where the subject is struck in an area that might conceal an internal injury, including such areas as the chest, back, thoracic and abdominal cavities, and the groin.
- ii. When engaging a target, the officer should evaluate the effectiveness of each round during the volley. Compliance and/or incapacitation are the desired goal, and alternative target areas/response should be considered when rounds are not effective. Alternative target area/response consideration will be based on the circumstances the officer is encountering and the established department safety priorities.

C. Deployment Areas

1. The less-lethal projectiles will be delivered to suspect target areas based on the circumstances, the established safety priorities, and the level of force authorized.
2. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

D. Intervention Options

1. The Wauwatosa Police Department recognizes the State of Wisconsin Disturbance Resolution Intervention Options, outlined in the Department's Use of Force Policy. The five levels of force are:
 - (a) Level 1 – Officer Presence

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

F. Techniques – [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

G. Techniques – [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



H. Handling of Injured Subjects

1. Subjects that are struck with a less-lethal round or rounds will be restrained according to trained D.A.A.T. techniques.
2. Officers will call for a rescue squad when a less-lethal round(s) strike a subject(s) in the head, neck or groin.
3. Subject(s) who are struck directly with a less lethal round on *any* body part will be conveyed to a medical facility for examination.
4. Photos of any visible injuries (or complaint of injury) will be taken as soon as practicable and documented in a report. Follow-up photographs will be attempted 24-48 hours after the use of force with the consent of the subject, and also be documented in a report.

I. Recording Procedures

1. When a less lethal projectile is fired from a weapon, all reporting rules and guidelines shall follow as outlined in the Wauwatosa Police Department Use of Force Policy.
2. Officers using less lethal or any physical force to control a subject will inform the immediate supervisor or Shift Commander of the incident, and document the use of force in a report.

J. Investigation

1. The shift supervisor will conduct an initial investigation into any situation involving the firing of a less-lethal round at a subject.

K. Training

1. Training in the use of extended range kinetic energy impact projectiles will consist of the approved department end-user program and annual recertification.



James MacGillis
Chief of Police

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