

<b>Anchorage Police Department</b> Regulations and Procedures Manual	<b>Operational Procedures</b> <b>3.05.010</b>	
<b>Policy and Procedure Title</b> Impact Weapons	<b>Effective Date</b> October 20, 2023	Page 1 of 6
<b>Replaces Prior Policy:</b> February 4, 2019	<b>Approved by:</b> Chief Michael Kerle	

**This Policy is for departmental use only and does not apply in any criminal or civil proceeding. This Policy should not be construed as creation of a higher legal standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense with respect to third party claims. Violations of this Policy will only form the basis for departmental administrative sanctions. Violations of law will form the basis for civil and criminal sanctions in a recognized judicial setting.**

### **3.05.010 Impact Weapons**

#### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Policy is to establish rules and procedures for the training, carrying, and use of impact weapons. The batons are authorized and issued impact weapons to be used for an Officer's personal defense, and for controlling a subject who is actively resisting an Officer's attempts to lawfully control him/her. The Anchorage Police Department's use of force is governed by Federal and Alaska law, including, but not limited to, the Constitution of the United States.

#### **POLICY**

The policy of the Anchorage Police Department is to use only that amount of force reasonably necessary to effect an arrest, control a situation, or defend themselves or others from harm. The Department recognizes that combative, non-compliant, armed and/or violent subjects cause handling and control problems that require specialized training and equipment. Thus, the Department has adopted the use of a non-lethal force philosophy to assist with the de-escalation of potentially violent confrontations. Any use of an impact weapon must comply with the Department's Response to resistance policy [3.05.025](#).

Any police Officer who uses an impact weapon in an unlawful, excessive, or unauthorized manner will be subject to disciplinary actions and may be subject to civil and criminal liability

#### **DEFINITIONS**

**Actively Resisting:** When a subject makes physically evasive movements to interfere with an officer's attempt to control that subject; including bracing, tensing, pulling away, actual or attempted flight, or pushing.

**Authorized Weapons:** Officers are allowed to carry weapons that meet Department specifications and for which Officers successfully complete proficiency and safety training.

**De-escalation:** A decrease in the severity of force used in an incident in direct response to a decrease in the level of resistance. De-Escalation is also a tactic designed to place officers in a position of advantage when dealing with irrational, unpredictable, or suicidal persons. De-Escalation helps officers stay focused and calm during crisis situation to bring chaotic moments to as peaceful a resolution as the suspect will afford without risking the safety of the officer or suspect.

**Extended Range Impact Weapon Munitions:** Kinetic energy projectiles that increase the potential for positive outcomes in dynamic situations to gain control of a subject when lethal force is not justified, but when empty-hand control techniques are not sufficient to effect control.

**Force:** Any physical strike or instrumental contact with a person; any intentional attempted physical strike or instrumental contact that does not take effect; any significant physical contact that restricts the movement of a person. The term includes the discharge of a firearm, pointing a firearm at a human being, use of chemical spray, vascular restraints, hard empty hand control techniques, use of an Electronic Control Weapon (ECW), taking of a subject to the ground, or the deployment of a canine. The term does not include escorting or handcuffing a person with minimal or no resistance. Use of force is lawful if it is **objectively reasonable** under the circumstances.

**Harm:** Injury inflicted upon a person, whether visible or not.

**Immediate Threat:** A threat that is happening at the moment of perception. This typically occurs when an Officer is faced with a subject that has the means, intent, and ability to carry out a threat.

**Imminent Threat:** A threat that, based on a reasonable officers perception of the suspects apparent means, intent, and ability is likely to cause harm to the officer or others, and must be confronted or addressed.

**Impact Weapons:** Department-approved tools that provide methods for gaining control of a subject when lethal force is not justified, but when empty-hand control techniques are not sufficient to effect control. These include extended range impact weapon munitions and the PepperBall Launching System.

**Lethal Force:** Any physical force that can reasonably be expected to cause death or serious physical injury. Officers must understand that lethal physical force is an extreme measure and shall only be used in accordance with the law and as stated in this policy and other policies governing the use of force.

**Passive Resistance:** The actions of a subject who does not cooperate with an Officer's commands, but who does not take action to prevent being taken into custody. For example, a protester who lies down in front of a doorway and must be carried away upon arrest.

**Serious Physical Injury:** A bodily injury that creates a substantial risk of death, serious and protracted disfigurement, protracted impairment of health, protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ, or that unlawfully terminates a pregnancy.

## **I. PROCEDURES:**

### **A. EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING**

1. Officers may carry and use only Department issued and approved impact weapons. Any impact weapon purchased by a sworn member of the department must be of a type the Department has authorized and approved.
  - a) The Department authorizes and issues a 26 inch straight wooden impact weapon and a 36 inch straight riot baton.
  - b) Officers are authorized to carry 21 and 26 inch expandable batons.
    - (1) The baton may be of either friction lock or cam and ball bearing (auto lock) design. Weapon retention caps may be used.
    - (2) Batons must be authorized by the Deputy Chief. Currently batons include those manufactured by Monadnock, ASP, Peacekeeper, Smith and Wesson, and PPCT.
2. Only certified instructors shall train Officers in the use and handling of the utilized impact weapons.
3. Officers shall not carry or use impact weapons until properly trained and certified.
4. Officers shall carry an impact weapon when wearing their patrol or utility uniform. Impact weapons are optional if an officer is carrying a chemical agent and ECW on their person. Officers are required to carry a baton ring on their duty belt.
5. Impact weapons shall be carried in a holster or carrying device specifically issued for such purpose.
6. Officers must be trained and re-certified every two years by a certified instructor or trainer.
7. Extended Range Impact Weapons
  - a) The Department authorizes and issues the Penn Arms GL-1 40mm launcher for patrol use with DefTec eXact iMPact sponge baton round.
  - b) Only certified instructors shall train Officers in the use and handling of extended range impact weapons.

- c) Officers shall not carry or use extended range impact weapons until properly trained and certified.

## **B. USE OF THE IMPACT WEAPONS**

1. Officers may use impact weapons against subjects who are engaging in or about to engage in violent behavior, or;
2. During a physical confrontation with a combative individual and attempts to control the subject by lower levels of force or tactics are ineffective.
3. Extended range impact munitions may be used to prevent a subject from inflicting significant physical injury to themselves.
4. Officers must adhere to the objectively reasonable use of force theory to determine the degree of force that may be used.
5. An Officer is obligated to de-escalate their use of force as the subject's resistance decreases.

## **C. BODY AREAS VULNERABLE TO IMPACT WEAPON STRIKES WITH LESS LIKELIHOOD OF CAUSING SERIOUS PHYSICAL INJURY**

1. Impact weapons should be used in a manner consistent with training in order to cause the minimum possible harm, by contacting pressure points, nerve centers, and any other area where the bones are close to the skin, especially the limbs.
2. When Officers are authorized to use impact weapons, the primary target areas are colored green and secondary target areas are colored yellow in Diagram 1.

## **D. BODY AREAS TO BE AVOIDED BY IMPACT WEAPON STRIKES**

1. The following are considered potentially fatal or extremely sensitive spots and should not be targeted with an impact weapon unless lethal force is justified, consistent with Department policy and the law (see Diagram 1):
  - a) Above the shoulders (any area of the head)
  - b) Genital area
  - c) Spinal area
  - d) Solar plexus or celiac plexus (sternum, abdominal and cardiac trauma)

## **E. VERBAL COMMANDS**

1. A verbal warning and time to allow the subject to comply must be given, prior to the use of an impact weapon, unless such warning would present a danger to the Officer or others.

2. Verbal commands before, during, and after the use of an impact weapon are important in order to de-escalate any situation and gain compliance and control of an actively resisting subject.

#### **F. MEDICAL AID**

1. A subject that is struck on the head, neck, or torso with an impact weapon or hard objects, or is struck with any less-lethal weapon projectile shall be examined by a physician or qualified health care provider prior to interrogation or prisoner processing. See Reporting and Investigating Force Policy (3.05.020) for specifics.

#### **G. REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Any sworn member using an impact weapon to apprehend, control, or restrain a subject shall:
  - a) Notify their shift Supervisor,
  - b) Complete a report, and
  - c) Complete the Use of Force report and forward to the investigating supervisor as required by the Reporting and Investigation Force Policy [3.05.020](#).

#### **H. RESPONSIBILITY OF SUPERVISORS**

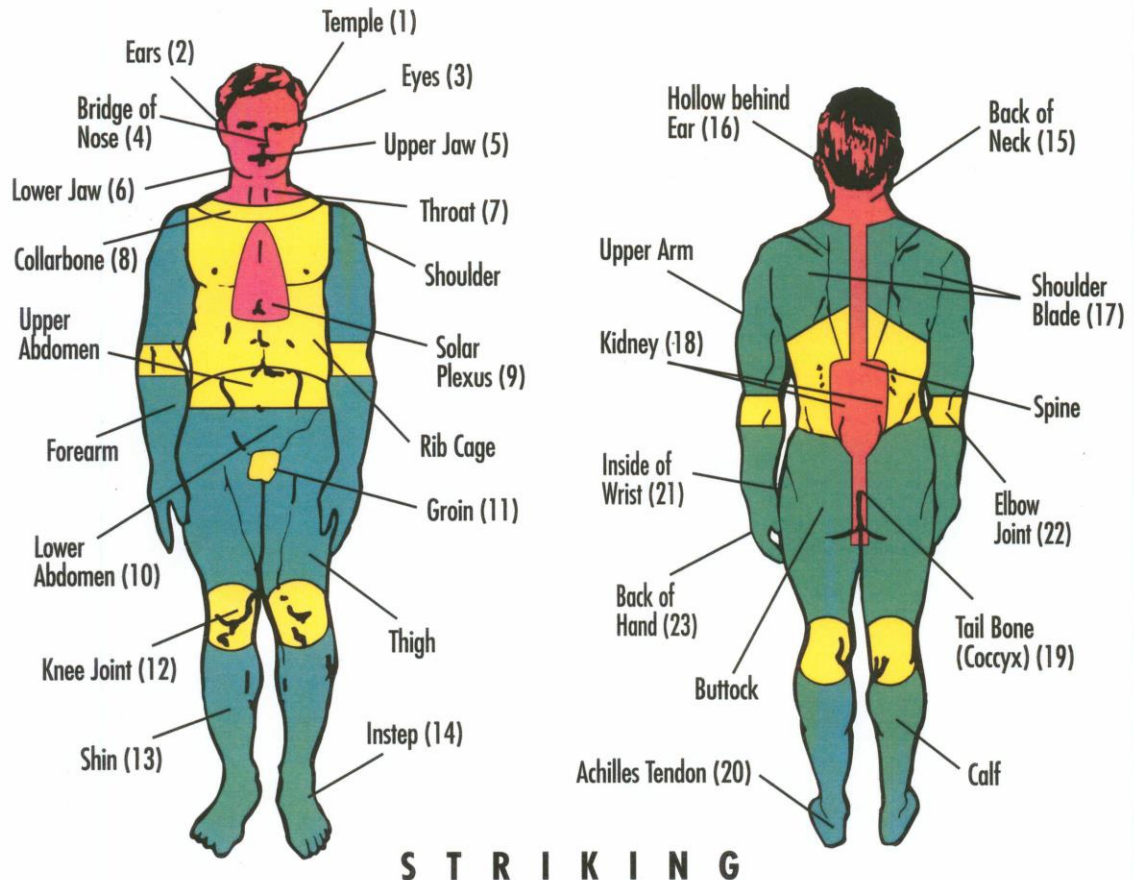
1. As outlined in the Reporting and Investigation Force Policy [3.05.020](#), a Supervisor must respond to the scene of the incident and conduct an investigation when an impact weapon has been used on a subject.

Diagram 1



## BATON CHART

Escalation Of Trauma By Vital  
And Vulnerable Striking Areas



S T R I K I N G

### GREEN TARGET AREAS

**REASONING:** Minimal level of resultant trauma. Injury tends to be temporary rather than long-lasting, however exceptions can occur.

Except for the HEAD, NECK, and SPINE, the whole body is a Green Target Area for the application of baton blocking and restraint skills.

### YELLOW TARGET AREAS

**REASONING:** Moderate to serious level of resultant trauma. Injury tends to be more long-lasting, but may also be temporary.

### RED TARGET AREAS

**REASONING:** Highest level of resultant trauma. Injury tends to range from serious to long-lasting rather than temporary and may include unconsciousness, serious bodily injury, shock or death.