

COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Policy and Procedure Manual

REMOTE RESTRAINT DEVICE/BOLA WRAP 100

Approved By: Geoffrey Jones Interim Chief of Police

CALEA 6th Edition Standard: 4.1.4; 4.1.5; 4.2.1; 4.3.1; 4.3.2; 4.3.3; 4.3.4

307 REMOTE RESTRAINT DEVICE/BOLA WRAP 100

307.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for the issuance and use of BolaWrap™ 100 devices in order to minimize injury to suspects, subjects, and officers.

307.2 POLICY

The BolaWrap™ 100 device is intended to immobilize and control resistive/non-compliant persons and persons with known or suspected mental health issues. The BolaWrap™ 100 is a hand-held remote restraint device that discharges an eight-foot bola style Kevlar tether to entangle an individual at a range of 10-20 feet.

307.3 ISSUANCE AND CARRYING BOLAWRAP 100 DEVICES

The following guidelines shall be adhered to:

- a. Only a department-approved BolaWrap™ 100 device that has been issued by the Department shall be utilized by personnel.
- b. Only members who have successfully completed department-approved training may be issued and carry the BolaWrap™ 100 device.
- c. All BolaWrap™ 100 devices are clearly and distinctly different from the duty firearm and any other device.
- d. BolaWrap™ 100 devices will be carried by selected personnel in their patrol vehicles or on their person and readily available for deployment.
- e. Officers shall be responsible for ensuring that their issued BolaWrap™ 100 device is properly maintained and in good working order.
- f. Officers should not hold any other weapon, firearm, or control device and the BolaWrap™ 100 device at the same time.

307.4 VERBAL AND VISUAL WARNINGS

A verbal warning of the intended use of the “less lethal” device should precede its application, unless it would otherwise endanger the safety of officers or when it is not practicable due to the circumstances. The purpose of the warning is to:

- a. Provide the individual with a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply.
- b. Provide other officers and individuals with a warning that the BolaWrap 100 device may be deployed.

The aiming laser should never be intentionally directed into the eyes of another as it may permanently impair his/her vision.

COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Policy and Procedure Manual

REMOTE RESTRAINT DEVICE/BOLA WRAP 100

The fact that a verbal or other warning was given or the reasons it was not given shall be documented by the officer deploying the BolaWrap™ 100 device in the related report.

307.5 USE OF THE BOLAWRAP 100 DEVICE

The BolaWrap™ 100 device has limitations and restrictions requiring consideration before its use. The device should only be used when its operator can safely approach the subject within the operational range of the device. Although the BolaWrap™ 100 device is generally effective in controlling most individuals, officers should be aware that the device may not achieve the intended results and be prepared with other options. An officer using the BolaWrap 100 device should have a second officer present to serve as lethal cover if practicable.

307.5.1 APPLICATION OF THE BOLAWRAP 100 DEVICE

The BolaWrap 100 device may be used in any of the following circumstances, when the circumstances perceived by the officer at the time indicate that such application is reasonably necessary to control a person:

- a. A subject needing to be detained or controlled indicates through words or action they will resist arrest or will not voluntarily comply with lawful orders.
- b. The subject has demonstrated, by words or action, an intention to be violent or to physically resist, and reasonably appears to present the potential to harm officers, him/herself or others.

Mere flight from a pursuing officer, without other known circumstances or factors, is not good cause for the use of the BolaWrap™ 100 device to apprehend an individual.

307.5.2 SPECIAL DEPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The use of the BolaWrap™ 100 device on certain individuals should generally be avoided unless the totality of the circumstances indicates that other available options reasonably appear ineffective or would present a greater danger to the officer, the subject or others, and the officer reasonably believes that the need to control the individual outweighs the risk of using the device. This includes:

- a. Individuals in danger of falling or becoming entangled in machinery or heavy equipment, which could result in death or serious bodily injury.
- b. Individuals near any body of water that may present a drowning risk.
- c. Individuals whose position or activity may result in collateral injury (e.g., falls from height, operating vehicles).

The BolaWrap™ 100 device shall not be used to psychologically torment, elicit statements or to punish any individual.

COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Policy and Procedure Manual

REMOTE RESTRAINT DEVICE/BOLA WRAP 100

307.5.3 TARGETING CONSIDERATIONS

Reasonable efforts should be made to target lower extremities or lower arms. Generally a deployment aimed at the abdomen will cover the lower arms and a deployment aimed just below the knee will cover the lower legs. The head, neck, chest/upper arms, and groin should be avoided if possible. If the dynamics of a situation or officer safety do not permit the officer to limit the application of the BolaWrap™ 100 device to a precise target area, officers should monitor the condition of the subject if it strikes the head, neck, or groin until the subject is examined by paramedics or other medical personnel.

307.5.4 MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS OF THE BOLAWRAP 100 DEVICE

- a. If the first application of the BolaWrap™ 100 device appears to be ineffective in gaining control of an individual, the officer should consider certain factors before additional applications of the device, including: Whether the Kevlar cord or pellets/barbs are making proper contact.
- b. Whether the individual has the ability and has been given a reasonable opportunity to comply.
- c. Whether verbal commands, other options or tactics may be more effective.

307.5.5 ACTIONS FOLLOWING DEPLOYMENTS

Following the use of the BolaWrap™ 100 device:

- a. Personnel shall request a supervisor to the scene.
- b. A medical evaluation will be completed on anyone for whom the BolaWrap was deployed.
- c. The medics shall determine whether transporting the person to a medical facility is necessary to remove the pellets/barbs from a sensitive area.
- d. If the supervisor determines that removal of the Kevlar cord is appropriate at the scene, the supervisor or officer shall remove the Kevlar cord using the department issued BolaWrap™ 100 cutter.
- e. Once removed the barbs and cord shall be placed in a sharps container/tube and sealed with bio-hazard tape.
- f. The plastic tube should be placed into an evidence box.
- g. Once the box is sealed and labeled it can be submitted into evidence.

307.5.6 REPORTING/DOCUMENTING THE USE OF BOLAWRAP 100

Officers shall document all BolaWrap™ 100 device discharges in the related offense report, Blue Team entry, and BolaWrap™ Evaluation form. Officers shall properly tag body worn camera and or Mobile Audio video. A supervisor shall be notified in compliance with the Use of Force/Response to Resistance Policy.

Unintentional discharges, pointing the device at a person and laser activation will also be documented. The responding supervisor will be responsible for documenting the BolaWrap™ 100 use consistent with the Use of Force/Response to Resistance policy. The following information should be documented in the appropriate arrest/offense/Blue Team report:

- a. Identification of all personnel firing BolaWrap™ 100 devices.

COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Policy and Procedure Manual

REMOTE RESTRAINT DEVICE/BOLA WRAP 100

- b. Identification of all witnesses.
- c. Medical care provided to the subject.
- d. Observations of the subject's physical and physiological actions.

Any known or suspected drug use, intoxication or other medical problems.

307.5.7 BOLA WRAP 100 EVALUATION FORM

Items that shall be included in the BolaWrap™ 100 Evaluation form are:

- a. The BolaWrap™ 100 device & cartridge serial numbers.
- b. Date, time and location of the incident.
- c. Whether any display or laser deterred a subject and gained compliance.
- d. The number of BolaWrap™ 100 device activations and the duration between activations, and (as best as can be determined).
- e. The range at which the BolaWrap™ 100 device was used.
- f. Location of any deployments impact.
- g. Description of where missed deployments went.
- h. Whether medical care was provided to the subject.
- i. Whether the subject sustained any injuries.
- j. Whether any officers sustained any injuries.

The supervisor over police training and the Internal Affairs Unit supervisor should periodically review and analyze the report forms and other applicable information (Blue Team data) to identify trends, including deterrence and effectiveness, and any need for revisions of policy and/or training. BolaWrap™ 100 device information and statistics, with identifying information removed, should periodically be made available to the public.

307.6 EXTRA-DUTY CONSIDERATIONS

Officers may carry a department issued BolaWrap™ 100 device while working extra-duty employment with supervisor approval.

307.7 MEDICAL TREATMENT

Absent extenuating circumstances, only officers trained in the removal of probes or appropriate medical personnel should remove BolaWrap pellets/barbs from a person's body. Only medical personnel should remove probes from sensitive areas such as the groin or female breasts.

All persons who have been struck by BolaWrap™ 100 device pellets/barbs shall be medically assessed prior to booking.

If any individual refuses medical attention, such a refusal should be witnessed by another officer and/or medical personnel and shall be fully documented in related reports.

COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Policy and Procedure Manual

REMOTE RESTRAINT DEVICE/BOLA WRAP 100

If a recording is made of the contact or an interview with the individual, any refusal should be included, if possible, and the video appropriately tagged for retention purposes..

The transporting officer shall inform any person providing medical care or receiving custody that the individual has been subjected to the application of the BolaWrap™ 100 device.

307.8 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

When possible, supervisors should respond to calls when they reasonably believe there is likelihood the BolaWrap™ 100 device may be used. Absent exigent circumstances, a supervisor should respond to all incidents where the BolaWrap™ 100 device was activated.

A supervisor shall review each incident where a person has been exposed to an activation of the BolaWrap™ 100 device. Photographs should be taken, including if the skin is penetrated by the pellets/barbs, and witnesses interviewed.

307.9 TRAINING

Personnel who are authorized to carry the BolaWrap™ 100 device shall be permitted to do so only after successfully completing the initial department-approved training from a certified instructor and demonstrating proficiency to the instructor. Any personnel who have not carried the BolaWrap 100 device as a part of their assignment for a period of six months or more shall be recertified by a certified instructor prior to carrying or using the BolaWrap 100 device.

Proficiency training for personnel who are authorized to use and have been issued BolaWrap 100 devices should occur annually by a certified instructor. A reassessment of an officer's knowledge and/or practical skill may be required at any time if deemed appropriate by a supervisor. All training and proficiency for the BolaWrap 100 device will be documented in the officer's training file. Any officer who fails to demonstrate proficiency with the device will receive remedial training and will not be allowed to carry the BolaWrap 100 device until proficiency is demonstrated.

Command staff, supervisors and investigators should receive BolaWrap™ 100 device training as appropriate for the investigations they conduct and review.

Officers who do not carry BolaWrap™ 100 devices should receive training that is sufficient to familiarize them with the device and with working with officers who use the device.

The supervisor of police training or designee is responsible for ensuring that all members who carry BolaWrap™ 100 devices have received initial and annual proficiency training. Periodic audits should be used for verification.

Application of BolaWrap™ 100 devices during training shall include exposure for certification.

The supervisor over police training or designee should ensure that all training (initial and annual) includes:

COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Policy and Procedure Manual

REMOTE RESTRAINT DEVICE/BOLA WRAP 100

- a. A review of this policy.
- b. A review of policy 300 Use of Force/Response to Resistance.
- c. The most current training curriculum for the BolaWrap device in use at the time.
- d. Target area considerations, to include techniques or options to reduce the unintentional application of pellets/barbs near the head, neck, chest and groin.
- e. Handcuffing a subject during the application of the BolaWrap™ 100 device and transitioning to other force options.
- f. De-escalation techniques.
- g. Restraint techniques that do not impair respiration following the application of the BolaWrap™ 100 device.