


LEESBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS AND GENERAL ORDERS MANUAL		
General Order Number: 126	Section: ADMINISTRATION	Effective Date: AUGUST 2022
Title: LESS LETHAL PROJECTILE / LESS LETHAL SHOTGUN		
Accreditation Standards: ADM.05.01, ADM.05.02, ADM.06.01		
Review Date: MAY 2025	Total Pages: 2	Chief of Police: 

I. GENERAL POLICY

Consistent with the Department's General Order 104 (Response to Threats/Resistance), Officers will use only the minimal amount of force necessary to accomplish the desired legal objective; to that end, the use of Less Lethal Shotguns and Less Lethal Projectiles are authorized under this policy. The primary objective, when deploying this impact weapon, is the preservation of human life. Deployment is authorized when time and circumstances justify such use. The Less Lethal Shotgun and Less Lethal Projectile are not intended to replace deadly force or any other type of force that may be justified under the circumstances that are present at the time.

II. DESCRIPTION

- A. Only department authorized and issued Less Lethal Projectiles (LLP) will be used. These munitions shall be delivered from a department issued shotgun. Upon impact, the kinetic energy from the bag is transferred to the target. Injuries are generally consistent with other impact weapons, such as bruising, abrasions and fractures. Death may occur if an individual is struck in the head, face, and neck or if the subject has a pre-existing medical condition.
- B. LLPs will be discharged only from shotguns marked "Less Lethal" bearing an orange stock and forend. ERT-T LLP weapons may be modified so that they are still clearly less lethal weapons without compromising visibility of the ERT-T officers.
- C. Officers certified in the deployment of LLP may use other approved LLPs special munitions when authorized for specific deployment. These include, but are not limited to, diversionary munitions.
- D. Certified members of the Emergency Response Team may deploy approved special rounds using other approved department issued weapons. These include, but are not limited to, breaching rounds.

III. TRAINING

- A. Only those officers who have successfully qualified in LLP operation will be authorized to use the munitions.
- B. Officers authorized to use the LLP will be required to qualify on an annual basis with a certified instructor.

IV. USAGE

- A. The use of an LLP is governed by VA code §19.2-83.4, Prohibited practices for law-enforcement officers during an arrest or detention.
- B. Whenever possible, LLPs shall be used only after attempting verbal communication.

- C. Whenever possible, LLPs should not be used unless the deploying officer has an additional back up officer capable of deploying deadly force, if necessary.
- D. Except as an alternative to the use of deadly force, or in the most exigent circumstances, LLPs will not be used when the subject is likely to be critically injured or killed due to a reactionary response caused by the impact of the munitions (i.e. falling or operating machinery).
- E. The following parts of the body will be considered “red” areas and shall not be targeted by the operator:
 - 1. Head
 - 2. Face;
 - 3. Neck;
 - 4. Spine;
 - 5. Chest;
 - 6. Kidneys;
 - 7. Groin.
- F. The following parts of the body are the desired target locations or “green” areas:
 - 1. Front:
 - a. Lower abdomen;
 - b. Arm below the elbow;
 - c. Thigh;
 - d. Hips.
 - 2. Rear:
 - a. Buttocks;
 - b. Arm below elbow;
 - c. Thigh;
 - d. Hips;
 - e. Calves.
- G. LLPs shall not be used as a non-lethal force option for the following subjects:
 - a. Children under the age of eight (8);
 - b. Obviously pregnant women;
 - c. People in control of a vehicle;
 - d. An elderly person whose physical condition is likely to result in serious injury if subjected to an LLP.

V. POST DEPLOYMENT

- A. All subjects impacted with an LLP shall be evaluated by EMS personnel summoned to the scene. After evaluation and any necessary treatment at the scene, the subject may be transported to the hospital for evaluation by a physician.
- B. Reporting.
 - 1. The on-duty supervisor shall respond to the scene anytime an LLP is deployed.
 - 2. The supervisor will photograph the impacted area to document any indication of the LLP impact.
 - 3. The officer deploying the LLP will complete a Response to Threats/Resistance supplement/narrative for the incident documenting the conditions in which the LLP was deployed and the outcome. This report shall be completed by the completion of the shift which the incident occurred.
 - 4. Any digital evidence from the incident (photographs, video/audio recordings) shall also be attached to the case.
- C. The incident will be reviewed in accordance with General Order 104 (Response to Threats/Resistance).