

MESA POLICE Department Policy Manual	Impact Weapons	DPM 2.1.25 Effective 11/29/2012 Revised 07/18/2024 Reviewed 12/10/2024
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1. PURPOSE

This policy provides Mesa Police Department (MPD) members with direction and guidelines for the use of impact weapons.

2. GENERAL

2.1 Authorized Equipment [ALEAP 1.8A]

- A. The Department authorizes two primary types of impact weapons for daily carry and use by officers.
 - 1. A black expandable baton (ASP, Rapid Containment Baton (RCB), or Monadnock expandable PR-24 model); or
 - 2. A black PR-24 side handle baton.
- B. Refer to [DPM 1.9.10 Department Uniform Accessories & Equipment](#) for specific authorized equipment.
- C. Expandable batons are issued by the MPD Evidence & Supply Section to Department members upon completion of training as authorized by the Training Division.
- D. Less Lethal Shotgun, also known as Bean Bag Shotgun and 12-Gauge Flexible Batons, are authorized for select operators who have successfully completed Department-approved training. Refer to [DPM 2.1.40 Less Lethal Shotgun Protocols](#).

2.2 Authorized Use [ALEAP 1.8A]

- A. Officers are authorized to deploy impact weapons when objectively reasonable in accordance with provisions outlined in this policy and [DPM 2.1.1 Use of Force](#).
- B. An impact weapon can be used to subdue active aggression, aggravated active aggression, a dangerous violent fleeing felon, or a suicidal individual that cannot be reasonably dealt with in any other safer fashion.
 - 1. For authorized use specific to the Less Lethal Shotgun, refer to [DPM 2.1.40 Less Lethal Shotgun Protocols](#).
- C. Use impact weapons in accordance with the required training.
- D. Use of the PR-24 side handle baton is only authorized for those officers who have been certified following training.
 - 1. Officers who have only been certified on the expandable baton are not allowed to carry the PR-24 side handle baton.

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3. RESTRICTIONS

- A. Impact weapons shall not be used when a subject is handcuffed or otherwise restrained.
- B. Head strikes with impact weapons (including flashlights) are prohibited unless deadly force is justified.
- C. Intentional strikes or jabs to the throat, neck, sternum, spine, solar plexus, groin, or kidneys with impact weapons are prohibited unless deadly force is justified. Violations will be reviewed to ensure that all reasonable care was taken.

4. DEPLOYMENT

- A. When using a Department-approved baton, only techniques that are taught in training or that are reasonably necessary under the circumstances may be employed.
- B. Pursuant to [DPM 2.1.1 Use of Force](#), a non-involved supervisor is required to respond to all incidents involving deployment of an impact weapon.
- C. When a member deploys an intentional head strike with an impact weapon or device, follow procedures in [DPM 2.1.11 Concurrent Investigations](#).

5. POST DEPLOYMENT PROCEDURES

- A. Once the scene is safe and as soon as practical, ensure appropriate medical aid whenever an individual is struck by an impact weapon.
- B. Any deployment of an impact weapon in which a subject is struck (except in training activities) shall be reported in a departmental report (GO) regardless of injury.
- C. Members and supervisors shall follow the use of force reporting guidelines as outlined in [DPM 2.1.1 Use of Force](#) after deployment of impact weapons.

6. CARRYING & SECURITY

- A. All officers working in a patrol function or working in a uniformed off-duty capacity shall carry their authorized expandable baton or PR-24 side handle baton on their duty belt or outer vest carrier.

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- B. Refer to [DPM 1.9.10 Department Uniform Accessories & Equipment](#) for further carrying guidelines.
- C. Impact weapons shall be maintained in an operational condition by assigned members.
- D. For carrying and security information specific to the Less Lethal Shotgun, refer to [DPM 2.1.40 Less Lethal Shotgun Protocols](#).

7. TRAINING [ALEAP 1.8A]

- A. All officers shall be certified with the expandable baton and PR-24 side handle baton prior to carry and shall attend recertification as directed by the MPD Training Section.
 - 1. Authorized members are required to recertify at a minimum of every three years.
- B. For training requirements specific to the Less Lethal Shotgun, refer to [DPM 2.1.40 Less Lethal Shotgun Protocols](#).

REFERENCES

- [DPM 1.9.10 Department Uniform Accessories & Equipment](#)
- [DPM 2.1.1 Use of Force](#)
- [DPM 2.1.11 Concurrent Investigations](#)
- [DPM 2.1.40 Less Lethal Shotgun Protocols](#)