

Policy 308 Remote Restraint Device

308.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for the issuance and deployment of BolaWrap devices. The device is intended to minimize risk of injury to suspects, subjects, and officers.

308.2 POLICY

The BolaWrap device is intended to control a violent or potentially violent individual, while minimizing risk of serious injury. The appropriate use of the device should result in fewer serious injuries to officers and suspects. The BolaWrap is a handheld remote restraint device that discharges an eight foot bola style Kevlar tether to entangle an individual at an optimal range of 10-25 feet.

308.3 ISSUANCE AND CARRYING BOLAWRAP DEVICES

Only members who have successfully completed department approved training may be issued and carry the BolaWrap device.

The devices are issued for use during a member's assignment. Those leaving a particular assignment may be required to return the device to the department inventory.

Officers shall only use devices and cartridges that have been issued by the department. Uniformed officers who have been issued a BolaWrap device shall wear the device in an approved holster on their person. Non uniformed personnel may secure the device in the driver's compartment of their assigned vehicle.

Officers carrying a BolaWrap should test the device for functionality at the beginning of each shift.

The following guidelines shall be adhered to:

- a. All BolaWrap devices must be distinguishable from other approved weapons or devices.
- b. Whenever practicable, officers should carry two or more cartridges on their person when carrying the BolaWrap device.
- c. Personnel assigned a BolaWrap shall ensure the device is properly maintained and in good working order.
- d. Officers should not hold both a firearm and the BolaWrap at the same time.

308.4 VERBAL AND VISUAL WARNINGS

A verbal warning of the intended use of the BolaWrap should precede its application, unless it would otherwise endanger the safety of officers or when it is not practicable due to circumstances.

The purpose of the warning is intended to:

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

If, after a verbal warning, an individual is unwilling to voluntarily comply with an officer's lawful orders and it appears both reasonable and feasible under the circumstances, the officer may, but is not required to, display the aiming laser in a further attempt to gain compliance prior to the application of the BolaWrap device. The aiming laser should never be intentionally directed into the eyes of another as it may permanently impair his/her vision.

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 device in the related report.

308.5 USE OF THE BOLAWRAP DEVICE

The BolaWrap has limitations and restrictions, requiring consideration prior to each use. The BolaWrap should only be used when the officer can safely approach the subject within the operational range of the device. Although the BolaWrap is generally effective in controlling most individuals within the recommended operational range, officers should be aware that the device may not achieve the intended results and be prepared with other options.

308.5.1 APPLICATION

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

- a. The subject is violent or physically resisting.
- 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 device to apprehend an individual.

308.5.2 SPECIAL DEPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Use of the BolaWrap 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 who are known to be pregnant.
- b. Elderly individuals or obvious juveniles.
- c. Handcuffed or otherwise restrained individuals.
- d. Individuals detained in a police vehicle.
- e. Individuals near water who would be at risk of drowning.

- f. Individuals whose location or activity may result in collateral injury (falls from height, operating a motor vehicle).
- g. Individuals in confined spaces that may prohibit the eight foot wide tether expansion.
- h. Individuals who are in close proximity to other individuals who may interfere with the tether.
- i. Individuals in danger of becoming entangled in machinery or heavy equipment, which could result in death or serious bodily injury.

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

308.5.3 TARGETING CONSIDERATIONS

Reasonable efforts should be made to target lower extremities or lower arms. The head, neck, chest and groin should not be targeted. If the device does strike one of these areas officers shall continuously monitor the condition of the subject until he/she is examined by medical personnel.

308.5.4 MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS

Officers should use the BolaWrap device for one application and then evaluate the situation before additional applications. If a single BolaWrap application appears to be unsuccessful in gaining control of an individual, the officer should consider certain factors before additional applications of the BolaWrap device, including:

- a. Whether the cord and/or barbs are making proper contact with the subject.
- b. Whether the subject has been given a reasonable opportunity to comply with officers.
- c. Whether verbal commands, other options or tactics may be more effective.

308.5.5 ACTIONS FOLLOWING DEPLOYMENT

The cartridge, tether and barbs should be collected and placed into evidence.

- a. Personnel shall request a supervisor respond to the scene.
- b. The supervisor will determine if aid personnel are required to remove the barbs from the subject.
- c. If the supervisor determines removal of the barbs and cord is appropriate the officer will remove them utilizing medical scissors to cut the tether.
- d. The expended cartridge, cord and barbs should be collected and submitted into evidence.

The evidence packaging should be marked "Biohazard" if the barbs penetrated the subject's skin.

308.5.6 DANGEROUS ANIMALS

The BolaWrap device should not be used against an animal as part of a plan to deal with a potentially dangerous animal, such as a dog, etc. The device is not intended for use on animals. However, if the animal reasonably appears to pose an imminent threat to human safety and

alternative methods are not reasonably available or would likely be ineffective the BolaWrap may be deployed to protect against harm to suspect, subjects and officers.

308.5.7 OFF-DUTY CONSIDERATIONS

Officers are not authorized to carry department BolaWrap devices while off-duty.

Officers shall ensure that BolaWrap devices are secured while in their homes, vehicles or any other area under their control, in a manner that will keep the device inaccessible to others.

308.6 DOCUMENTATION

Officers shall document all BolaWrap device applications in the related arrest/crime report and the Force Response Review Form. Notification will also be made to a supervisor in compliance with the Force Response Policy. Unintentional discharges during deployment, pointing the device at a person and laser activation will also be documented on the Force Response Review Form.

308.6.1 REPORTS

The officer should include the following in the arrest/crime report:

- a. Identification of all personnel firing the BolaWrap device.
- b. Identification of all witnesses.
- c. Whether or not injury was sustained by involved persons.
- d. Medical care provided to the subject.
- e. Observations of the subject's physical and physiological actions.
- f. Any known or suspected drug use, intoxication or other medical problems.

308.7 MEDICAL TREATMENT

Consistent with local medical personnel protocols and absent extenuating circumstances, only appropriate medical personnel should remove BolaWrap barbs from a person's body. Used BolaWrap device barbs shall be treated as a sharps biohazard, similar to a used hypodermic needle and handled appropriately. Universal precautions should be taken.

BolaWrap barbs that did not penetrate the subject's skin may be removed from clothing by the officer. Medical use scissors may be used to cut and remove the tether from the subject.

All persons who have been struck by BolaWrap device barbs shall be medically assessed prior to booking. Additionally, any such individual who falls under any of the following categories should, as soon as practicable, be examined by medical personnel:

- a. The person is suspected of being under the influence of controlled substances and/or alcohol.
- b. The person may be pregnant.
- c. The person reasonably appears to be in need of medical attention.

- d. The BolaWrap device barbs are lodged in a sensitive area (e.g., groin, female breast, head, face, neck).
- e. The person requests medical treatment.

If the subject refuses medical attention, such refusal should be witnessed by another officer and/or medical personnel and shall be documented in relevant reports. If an audio recording is made of the contact or an interview with the individual, any refusal should be included, if possible.

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 device.

308.8 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

When possible, supervisors should respond to calls when they reasonably believe there is a likelihood the BolaWrap device may be used. A supervisor should respond to all incidents where the BolaWrap device was deployed.

A supervisor should conduct a supervisory force review of each incident where the person has been exposed to the application of the BolaWrap device. The subject and all witnesses should be interviewed. Photographs of the subject, including photographs of where the barbs penetrated the subject's body, should be taken.

308.9 TRAINING

Personnel who are authorized to carry the BolaWrap shall be permitted to do so only after successfully completing the initial department approved training. Proficiency training for users shall occur every two years. A reassessment of officer knowledge and/or practical skill may be required at any time if deemed appropriate by the BolaWrap instructor. All training and proficiency with the BolaWrap device will be documented in officer training files.

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

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

The BolaWrap instructor is responsible for ensuring that all members who carry BolaWrap devices have received initial and biennial training.

Application of the BolaWrap during training could result in injury to personnel and should not be mandatory for certification.

The Special Services Sergeant shall ensure the following items are included in the BolaWrap training:

- a. A review of this policy.
- b. A review of the Use of Force Policy.
- c. Target area considerations, to include techniques or options to reduce the unintentional application of barbs near the head, neck, chest and groin.
- d. Handcuffing a subject during the application of the BolaWrap device and transitioning to other force options.
- e. De-escalation techniques.
- f. Restraint techniques that do not impair respiration following the application of the BolaWrap device.