

Remote Restraint Devices

323.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for the issuance and deployment of Remote Restraint devices, such as the BolaWrap® device. These devices are intended to minimize risk of injury to suspects, subjects, and officers.

323.2 POLICY

The BolaWrap® device is intended to control an 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 a 7.5 foot bola style Kevlar tether to entangle an individual at an operational range of 10-25 feet.

323.3 ISSUANCE AND CARRYING BOLAWRAP® DEVICES

Only members who have successfully completed the department approved BolaWrap® training may be issued and carry the BolaWrap® device. 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 are distinguishable from other department approved weapons and Devices by virtue of their push button functionality rather than a trigger.
- (b) Personnel assigned a BolaWrap® shall ensure the device is properly maintained and in good working order.

Officers should not hold both a firearm and the BolaWrap® at the same time.

323.4 VERBAL AND VISUAL WARNINGS

323.4.1 VERBAL WARNING

Officers intending to use the BolaWrap® should first give a verbal warning of its intended use, unless doing so would endanger the safety of officers or is not practicable due to circumstances. The purpose of such warning is to provide individuals with a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply, and to provide other officers and individuals with a warning the BolaWrap® may be deployed.

323.4.2 VISUAL WARNING

If an individual is unwilling to voluntarily comply after an officer's verbal warning and it appears both reasonable and feasible under the circumstances, the officer may (but is not required to) display the BolaWrap's® aiming laser in a further attempt to gain compliance prior to applying the 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.

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323.5 USE OF THE BOLAWRAP® DEVICE

The BolaWrap® has limitations and restrictions requiring consideration prior to each use. There needs to be 3 to 4 feet of open area around the subject for a successful deployment. The BolaWrap® has an optimal distance of 15 to 20 feet. 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. Use of the BolaWrap® shall comply with the provisions of the Response to Resistance and Aggression Policy, and is not intended to substitute for appropriate handcuffing under the Handcuffing and Restraint policy.

323.5.1 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; or
- (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, themselves, or others.
- (c) The subject is demonstrating verbally or physically the intent to passively resist their detention. In such instances the use of the BolaWrap® may reduce the risk of injury to the subject and officers.

323.5.2 SPECIAL DEPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Officers should not use the BolaWrap® on the below individuals unless the totality of the circumstances indicate 1) that other available options reasonably appear ineffective or would present a greater danger to the officer, the subject or others, and 2) the officer reasonably believes that the need to control the individual outweighs the risk of using the device:

- (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.

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323.5.3 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 they are examined by medical personnel.

323.5.4 MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS

A single trained/equipped on scene 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.

Multiple trained/equipped on scene Officers should communicate with each other to coordinate the simultaneous deployment of BolaWraps® to both the lower arms and lower extremities of the subject.

323.5.5 ACTIONS FOLLOWING DEPLOYMENT

The cartridge, tether and barbs should be collected and photographed.

- (a) Personnel shall request a supervisor respond to the scene.
- (b) The Officer will determine if aid personnel are required to remove the barbs from the subject.
- (c) If the Officer determines removal of the barbs and cord is appropriate the officer should remove them and may use medical scissors to cut the tether.
- (d) The expended cartridge, cord and barbs should be collected and photographed. The barbs will be placed in a sharps container.

323.6 DOCUMENTATION

Officers shall document all BolaWrap® device applications in the related report and the Application of Force report. Notification will also be made to a supervisor in compliance with Response to Resistance and Aggression policy. Unintentional discharges during deployment, pointing the device at a person and laser activation will also be documented on the Show of Force report.

323.6.1 REPORTS

The officer should include the following in the Application of Force 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.

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- (f) Any known or suspected drug use, intoxication or other medical problems.

323.7 MEDICAL TREATMENT

Consistent with local medical personnel protocols and absent extenuating circumstances, medical personnel may be summoned to remove BolaWrap® barbs from the sensitive areas of a person's body (e.g. groin, female breast, head, face, neck). 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. Medical use scissors may be used to cut and remove the tether from the subject.

323.8 TRAINING

Personnel who are authorized to use the BolaWrap® shall be permitted to do so only after successfully completing the initial department approved training. Proficiency training for users should occur every year. 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. The BolaWrap® instructor cadre is responsible for ensuring that all members who carry BolaWrap® devices have received initial and annual training. Application of the BolaWrap® during training could result in injury to personnel and should not be mandatory for certification. The training sergeant should ensure the following items are included in the BolaWrap® training:

- (a) A review of this policy.
- (b) A review of the Response to Resistance and Aggression 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.