



LEVELS OF RESISTANCE			1004.00	
<div><div></div><div>SPECIALTY IMPACT MUNITIONS SYSTEMS</div><div></div></div>				
ISSUED: 06-02-2017	EFFECTIVE: 06-12-2017	REVISED: 08-11-2020	REVIEWED: 08-11-2020	PAGES: 6

## CONTENTS

This procedure consists of the following numbered sections:

- |                         |                            |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| I. AUTHORIZATION TO USE | V. TRAINING                |
| II. DEPLOYMENT          | VI. REPORTING              |
| III. MEDICAL PROCEDURES | VII. EQUIPMENT AND STORAGE |
| IV. EVIDENCE            |                            |

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this standard operating procedure is to provide officers with guidance and direction on the utilization of Specialty Impact Munitions.

## SCOPE

This procedure shall apply to all sworn Punta Gorda Police Department personnel.

## DISCUSSION

It is the policy of this agency to use only that level of force that is reasonably necessary to control or otherwise subdue violent or potentially violent individuals. Specialty Impact Munitions Systems may be used by authorized and trained personnel in accordance with this policy and additional guidelines established herein. The Punta Gorda Police Department's Specialty Impact Munitions Systems consist of a forty millimeter (40 mm) launcher with forty millimeter (40 mm) eXact iMpack™ sponge rounds.

## DEFINITIONS

1. **Specialty Impact Munitions Systems:** A system in which a projectile is deployed that is not fundamentally designed to cause serious bodily injury or death.
2. **Deployment:** The intentional discharge of a Specialty Impact Munitions System at or toward a subject. Deployment does not include testing, training, or display of a Specialty Impact Munitions System without discharge.

## PROCEDURE

### I. AUTHORIZATION TO USE

- A. The Watch Commander shall designate a member of their squad to be assigned a Specialty Impact Munitions System. A secondary Specialty Impact Munitions System will be stored in a less-lethal weapons storage safe located in the police department squad room as outlined in [\*Standard Operating Procedure 1008.00 – Department Armory\*](#). The secondary weapon will only be issued with the approval of the on-duty Watch Commander and shall be signed out and signed back in.
- B. The use of a Specialty Impact Munitions System is considered a use of force and shall be utilized in a manner consistent with [\*Standard Operating Procedure 1000.00 – Levels of Resistance\*](#) and this policy.
- C. Circumstances justifying the use of a Specialty Impact Munitions System include:
  1. Aggressive Resistance: A subject's attacking movements toward an officer or others that may cause injury, but are not likely to cause death or great bodily harm;
  2. Deadly Force Resistance: A subject's hostile, attacking movements, with or without a weapon, that create a reasonable perception by the officer that the subject intends to cause and has the capability of causing death or great bodily harm to the officer or others;
  3. Subduing a suicidal subject that is attempting to cause harm to themselves or others.
  4. Subduing vicious animals that could cause death or great bodily harm to the officer or others; or
  5. There is probable cause to believe that the subject has already committed a violent felony crime and is refusing to comply with lawful orders.
- D. Deployment factors to consider include, but are not limited to, clothing, physical stature, physical condition, age, immediate surroundings, available impact areas, and threat level. Flight alone does not justify the use of a Specialty Impact Munitions System.

- E. The optimal energy range of the forty millimeter (40 mm) eXact iMpack™ sponge round is approximately sixteen feet (16') to one hundred and eighteen feet (118'). The optimal energy range offers the necessary energy and accuracy to target a subject's large muscle groups of the buttocks, thighs, and calves.
- F. Deploying a Specialty Impact Munitions System less than five feet (5') from a subject can cause serious bodily injury or death. A Specialty Impact Munitions System shall only be deployed in this range in circumstances where the use of deadly force would be justified as outlined in [\*Standard Operating Procedure 1000.00 – Levels of Resistance\*](#).
- G. Specialty Impact Munitions Systems shall not be deployed against subjects who are passively or actively resisting.
- H. Specialty Impact Munitions System shall not be deployed against a handcuffed subject unless circumstances support the use of deadly force.
- I. Specialty Impact Munitions Systems should not be deployed in any environment where the subject's fall may cause substantial injury or death, such as an elevated location or in or near potential drowning hazards, unless circumstances support the use of deadly force.
- J. Specialty Impact Munitions Systems shall not be deployed against a subject in physical control of a vehicle in motion, including automobiles, trucks, and motorcycles, unless circumstances support the use of deadly force.
- K. Specialty Impact Munitions Systems shall not be deployed on elementary or middle-school-aged children, young children, the elderly, females reasonably believed to be pregnant, and individuals with apparent physical disabilities impairing their mobility unless extraordinary circumstances exist (e.g. where the force escalates to a deadly force level).

## II. DEPLOYMENT

- A. Members who have met the requirements of this policy may deploy a Specialty Impact Munitions System after receiving authorization from the Watch Commander, either in person or via the radio. Specialty Impact Munitions Systems are considered impact weapons; however, they fall above other impact weapons and below deadly force weapons per [\*Standard Operating Procedure 1000.00 – Levels of Resistance\*](#) and should only be deployed when the requirements of this policy have been met.
- B. Watch Commanders should only deploy, authorize, or direct the deployment of Specialty Impact Munitions Systems when the deployment is objectively reasonable under the circumstances. This would include circumstances in which less-lethal force is reasonable and the behavior of the suspect has limited an officer's ability to safely utilize other less-

lethal force options. Examples of circumstances that would be appropriate for Specialty Impact Munitions System deployment include, but are not limited to, situations in which:

1. A subject is armed with a weapon and the tactical circumstances allow for safe application of a Specialty Impact Munitions System; and
  2. A subject has made credible threats to harm themselves or others; or
  3. A subject is engaging in behavior that threatens the safety of officers or others.
- C. This policy is not meant to require that Watch Commanders deploy or direct the deployment of Specialty Impact Munitions Systems in lieu of other available response options as authorized in [\*Standard Operating Procedure 1000.00 – Levels of Resistance\*](#). Watch Commanders should utilize the response option that they feel best fits the circumstances.
- D. Officers should issue a verbal warning when feasible prior to the deployment of Specialty Impact Munitions against a suspect. Exceptions to this rule shall be documented and supported by the circumstances.
- E. When possible members deploying a Specialty Impact Munitions System shall notify the Communications Section and other officers via radio of the deployment and the location prior to deployment of the weapon.
- F. Specialty Impact Munitions Systems should only be deployed when there is a cover officer specifically assigned to the weapon for the duration of the deployment.
- G. Watch Commanders may re-call the use of Specialty Impact Munitions Systems by instructing the operator to secure the weapon and return the weapon to storage.

### III. MEDICAL PROCEDURES

- A. EMS shall be dispatched for any subject of a Specialty Impact Munitions System deployment regardless of injury or complaint of injury.
- B. If the subject of a Specialty Impact Munitions System deployment is apprehended without visual injury or complaint of injury officers should:
1. Have the subject evaluated by EMS personnel;
  2. Locate the impact site on the subject's body;
  3. Photograph the impact site regardless of visual indication of impact; and
  4. Transport the subject to jail or mental health facility.

- C. If the subject of a Specialty Impact Munitions System deployment is apprehended with visible injury or complaint of injury officers should:
  - 1. Have subject evaluated by EMS personnel and/or transported to a medical facility. If the subject is already being transported in a police vehicle at the time the injuries or complaint of injury are discovered the subject should be transported directly to Shorepoint Health Punta Gorda for evaluation.
- D. If any of the following occur the subject of a Specialty Impact Munitions System deployment shall be transported by EMS to Shorepoint Health Punta Gorda for evaluation:
  - 1. Impact to the subject's face, neck, groin, chest, abdomen, or spine;
  - 2. Impact that causes an open wound or obvious physical deformity; or
  - 3. Impact causes any learned or observed complication due to medical condition.

#### IV. EVIDENCE

- A. Specialty Impact Munitions System spent cartridges and projectiles may have evidentiary value. All portions of spent cartridges and projectiles shall be collected and submitted into evidence via property receipt.
- B. Officers shall photograph the scene of a Specialty Impact Munitions System deployment and any contact sites on the subject's body.

#### V. TRAINING

- A. All authorized members shall successfully complete an agency approved course prior to deploying a Specialty Impact Munitions System. All trained members shall successfully complete annual refresher training.

#### VI. REPORTING

- A. A Response to Resistance Report or Subject Compliance Report shall be completed in accordance with [Standard Operating Procedure 1000.00 – Levels of Resistance](#). Photographs of any injuries resulting from a Specialty Impact Munitions System deployment should be taken and submitted with report.

#### VII. EQUIPMENT AND STORAGE

- A. Upon purchase all Specialty Impact Munitions Systems shall be reviewed, inspected, and approved by a qualified instructor prior to being issued. Specialty Impact Munitions Systems will be reviewed, inspected, and approved by a qualified instructor on an annual basis thereafter in conjunction with in-service training.
- B. Only the forty millimeter (40 mm) eXact iMpack™ sponge round is approved for use with the Specialty Impact Munitions Systems. A total of five (5) of these rounds will be assigned with each forty millimeter (40 mm) launcher.
- C. Specialty Impact Munitions Systems shall be stored in a case and carried in the rear storage compartment of the vehicle or otherwise secured in the less-lethal safe located in the Squad Room of the police department and in the following manner:
  - 1. Five forty millimeter (40 mm) eXact iMpack sponge rounds will be carried in the holder attached to the sling;
  - 2. No round in the chamber; and
  - 3. With the safety in the “safe” position.

**APPROVED**



**PAMELA R. SMITH, CHIEF OF POLICE**

**STAFF REVIEW DATES:** 01-21-2016, 06-02-2017, 09-19-2018, 08-11-2020

**REVISION DATES:** 01-21-2016, 08-14-2016, 06-08-2017, 09-19-2018, 1-22-2019, 02-27-2019, 03-18-2019, 08-11-2020