



FIELD ORDERS

Chapter	USE of FORCE
Subject	Pepperball Launcher

DEPLOYMENT

The Pepperball launcher is a less lethal, intermediate weapon designed to propel a frangible hard plastic sphere that combines an organic irritant exposure with kinetic impact and pain.

1. Do not deploy Pepperball launchers without backup officers present. When possible, communicate with officers on scene to develop a plan for after the deployment. Ensure officers can provide lethal cover to the Pepperball operator.
2. Deliver Pepperball projectiles to target areas based on the circumstances and the level of force authorized.
 - a. Primary target areas – Center of torso.
 - b. Secondary target areas – Arms, shoulders, lower abdomen, buttocks, legs, shins.
 - c. Restricted Target Areas – Intentional impacts to the head, neck, spine, and groin unless deadly force is justified.
3. After using a Pepperball launcher, assess its effectiveness, determine if a desired behavior change was achieved, and employ appropriate arrest tactics. If no such change of behavior occurs, transition to something different or use more application.
4. Medical treatment – Ensure subjects impacted with Pepperball projectiles receive medical evaluation and attention from Fire Department (FD) paramedics or other appropriate medical personnel.
 - If a subject needs to be transported to the hospital and is contaminated with the powder from a Pepperball projectile, request FD personnel to wash the subject to prevent contamination of the hospital emergency department.
5. If possible, call a Crime Scene Specialist (CSS) to photograph subjects who are impacted with a Pepperball projectile. If a CSS is not available, use a department-issued camera or city-issued smartphone.

REPORTS

1. Deploying Pepperball projectiles through the dedicated

department-authorized launcher does not fall under department policy regarding General Order (GO) [1421/Officer Involved Shooting](#) investigations unless death or serious physical injury occurs.

2. Department policy regarding Field Order (FLD) [1222/Reporting](#) and GO [1420/Use of Force Investigations](#) apply to the use of Pepperball launchers.
3. Deploying officers will complete the appropriate use of force documentation and email the Pepperball Program Manager notifying of the use.

