

Impact Munitions

POLICY & PROCEDURE NO.  1.01C	ISSUE DATE: July 1, 2024
	EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024
MASSACHUSETTS POLICE ACCREDITATION STANDARDS REFERENCED: 1.3.4; 1.3.5; 1.3.6; 1.3.7; 1.3.9; 1.3.10; 1.3.11; 1.3.12; 1.3.13	REVISION DATE:

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy and Procedure is to provide guidelines for the use of the less lethal “bean bag” shotgun and impact munitions.

II. POLICY [1.3.4]

The Ashfield Police Department has issued less lethal “bean bag” shotguns and impact munitions to select trained officers, to provide those officers with additional use-of-force options for gaining compliance of resistant or aggressive individuals in arrest and other enforcement situations.

It is the policy of the department that personnel may use the less lethal bean bag shotgun when warranted, but only in accordance with the guidelines and procedures set forth in this directive and in the department’s use-of-force policy.

III. PROCEDURES [1.3.4]

A. Authorization

1. The police department will issue dedicated less lethal shotguns for the sole purpose of discharging less lethal impact munition

Chief of Police:  Select Board: 

projectiles. All less lethal shotguns will be distinctively marked with an orange stock

2. Only the dedicated departmentally issued **Remington 870 12-gauge** shotgun and issued **CTS 2581 Super Sock 2 ¼ inch 12-gauge** shell are authorized for use.
3. Only officers who have been trained and demonstrated proficiency are authorized to use the less lethal “bean bag” shotgun and impact munitions. Initial training for impact munitions and the “bean bag” shotgun is a four-hour course provided by the MPTC. Proficiency must be demonstrated biennially during a re-certification course and be monitored by a certified impact munitions instructor. [1.3.11]. Those officers failing to demonstrate proficiency will be given remedial training and must successfully complete the recertification course to continue to carry the shotgun. [1.3.4; 1.3.10 1.3.11]
 - i. In-house department instructors will teach from an approved less lethal impact munition lesson plan with all necessary visual and safety aids [1.3.11]
 - ii. Training by certified instructors will include medical issues regarding the use of impact munitions, including, but not limited to the effect or possible side effects of impact munitions on individuals with pre-existing medical/mental health conditions. [1.3.12]
4. Officers who carry a less lethal “bean bag” shotgun are prohibited from carrying another shotgun or lethal shotgun ammunition.

B. Deployment

1. Police officers, who are properly trained, are authorized to use departmentally issued less-lethal “bean bag” shotguns as an alternative to resolve incidents in a less-lethal manner, to protect officers and other persons from harm, to protect a suspect/subject from self-inflicted injury, or to end incidents involving combative, armed/ believed to be armed, or violent suspects. Officers shall not interpret this policy to mean that a bean bag shotgun replaces the use of deadly force when deadly force is justified. These weapons may be deployed (consistent with training) in circumstances including, but not limited to, the following:
 - i. Suicidal subject (where a weapon is displayed)
 - ii. Subject armed with a knife or other weapon (not firearm).
 - iii. Subject violently resisting arrest, where the use of other defensive weapons or tactics would place officers at risk by being in contact range of the suspect.
 - iv. Hostile or aggressive animals where the discharge of a firearm would be inappropriate.

2. Prior to the deployment of a less-lethal weapon, lethal cover must be provided for the less-lethal weapon operator.
3. All officers should remain cognizant of the “reactionary gap” should the need for deadly force arise.

C. Weapon Discharge

1. Prior to discharging a less-lethal shotgun for a law enforcement purpose, the operator will identify himself/herself and state their intention to shoot, when feasible. The operator will also announce his/her intent to discharge the weapon by stating “bean bag,” to warn other officers. Once the operator has stopped firing the weapon, the operator should announce that he/she has ceased firing, by stating “all clear.” This will allow other officers to effect an arrest, when practical.

D. Transport of the Less Lethal Shotgun

1. The Less Lethal Impact Munitions Shotgun will be located in the Chief’s vehicle, locked, and secured in a gun locker or in the front of the vehicle. Ten rounds of “Super Sock” ammunition. NO CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION (buckshot, slug, etc.) will be placed in or carried with the less lethal “bean bag” shotgun.
2. While in the case, the less lethal “bean bag” shotgun will be carried in SAFE STORAGE condition. SAFE STORAGE condition is:
 - i. Action CLOSED
 - ii. Hammer DOWN (Trigger Pulled)
 - iii. Cross-bolt safety ON
 - iv. Magazine tube EMPTY
 - v. Chamber EMPTY
 - vi. (The impact munitions shells will be carried in the manufactures box or in a tactical shell carrier mounted to the shotgun or in the gun locker).

E. Post Deployment Medical Attention [1.3.5]

1. All persons who have been shot impact munitions will be transported to the closest hospital for treatment and precaution. Officers, with the Chief’s approval, may transport them to the hospital, provided that it appears the person’s injuries are superficial. For all other injuries EMS must be notified.

F. Reporting Procedures [1.3.6]

1. Accidental discharges as well as intentional uses of the less lethal “bean bag” shotgun will be reported to the Chief of Police as soon as possible
2. A Use of Force Report along with any other incident and supplement reports will be completed following all discharges of impact munitions except during training.

G. On Scene Patrol Responsibilities

1. Ensure proper medical attention is requested.
2. Ensure the Chief of Police is notified of injury photographs and investigation.
 - i. If the Chief of Police is the one who utilized the “bean bag” then the Massachusetts State Police, SPDU shall be notified for photographs and investigation

H. Chief of Police Responsibilities

1. Respond immediately to all incidents of less lethal “bean bag” shotgun deployment.
2. The Chief of Police or SPDU will respond to the scene or hospital to photograph any injury site on the suspect and investigate the incident. (S)He will also collect the spent less-lethal round(s) and submit it to the property room for safekeeping.
3. Inspect the less lethal “bean bag” shotgun monthly to ensure for proper function.

I. Administrative Responsibilities

1. There will be an administrative review of each report of the discharge of the Less Lethal Shotgun. This will be conducted by the Chief or his/her designee [1.3.7]
2. The Chief of Police or his/her designee will conduct an annual analysis of reported uses of the Less than Lethal Shotgun and Impact munitions. Where indicated, training needs, equipment upgrades and/or policy modifications will be made [1.3.13]