



Kern County Sheriff's Office
Policies and Procedures

TITLE: USE OF IMPACT MUNITIONS		NO: F-900	
APPROVED: Donny Youngblood, Sheriff-Coroner			
EFFECTIVE: January 18, 2019	REVIEWED: January 1, 2021	REVISED: January 1, 2021	UPDATED: February 3, 2021

POLICY

The department utilizes less-lethal impact munitions that are designed for deployment with either 40mm impact munition launchers or FN 303 0.68 caliber (17.3mm) impact munition launchers. Impact munitions are not intended to produce deadly effects; however, just as with other impact weapons such as batons, these projectiles can cause serious injury or death if not used appropriately.

The term “impact munitions” refers to a group of projectiles that have a low probability of causing serious bodily injury or death when they strike a human target. Even though these munitions are considered less-lethal, they are not to be considered non-lethal.

Deputy Sheriffs are permitted to use impact munitions to subdue subjects when the officer is acting within the guidelines of P.C. 835a and DPPM F-100, and the use of impact munitions reasonably appears necessary to effect an arrest, prevent escape, or overcome resistance.

Deputies resorting to the use of impact munitions, as with any other impact weapons, shall avoid striking a subject’s head, neck, throat, spine, kidney, or groin due to the potential for serious injury or death. Striking these areas shall be avoided unless necessary to defend against an imminent threat of death or serious injury to the deputy or others, and no other resources or techniques are reasonably safe or feasible as perceived by an objectively reasonable officer.

Penal Code Section 4023.8(h) strictly prohibits the use of a TASER, Oleoresin Capsicum (pepper spray), or exposures to other chemical weapons on an “incarcerated” pregnant female.

- For the purposes of this policy, an incarcerated pregnant female is a person that has received a booking number, whether booked into an actual jail facility or absentee booked away from a jail facility.

DIRECTIVE A

Only deputies trained in the proper use of impact munitions are authorized to deploy them during actual field or custody-related operations. The department’s Firearms Range Instructor and the SWAT Team Specialty Impact Munitions Instructor are responsible for training and certifying

deputies in the proper deployment of impact munitions.

DIRECTIVE B

When used during actual incidents, impact munitions should be part of an overall plan to safely take a combative or resistive suspect into custody. When possible, this plan should include:

- Presence of a supervisor on-scene to coordinate the situation.
- A coordinated plan including assigning those responsible for deploying impact munitions, providing verbal commands, providing lethal coverage, and applying restraints.
- Nothing in this policy shall prevent the deployment of impact munitions when the situation is dynamic, and it reasonably appears there is insufficient time to develop a complete, coordinated plan as described above.

PROCEDURE

The officer who has used impact munitions on a subject will:

- Follow the reporting procedure in F-100.
- Transport the suspect to a medical facility for medical clearance prior to booking.
- Advise any transporting officer that a specialty impact projectile was used.

Any officer transporting an arrested person against whom specialty impact projectiles have been used will:

- Advise detention facility personnel or medical personnel of the fact.
- Advise detention facility personnel or medical personnel of any medical or first aid treatment given.
- Comply with any requests by detention facility personnel for further medical treatment prior to booking.

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