

	<b>SECTION:</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>ADM-155</b>
	<b>CHAPTER:</b>	<b>FORCE-FIREARMS-WEAPONS</b>	
	<b>DIRECTIVE:</b>	<b>LESS LETHAL WEAPONS (High Risk)</b>	

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HIGH RISK

**155.01 SUMMARY**

In an effort to reduce and minimize altercation-related injuries to officers, the public and suspects, the Department authorizes the use and deployment of selected less lethal systems, weapons and equipment in order to control and take into custody subjects who are violent or who demonstrate the intent to be violent.

Less lethal weapons are not a substitute for deadly force and should not be used in place of deadly force. Deployment of less lethal weapons should be accompanied by lethal force capability when there is a substantial threat of deadly physical force or serious bodily injury toward the Officer(s) or others present or circumstances described in **C.R.S. 18-1-707**.

The training, deployment, documentation, and use of **ANY LESS LETHAL WEAPON** will be done in accordance with **C.R.S. 18-1-707**, and all applicable Directives.

**155.02 AUTHORIZED LESS LETHAL WEAPONS OR EQUIPMENT****DEPARTMENT ENDORSED/PROVIDED WEAPONS**

When a decision has been made to control, restrain or arrest a potentially violent or threatening suspect or to gain control of a person, an approved control device may only be used when its use appears reasonably necessary under the circumstances.

The control devices approved by the Department are the following:

- **O.C. SPRAY** – Department-approved oleoresin capsicum (“OC”) aerosol spray (up to and including the “MK-IX” or similar unit but not more than 12 ounces unless issued by a Supervisor.)
- **TASER** – The Department approved Taser.
- **CHEMICAL AGENT** – Department approved C.S. and O.C. dispersion in the form of canisters, grenades, or projectiles.
- **COLLAPSIBLE OR STRAIGHT STICK BATON** –The Department-approved 26” baton or ASP collapsible baton
- **SPECIALTY IMPACT MUNITIONS** - Department approved Specialty Impact Munitions designed and intended primarily to temporarily incapacitate a person with less likelihood of causing death or serious injury to such person.

**AUTHORIZED LESS LETHAL WEAPONS OR EQUIPMENT (con't)**

**NOTE:** Uniformed Patrol Officers, Corporals and Sergeants shall carry (2) types of less lethal weapons or equipment with them at all times, in addition to their firearm, while on duty. Those items shall be a Taser and either a collapsible or straight stick (wood) baton. Both shall be carried in an approved holster in addition to their firearm. Uniformed Commanders shall have the option of carrying a Taser, an impact weapon or OC spray, but otherwise shall have at least (1) one form of less lethal weapon or equipment with them at all times.

Any Plain clothes Officers whose normal duty includes making or supervising arrests will carry at least one (1) form of less lethal weapon, in addition to their firearm, while on duty, unless waived by a Supervisor for Officer safety concerns during undercover operations.

**155.03 O.C. SPRAY****AUTHORIZATION – TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION**

Should space be available, officers shall carry the assigned OC spray with them while working a uniformed assignment on their duty belts in an approved holster. Officers who do not have available space on their duty belt shall store the assigned OC spray within their duty bag and have it readily available to be carried in a location upon their uniform should the OC spray be needed. All Officers who are issued OC Spray must first successfully complete the department approved OC Spray User Course. Mandatory periodic refresher training will be conducted. Absences from mandatory training courses may terminate the Officer's authorization to carry the OC Spray until he/she can attend the training course or a "make-up" course.

- Officers whose normal duties/assignments may require them to make arrests or supervise arrestees shall be required to carry, or have readily available, departmentally authorized OC while on duty.
- Only departmentally authorized OC canisters shall be carried while on duty. (Def-Tech "First Defense" Mark IV (4) #5049 and "First Defense" Mark VI (6) #5069 )

## O.C. SPRAY (con't)

## USAGE CRITERIA

OC spray is considered a use of force and shall be employed in a manner consistent with this Department's Use of Force directive. OC may be used when:

- Verbal instructions have failed to bring about the subject's compliance, and
- The Officer believes that his/her empty hand capability will not be sufficient to effect the arrest.
- When the Officer believes retreat or no other option is available

Whenever practical and reasonable and/or when multiple Officers are present, an Officer should issue a verbal warning prior to using OC against a suspect. The Officer should announce "OC!"

An Officer may only use deadly force for protection against the use or threatened use of OC when the Officer reasonably believes that deadly force will be used against him/her if he/she becomes incapacitated.

## DEPLOYMENT PROCEDURES

The decision to use O.C. Spray shall be based upon criteria established in the Directives Manual under "Use Of Force" (ADM-156). The decision must be made dependant on the actions of the subject(s) or threat facing the Officer(s), and the totality of the circumstances surrounding the incident.

The use or deployment of O.C. Spray shall comply with established "Use of Force" directives. **Use of O.C. Spray must be reasonable and appropriate.**

## EFFECTS OF OC AND OFFICER RESPONSE

Within several seconds of being sprayed by OC, a suspect will normally display symptoms of temporary blindness, have difficulty breathing, burning sensation in the throat, nausea, lung pain and/or impaired thought processes.

**O.C. SPRAY (con't)**

The effects of OC vary among individuals. Therefore, all suspects shall be handcuffed as soon as possible after being sprayed. Officers should also be prepared to employ other means to control the suspect, including, if necessary, other force options consistent with department standards if the suspect does not respond sufficiently to the spray and cannot otherwise be subdued.

Officers shall be alert to indications that the individual, or anyone who was inadvertently exposed, needs medical care. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to, breathing difficulties, gagging, profuse sweating and loss of consciousness. **Upon observing these or other medical problems or if the suspect requests medical assistance, the Officer shall immediately summon emergency medical aid.**

Officers should provide assurance to suspects who have been sprayed that the effects are temporary and encourage them to relax. Air will normally begin reducing the effects of OC spray within 15 minutes of exposure.

In all cases in which an Officer sprays a subject with O.C., the Officer shall, as soon as possible, decontaminate the subject pursuant to training and shall closely monitor the subject for a minimum of thirty (30) minutes to ensure that no complications arise. Those persons who complain of further severe effects shall be examined by appropriate medical personnel.

**REPORTING PROCEDURES**

Accidental discharges as well as intentional uses of OC spray shall be reported to the Officer's immediate supervisor as soon as possible. This includes the deployment of OC spray on an animal.

A use-of-force report shall be completed following all discharges of OC spray except during testing, training, malfunction, applied to an animal or accidental discharge. The Officer's report will detail at a minimum the decontamination steps taken, time duration of observation, medical care, and notification to Detention Facility personnel.

**O.C. SPRAY (con't)****REPLACEMENT**

All OC spray devices shall be maintained in an operational and charged state by assigned personnel. Replacement of expired, damaged, inoperable or empty devices are the responsibility of Officers to whom they are issued.

**155.04 TASER****AUTHORIZATION – TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION**

All Officers who carry a Taser must first successfully complete the department approved Taser User Certification Course, to include written and practical tests. Mandatory periodic refresher training will be conducted. Absences from mandatory training courses may terminate the Officer's authorization to carry the weapons(s) until he/she can attend the training course or a "make-up" course. All Taser devices shall be clearly and distinctly identifiable by its bright yellow color to differentiate them from an officer's duty weapon and any other device. Officers shall carry two or more cartridge devices on their person when carrying the Taser device. Supervisors shall have access to spare air cartridges which shall be kept in a secured area. Officers shall be responsible for ensuring that their Taser device is properly maintained and in good working order. Officers shall not hold both a firearm and the Taser device at the same time.

**DEFINITIONS**

- **AIR CARTRIDGE** - "Air Cartridge" utilizes compressed nitrogen to shoot two small probes up to 25 feet. These small probes are connected to the weapon by high-voltage insulated wires.
- **DRIVE STUN** - "Drive Stun" is when the Officer activates the Taser by pressing the front of the Taser firmly against the subject's body, driving the Taser into him/her. Simply touching the Taser to the subject's body will not incapacitate an aggressive subject. The Taser, when used in "Drive-Stun" mode, is most effective when driven into pressure points or nerve bundles. "Drive stun" may be used with or without an air cartridge in place.

**NOTE:** The decision to use either "air cartridge" or "drive stun" as a deployment is left to the Officer and should be based

**TASER (con't)**

upon the circumstances the Officer is faced with, and the training they have received. An Officer should not use more than three (3) consecutive electrical cycles and/or no longer than 15 seconds cumulative activation unless there is sufficient and articulable justification.

**GENERAL PROCEDURES**

Uniformed Officers will carry the Taser in an approved holster on their duty belt located on the opposite side from their firearm, also known as the "off-hand" side of their duty belt.

Patrol personnel will be individually issued a Taser and three air cartridges. . At the beginning of any shift, all personnel shall:

- Perform a spark test on the unit.
- Inspect the Taser for damage (damage will be reported to the on duty Supervisor when found).
- Inspect air cartridges for damage (damaged air cartridges will be immediately replaced).
- Check battery life (not to be less than 20%)
- Officers shall secure their Taser in the same manner as other weapons before entering a secure detention facility. A Taser will not be left unattended.

Off duty carrying of the Taser is prohibited. Officers shall ensure that Taser devices issued to them are secure in their homes, vehicles or any other area under their control, in a manner that will keep the device inaccessible to others.

**DEPLOYMENT OF TASER ON A SUBJECT**

**The decision to use the Taser shall be based upon criteria established in the Directives Manual under "Use Of Force" (ADM-156). The decision must be made dependant on the actions of the subject(s) or threat facing the Officer(s), and the totality of the circumstances surrounding the incident.**

The TASER device may be used in any of the following circumstances, when the circumstances perceived by the officer at the time indicate that such application is reasonably necessary to control a person:

- The subject is violent or is physically resisting.

**TASER (con't)**

- 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, him/herself or others.
- A fleeing subject who the Officer has probable cause to arrest.

The Taser shall not be used in the following situations:

- When the subject has come into contact with a flammable liquid or when the subject is in a flammable atmosphere.
- As a means of punishment, provocation, or to psychologically torment or elicit statements.
- To awaken unconscious or intoxicated individuals.

In the following circumstances, the Taser should not be used unless there are “compelling reasons” that can be clearly articulated.

- When a subject is operating a motor vehicle.
- When the subject is a handcuffed or secured prisoner.
- When the subject is a visibly pregnant woman.
- When the subject is elderly or of diminished capacity.
- When the subject appears to be a child or young teen.
- When the subject is in a position or whose activity may result in collateral injury (i.e. falls from an elevated position)

**NOTE:** Officers shall always be cognizant of potential medical conditions that may cause non compliance such as diabetic reaction.

**DEPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

The decision to use the Taser shall be based upon criteria established in the Directives Manual under “Use Of Force” (ADM-156). The decision must be made dependant on the actions of the subject(s) or threat facing the Officer(s), and the totality of the circumstances surrounding the incident. The use or deployment of the Taser shall comply with established “Use of Force” directives. **Use of the Taser must be reasonable**

## TASER (con't)

and appropriate.

Prior to the deployment of a Taser; the Officer deploying has the responsibility to visually and physically confirm that the tool selected is in fact a Taser and not a firearm. If feasible, the deploying Officer should notify any on-scene, assisting Officers that they intend to deploy a Taser. Officers should consider that the optimum deployment range of the Taser is fifteen (15) feet.

If feasible, immediately prior to deploying the Taser the deploying Officer should announce, "TASER, TASER, TASER!" The announcement should be made only if it would not endanger any civilians, Officers or the suspect.

Reasonable efforts should be made to target lower center mass of the body when deploying a Taser at a person in an effort to avoid the head, neck, chest or groin. Personnel encountering subjects wearing heavy or loose clothing on the upper body should consider targeting the legs. The head, face, neck and genitalia should not be targeted unless the use of lethal force can be justified.

Officers should apply the Taser device for only one standard cycle and then evaluate the situation before applying any subsequent cycles. Officers shall use their judgment and discretion to determine whether the potential harm is offset by greater potential gain when applying multiple cycles of the Taser.

An Officer should not use more than three (3) consecutive electrical cycles and/or no longer than 15 seconds cumulative activation unless there is sufficient and articulable justification.

An Officer who deploys a Taser on a subject should be prepared to transition to other Department approved force options, to reduce the risk of possible injury that may be associated with multiple activations and continuous cycling of the Taser.

In situations where multiple Officers are present and more than one Taser is deployed, Officer should coordinate and communicate about their actions to avoid simultaneous applications of the Taser against a person at any given time.

Officers should be prepared to immediately apply department approved handcuffing and defensive tactics (hands on) procedures following the discharge of the Taser's electrical cycle.

**TASER (con't)**

The threat of the use of the Taser accompanied with a warning if possible, used to avert a potentially injurious or dangerous situation is permitted.

Officers are discouraged, but not prohibited from using a Taser in situations when a subject is armed with a deadly weapon or capable of delivering deadly force.

However, in a situation where deadly force would be legally justified, and an Officer chooses to deploy the Taser, at least one cover Officer shall provide an immediately available deadly force option.

Personnel are discouraged from deploying the Taser where O.C. Spray has been deployed or applied to a subject.

**USE OF TASER ON VICIOUS ANIMAL(S)**

The Taser is not specifically designed for use on animals; however, field deployments have shown positive results and the Taser has been an effective tool when confronting vicious animals. Due to differences in their nervous system, animals have shown the ability to quickly recover from the effects of the Taser. As soon as the Taser temporarily disables the animal; Officers should be prepared to act quickly with control devices or restraints. Use of the Taser on vicious animals is allowed under the following circumstances:

- A vicious animal is threatening or is attacking a citizen, an Officer, or another animal and the use of other force is not reasonable, or may not be desired given the situation.
- A vicious animal has threatened or attacked a citizen, an Officer, another animal, or has caused a continuing public nuisance and the vicious animal needs to be controlled for reason of public peace or safety, preservation of property, or other legitimate purpose; and the animal poses an active threat to Officers in their efforts to perform their duty.
- Center mass of the animal should be targeted. It is understood that deployments on vicious animals may be very dynamic in nature and the probes may impact unintentional areas.
- Personnel will take reasonable measures to ensure the animals welfare is provided for by attempting to contact the owner or responsible party if known.
- Officers will contact Mesa County Animal Services if the owner or responsible parties are not located.

## TASER (con't)

- On deployment of Taser on any animal a Supervisor will be notified. It is generally understood that as long as personnel acted appropriately, the animal's owner will be responsible for any medical attention needed by the animal.

**DUTIES AFTER DEPLOYMENT**

Immediate action should be taken to care for the injured, to apprehend any suspects, obtain witness information and statements if possible and to protect the scene. Once the subject is compliant, restrained or is no longer a threat, use of the Taser shall cease. **All of the following procedures shall be adhered to and will be documented in the deploying Officer's supplementary report.**

- Officers shall wear appropriate protective equipment when removing probes which are imbedded in the skin of a subject. (See "Infectious Disease Control" SER-361)
- Removal of Taser probes in non-sensitive areas shall be performed by Officers who have been trained. Officers shall inspect the probes after removal to ensure that the entire probe and probe barb have been removed. In the event that a probe, or probe barb, has been broken off and is still embedded in a subject's skin, the subject shall be provided appropriate medical attention to facilitate the removal of the probe.
- Immediately after probe removal or Drive Stun deployment, Officers shall request EMS response for medical treatment and or assessment. Should the assessment or other circumstances dictate the subject needs further medical treatment; the subject will be transported to the hospital. Medical treatment will not be refused for anyone who requests it.
- Probes lodged in sensitive areas including the head, neck, groin, and female breast shall be removed by EMS personnel or the subject will be transported to the hospital for probe removal.
- Photographs will be taken of the probe(s) cartridge, impact sites and any related injuries, unless it is unsafe to do so. Photographs will be processed as evidence and submitted to the Property Section.

## TASER (con't)

- Probes removed from the skin will be treated as biohazard "**Sharps**" as defined by the Directives Manual (See **SER-341.02**) and shall be secured, point down, in the expended cartridge, and submitted to the Property/Evidence Section.
- Any individuals exhibiting signs of distress or who is exposed to multiple or prolonged applications (i.e. more than 15 seconds) shall be transported to a medical facility for examination or medically evaluated prior to booking.
- Officers shall notify a supervisor of all Taser device discharges. Confetti tags should be collected and the expended cartridges, along with both probes and wires, should be submitted into evidence.
- Detention personnel shall be advised anytime an arrestee has been "tased" prior to being brought to a detention facility.

**NOTE: Officers are required to document in their Supplemental Report that they have complied with the duties after deployment procedures as described above.**

**REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

After the deployment of a Taser, the shift Supervisor shall be notified immediately.

- The deploying Officer(s) will detail all relevant information concerning the deployment including the number of cycles, the manner of application and the effect of a Taser in their narrative report. The report will be submitted to a Supervisor prior to their end of shift.
- The Supervisor shall review the data download feature after each reported deployment.
- The Supervisor will complete a written use of force review. ("**Use of Force**" **ADM-156**).

Any Officer who accidentally discharges a Taser shall notify his/her Supervisor immediately. A written report shall be prepared by the Officer and submitted to the Supervisor prior to the end of their shift. The Supervisor will review the report and conduct a performance review as described in the directive "Performance Reviews" (ADM-145) and forward it through the Chain of Command to the appropriate Division Deputy Chief.

## 155.05 CHEMICAL AGENT

## AUTHORIZATION – TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

Chemical agents are devices used to minimize the potential for injury to officers, offenders or other persons. They should be used only in situations where such force reasonably appears necessary. The use of chemical agents is restricted to situations where other techniques/tools have proven unsuccessful or a need to gain an immediate advantage, due to the tactical considerations that exist.

All Officers who carry or deploy chemical agents must first successfully complete the department approved Chemical Munitions training course. Mandatory periodic refresher training will be conducted. Absences from mandatory training courses may terminate the Officer's authorization to carry /deploy chemical munitions until he/she can attend the training course or a "make-up" course.

## DEPLOYMENT AND USE

The decision to use Chemical Munitions shall be based upon criteria established in the Directives Manual under "**Use Of Force**" (ADM-156). The decision must be made dependant on the actions of the subject(s) or threat facing the Officer(s), and the totality of the circumstances surrounding the incident. The use or deployment of Chemical Munitions shall comply with established "Use of Force" directives. **Use of Chemical Munitions must be reasonable and appropriate.**

Only the shift Commander or in his/her absence the Shift Supervisor, can authorize the use of O.C. projectile and large canister O.C. spray.

If the use of chemical agents is authorized, the following shall apply:

- Gas munitions are intended primarily for dealing with unruly/riotous crowds and barricaded subjects. (S.W.A.T. activation should be considered on all barricaded situations). Refer to the directive "**SWAT and Hostage Negotiations Teams**" (OPR-249) for more details.
- Gas canisters/high output foggers will be used to disperse unruly/riotous crowds and to induce the surrender of barricaded subjects.
- Oleoresin capsicum may be used in the 37/40mm gas guns or in the 12 Gauge shot guns to fire projectiles into the area of a barricaded subject when the use of hand-

**CHEMICAL AGENT (con't)**

tossed canisters would be unsafe or it is necessary due to tactical considerations.

- Only personnel trained in the deployment of gas munitions will be authorized to deploy the munitions.
- Prior to the deployment of gas, caution should be exercised to ensure all Officers present are equipped with gas masks.
- Burning gas canisters should not be deployed in a building or residence unless deadly force is authorized.
- The use/application shall be within a reasonable amount sufficient to affect the desired surrender or evacuation of the intended subject.
- Persons who have been affected by the use of chemical agents should be promptly provided with water to cleanse the affected area. Persons who complain of further severe effects shall be examined by qualified medical personnel as soon as practicable.

**REPORTING PROCEDURES**

A Use of Force report, prepared by the authorizing Supervisor, shall be completed and forwarded through the chain of command detailing the circumstances, justification and outcome as a result of deploying the gas munitions. One Officer will be assigned annually the responsibility to maintain the gas munitions inventory for Patrol.

**155.06 COLLAPSABLE OR STRAIGHT STICK (WOOD) BATON****AUTHORIZATION – TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION**

All Officers who carry or deploy a baton must first successfully complete the department approved Straight-Stick/Collapsible training course. . Mandatory periodic refresher training will be conducted. Absences from mandatory training courses may terminate the Officer's authorization to carry the baton until he/she can attend the training course or a "make-up" course.

**DEFINITIONS**

**BATON** – A defensive, police impact weapon made from wood, metal or plastic. Collapsible batons (ASP) are designed to be inconspicuous, yet highly effective in an operation setting. The ASP has two (2) telescoping blades which lock

**COLLAPSABLE OR  
STRAIGHT STICK (WOOD)  
BATON (CON'T)**

into place with a flick of the wrist.

**AUTHORIZED ASP BATONS**

F-16 - 6 inches to 16 inches, weight 14 ounces.

F-21 - 8 inches to 21 inches, weight 15 ounces.

F-26 - 9 inches to 26 inches, weight 20 ounces.

**DEPLOYMENT AND USE**

The decision to use a Baton shall be based upon criteria established in the Directives Manual under **“Use Of Force” (ADM-156)**. The decision must be made dependent on the actions of the subject(s) or threat facing the Officer(s), and the totality of the circumstances surrounding the incident. The use or deployment of a Baton shall comply with established “Use of Force” directives. **Use of the Baton must be reasonable and appropriate. Strikes to areas of the body such as the head, neck, spinal column (to include 2 inches on either side of the spinal column) and the groin area should be avoided except in deadly force situations.**

Uniformed officers shall carry the expandable baton in an approved holster in the closed mode, tip down, attached to the Officer’s duty belt. Other applications include:

**Reaction side carry.** (Drawn from scabbard)

- Cross draw.
- Reaction hand drawn and transferred to weapon hand.

**Weapon side carry.**

- In scabbard position so as to not interfere with a handgun draw.

Officers who carry a baton shall carry the baton in a baton ring located on their duty belt.

**DUTIES AFTER DEPLOYMENT**

Immediate action should be taken to care for the injured, to apprehend any suspects, obtain witness information and statements if possible and to protect the scene.

Once the subject is compliant, restrained or is no longer a threat, use of the baton or ASP shall cease. **All of the following procedures shall be adhered to and will be documented in the deploying Officer’s supplementary report.**

- Immediately after the suspect has been appropriately restrained, has stopped resisting and is compliant,

**COLLAPSABLE OR  
STRAIGHT STICK (WOOD)  
BATON (CON'T)**

Officers shall determine what, if any, injuries the suspect may have suffered as result of the impact weapon application. If injuries exist or the subject complains of any injury, Officers shall request EMS response for medical treatment and or further assessment. Should the assessment or other circumstances dictate the subject needs further medical treatment; the subject will be transported to the hospital. Medical treatment will not be refused for anyone who requests it.

- Photographs will be taken of the subject, any impact sites and related injuries, unless it is unsafe to do so. Photographs will be processed as evidence and submitted to the Property Section.

Any individuals exhibiting signs of distress shall be transported to a medical facility for examination or medically evaluated prior to booking.

- Officers shall notify a supervisor of all impact weapon applications as soon as practicable.
- Detention personnel shall be advised anytime an arrestee has been the subject of an impact weapon application prior to being brought to a detention facility.

**NOTE: Officers are required to document in their Supplemental Report that they have complied with the duties after deployment procedures as described above.**

**REPORTING PROCEDURES**

A report, prepared by the authorizing Supervisor, shall be completed and forwarded through the chain of command detailing the circumstances, justification and outcome as a result of applying impact weapon techniques.

**155.07 SPECIALTY IMPACT  
MUNITIONS**

**AUTHORIZATION – TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION**

All Patrol Officers who have successfully completed the department's Less Lethal/ Specialty Impact Munitions User Certification Course, shall carry in the trunk of their patrol vehicle (if available) a 12 gauge shotgun specifically modified with blaze orange stocks. This designated shotgun will only be used for Less Lethal/ Specialty Impact Munitions deployment. Officers are not required or compelled to use approved Less Lethal/ Specialty Impact Munitions in lieu of other reasonable tactics if the involved officer determines that deployment of these munitions cannot be done safely. The safety of hostages, innocent persons and officers takes priority over the

**SPECIALTY IMPACT  
MUNITIONS (con't.)**

safety of subjects engaged in criminal or suicidal behavior. Mandatory periodic refresher training will be conducted. Absences from mandatory training courses may terminate the Officer's authorization to carry Specialty Impact Munitions until he/she can attend the training course or a "make-up" course.

**PROCEDURE**

- Each Less Lethal/Specialty Impact Munitions shotgun will be secured in the provided protective hard case and maintained in the trunk of assigned patrol vehicles. Only approved Less Lethal/Specialty Impact Munitions are to be stored with the Less Lethal/Specialty Impact Munitions shotgun. Buckshot or slugs are strictly prohibited in the Less Lethal/Specialty Impact Munitions shotgun or protective hard case.
- Less Lethal/Specialty Impact Munitions shotguns and Less Lethal/Specialty Impact Munitions are to be inspected by the on duty patrol Officer prior to his/her tour of duty.
- Damaged or non-functional Less Lethal/Specialty Impact Munitions shotguns will be reported to the on duty supervisor immediately and taken off the line and documented.
- In preparation for deployment, Patrol Officers will visually inspect each 12 gauge Less Lethal/Specialty Impact Munitions to ensure it is in fact a drag stabilized bean bag or other approved Less Lethal/Specialty Impact Munitions.
- Whenever possible, another Patrol Officer will verify with the deploying Officer that only 12 gauge drag stabilized bean bags or other approved Less Lethal/Specialty Impact Munitions are being loaded into the designated Less Lethal shotgun.
- After loading and when possible, Patrol Officers will advise via the Police radio that they are deploying a Less Lethal/Specialty Impact Munitions weapon.
- Unless it would otherwise endanger the safety of officers or when it is not practicable due to the circumstances, a verbal warning of the intended use of the device should precede its application in an effort to gain voluntary compliance by the subject.

**DEPLOYMENT OF LESS LETHAL/SPECIALTY IMPACT  
MUNITIONS ON A SUBJECT**

The decision to use Less Lethal/Specialty Impact Munitions

**SPECIALTY IMPACT  
MUNITIONS (con't)**

shall be based upon criteria established in the Directives Manual under “**Use Of Force**” (ADM-156). The decision must be made dependent on the actions of the subject(s) or threat facing the Officer(s), and the totality of the circumstances surrounding the incident. The use or deployment of Less Lethal/Specialty Impact Munitions shall comply with established “Use of Force” directives. Absent compelling circumstances, officers who must transition from conventional ammunition to kinetic energy projectiles will employ the two-person rule as an additional safety precaution to ensure that the appropriate deployment device and munitions are selected, properly loaded and utilized. The second officer should observe and verify that only kinetic energy deployment devices and projectiles are loaded and used.

**Primary Target Area** – the target area consisting of large muscle groups.

- Buttocks
- Thigh

**Secondary Target Area** – the target area consisting of skeletal and medium muscle groups. Preferred muscle areas;

- Shoulder, biceps, triceps, and forearm area
- Lower abdominal area
- Calf
  
- Skeletal Areas
  - a. Wrist
  - b. Elbows
  - c. Knee

**Deadly Force Area** – the target area when maximum effectiveness is required to meet a level of threat escalating to deadly force justification.

- Head
- Chest (center mass)
- Solar-plexus
- Groin
- Spine
- Lower back

**SPECIALTY IMPACT MUNITIONS (con't)****USE OF LESS LETHAL/SPECIALTY IMPACT MUNITIONS ON VICIOUS ANIMAL(S) OR WILDLIFE**

Less Lethal/Specialty Impact Munitions has been an effective tool when confronting vicious animals or wildlife. Use of Less Lethal/Specialty Impact Munitions on vicious animals and wildlife is allowed under the following circumstances:

- A vicious animal is threatening or is attacking a citizen, an Officer, or another animal and the use of other force is not reasonable, or may not be desired given the situation.
- A vicious animal has threatened or attacked a citizen, an Officer, another animal, or has caused a continuing public nuisance and the vicious animal needs to be controlled for reason of public peace or safety, preservation of property, or other legitimate purpose; and the animal poses an active threat to Officers in their efforts to perform their duty.
- In cases where wildlife is involved, containment issues may require consideration prior to the deployment of Less Lethal/ Specialty Impact Munitions.

Personnel will take reasonable measures to ensure the animals welfare is provided for by attempting to contact the owner or responsible party if known. Officers will contact Mesa County Animal Services if the owner or responsible parties are not located.

In wildlife cases the Colorado Parks and Wildlife will be notified. It is generally understood that as long as personnel acted appropriately, the animal's owner will be responsible for any medical attention needed by the animal. Supervisor notification and completion of a use of force is necessary in animal deployments. Reports must be completed prior to the end of shift.

**DUTIES AFTER DEPLOYMENT**

Immediate action should be taken to care for the injured, to apprehend any suspects, obtain witness statements and to protect the scene. Once the subject is compliant, restrained or is no longer a threat, use of the Less Lethal/Specialty Impact Munitions shall cease.

Immediately after Less Lethal/Specialty Impact Munitions deployment, Officers will request EMS response for medical treatment and or assessment. Should the assessment or other circumstances dictate the subject needs further medical treatment; the subject will be transported to the hospital.

Photographs will be taken of Less Lethal/Specialty Impact

**SPECIALITY IMPACT  
MUNITIONS (con't)**

Munitions impact sites and any related injuries, unless it is unsafe to do so. Photographs will be processed as evidence and submitted to the Property Section.

Deployed 12 gauge drag stabilized bean bag, shell casings or other munitions will be processed as evidence and submitted to the Property Section.

A Less Lethal/Specialty Impact Munitions shotgun should not be left unattended. The shotgun should be slung or properly stored when not in use.

**NOTIFICATION**

After the deployment of a Less Lethal/ Specialty Impact Munitions, the Shift Supervisor shall be notified immediately and will respond to the scene.

- The deploying Officer(s) will detail all relevant information concerning the deployment and effect of Less Lethal/Specialty Impact Munitions in their narrative report. Officer(s) will also document in the report, the serial number of the shotgun that was fired. The report will be submitted to a Supervisor prior to their end of shift.

The Supervisor will complete a written use of force review. (**"Use of Force Required Reporting" ADM-156**).

Detention personnel shall be advised anytime an arrestee was impacted with a Less Lethal/Specialty Impact Munitions round prior to being brought to a detention facility.

Any Officer who accidentally discharges a Less Lethal/Specialty Impact Munitions shall notify his/her Supervisor immediately. A written report shall be prepared by the Officer and submitted to the Supervisor prior to the end of their shift. The Supervisor will review the report and conduct a performance review as described in the directive "Performance Reviews" (ADM-145) and forward it through the Chain of Command to the appropriate Deputy Chief.

