

HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS MANUAL		
Issue Date June 2023	Review Date June 2024	Directive Number 6.3.4
Accreditation Index: 1.3.4, 1.3.5, 1.3.9, 1.3.10		Rescinds: Directive 6.3.4 of February 2021
Chapter: Six- General Procedures		Section: Three – Use of Force
Chief of Police: <i>John F. Viola</i>		

SUBJECT: EXPANDABLE BATON

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this directive is to establish guidelines on the use of the expandable baton. This device is a Less Lethal Weapon available to officers of this Department that have been trained and certified on its use.

II. POLICY

The Department is committed to protecting and preserving the lives of all citizens and police officers. The use of the expandable baton provides officers with a tool to subdue and apprehend a violent/dangerous person without subjecting the officer or the citizen to unnecessary risk of serious injury or death.
(PLEAC 1.3.4)

III. DEFINITIONS

- Bodily Injury:** Impairment of physical condition or substantial pain.
- Deadly Force:** Is defined by the Pennsylvania Crimes Code as: “Force, which under the circumstance in which it is used, is readily capable of causing death or serious bodily injury.”
- Expandable Baton:** A Less Lethal Weapon that is a kinetic energy impact device. It consists of hollow carbon steel tubing. The exterior is designed without sharp or abrasive edges to prevent tearing or puncturing body tissue. It can be deployed from beyond arms reach to strike a subject to stop aggressive actions through pain compliance
- Force:** Any degree of conduct beyond mere restraint used to control someone.

Less Lethal Weapon: A weapon authorized by this Department that when deployed is not intended or expected to cause death or serious bodily injury and that is commonly understood to have less potential for causing death or serious bodily injury than conventional, more lethal police weapons. Nonetheless, use of a Less Lethal Weapon can result in death or serious bodily injury.

Non-Deadly Force: A force application that is not intended or expected to cause death or serious bodily injury.

Reasonable Force: Force that satisfies the constitutional standard as “objectively reasonable” under the totality of the circumstance.

Serious Bodily Injury: Bodily injury which creates a substantial risk of death or which causes serious, permanent disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ.

IV. PROCEDURES

- A. The decision to deploy the expandable baton shall be made based upon the actions of the subject or threats facing the officer and the totality of the circumstances of the incident. The use of this Less Lethal Weapon must be reasonable and necessary.
- B. The expandable baton may be used for Non-Deadly Force violent/active resisters in situations where de-escalation is required.
- C. The Expandable Baton shall only be used to subdue a combative person and shall only be used to target those portions of the human anatomy that are designated in certification training, (i.e., the arms, legs, and lower abdominal region). The baton is not to be used to restrain or immobilize a person, nor is it to be used in conjunction with any come-along maneuvers.
- D. The use of the expandable baton is considered less lethal/ Non-Deadly Force when applied to areas of the subject’s body that are considered unlikely to cause death or serious bodily injury.
 - 1. Green Target Areas – Consists of the large muscle groups of the buttocks, shoulder blades, arms and legs. Where the threat level is appropriate and this Area is viable, it should be considered first.
 - 2. Yellow Target Areas – Have a greater potential for causing serious bodily injury when struck. The Yellow Target Area consists of the collarbone, elbow and knee joints and medium muscle groups (abdominal area) and in most cases lack the muscle density found in the Green Target Area.

E. The use of the expandable baton is considered deadly force if intentionally applied to areas of the subjects body that are recognized as likely to cause serious bodily injury or death (head, neck, throat, chest, spine, kidneys or solar plexus)

1. Red Target Areas – Have the greatest potential for causing serious bodily injury or death and should be avoided when possible. It should be considered only when maximum effectiveness is desired to meet a level of threat escalating to deadly force. The Red Target Area consists of the head, neck, throat, chest, spine, kidneys or solar plexus.

NOTE: Unless Deadly Force can be justified, officers should not intentionally target the Red Target Area.

F. Deploying Officer Responsibilities:

1. Use verbal commands and display the baton prior to deployment, when feasible.
2. Officers shall only use force that is objectively reasonable and shall target the appropriate area corresponding to the level of resistance from the subject.
3. Officers shall not intentionally target a Red Target Area unless deadly force is justified.
4. Persons who have been subjected to expandable baton strikes shall be transported to a medical facility for evaluation and treatment.
 - a) Transportation will be by police vehicle, unless on scene medical personnel recommend transportation by ambulance.
 - b) Officers will advise medical personnel that the subject has been struck with the expandable baton.
 - c) Officers will obtain a hospital release form after treatment and release of the prisoner back to police custody.
5. Officers shall complete a Department Use of Force Report.

(PLEAC 1.3.5)

G. Supervisor Responsibilities:

1. Supervisor shall respond to the scene and take overall command of the incident.
2. Shall ensure that all procedures on the use and deployment of the expandable baton are followed.
3. Shall ensure that proper medical attention is afforded to the subject of the deployment and police officers or citizens, if necessary.
4. Shall notify the Duty Commander of the incident.
5. Shall ensure the Department Use of Force Report is completed.

6. Shall ensure that all reports associated with the incident are completed prior to the end of the tour of duty.

H. Training Officer Responsibilities:

1. Establish and maintain a training program for the expandable baton.
2. Maintain a record keeping system to include officers trained and date of qualification or re-qualification.
3. Ensure initial qualification training for all officers is completed prior to their approval to carry, use and deploy the expandable baton.

(PLEAC 1.3.9)

4. Ensure re-qualification training for all officers trained in the use and handling of the expandable baton is completed annually.

(PLEAC 1.3.10c)

BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE