

HAVERFORD TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS MANUAL		
Issue Date June 2023	Review Date June 2024	Directive Number 6.3.6
Accreditation Index: 1.3.4, 1.3.5, 1.3.9, 1.3.10		Rescinds: Directive 6.3.6 of February 2021
Chapter: Six – General Procedures		Section: Three – Use of Force
Chief of Police: <i>John F. Viola</i>		

SUBJECT: SPECIALTY IMPACT MUNITIONS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this directive is to establish guidelines on the use of Specialty Impact Munitions. Specialty Impact Munitions are a less lethal option available to officers of the Department that have been trained and certified on the use of these munitions.

II. POLICY

The Department is committed to protecting and preserving the lives of all citizens and police officers. The use of Specialty Impact Munitions 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 and/ or controlling civil disorders.
(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.”
- Force:** Any degree of conduct beyond mere restraint used to control someone.
- Non-Deadly Force:** A force application that is not intended or expected to cause death or serious bodily injury.
- 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.

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.

Specialty Impact Munitions – are a variety of less lethal munitions that can be deployed from a distance to strike a single subject and cause the subject to stop aggressive actions through pain compliance or the management of crowds engaging in civil disorder.

IV. PROCEDURES

- A. The decision to use Specialty Impact Munitions 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 Specialty Impact Munitions must be reasonable and necessary.
- B. The Specialty Impact Munitions are only authorized to be deployed by officers who have been trained and whose certification is current. Specialty Impact Munitions shall only be used to subdue a combative person or an armed subject threatening harm to themselves or others. Officers should only target those portions of the human anatomy that are designated in certification training.
- C. The Department utilizes two Delivery/ Weapons systems for the deployment of Specialty Impact Munitions:
 - 1. Twelve gauge (12ga.) shotgun.
 - 2. 37mm Launchers
- D. The Department uses a variety of Specialty Impact Munitions depending on assignment:
 - 1. Patrol / First Responder
 - a) Flexible bean bag / baton round (super sock style) 12 ga. Shotgun.
 - 2. Special Response Team

- a) A variety of munitions including impact aerosols, single target munitions (flexible bean bag / baton round), crowd management munitions and specialized munitions designed to be deployed during high risk warrants, hostage rescue and barricaded subject situations. Both 12ga. Shotgun and 37 mm munitions.
- E. Specialty Impact Munitions may be used in Non-Deadly Force dangerous or high risk situations where de-escalation is required.
 - F. Regardless of the situation or the munitions, shot placement should always be an important consideration for officers deploying Specialty Impact Munitions. Shot placement is critical to the successful outcome of the situation and minimizing the risk of serious bodily injury or death. When making the shot placement decision the need for immediate incapacitation must be weighed with the potential for causing injury.
 - G. The use of Specialty Impact Munitions is considered less lethal / non-deadly force when deployed to areas of the subject's body that are considered unlikely to cause death or serious bodily injury.
 - 1. Zone One – Consists of the large muscle groups of the buttocks, thigh and calf. Where the threat level is appropriate and this zone is viable, it should be considered first.

NOTE: The groin area should not be intentionally targeted.
 - 2. Zone Two – Has a greater potential for causing serious bodily injury when struck. Zone Two consists of medium muscle groups (abdominal area) and in most cases lack the muscle density found in Zone One.
 - H. The use of Specialty Impact Munitions is considered deadly force, if intentionally deployed to areas of the subject's body that are recognized as likely to cause serious bodily injury or death (head, neck, spine, chest or groin).
 - 1. Zone Three – Has 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. Zone three consists of the head, neck, spine and chest (center of mass).

NOTE: Unless Deadly Force can be justified, officers should not intentionally target Zone Three.
 - I. The less lethal shotgun and bean bag munitions will be carried in “car-carry” condition for Patrol use. They will be stored in the locked trunk of the police vehicle.
 - J. The Special Response Team officer(s) assigned to carry/ deploy the Specialty Impact Munitions shall carry the weapon system and munitions in accordance with the training standard for that weapon and situation.

K. Discharging Officer Responsibilities:

1. When possible an Officer desiring to deploy Specialty Impact Munitions shall request a supervisor to respond to the scene;
2. When possible tell other officers on scene you are about to discharge a Specialty Impact Munitions Weapons system.
3. When possible attempt to gain compliance of the subject through verbal commands and display of the Less Lethal Weapons System prior to deploying the Specialty Impact Munitions;
4. Shall have lethal force cover present at time of deployment and shall use cover and distance to ensure officer safety;
5. Consider surroundings prior to deployment to reduce the risk of serious bodily injury to the subject or officers;
6. Persons who have been subjected to a Specialty Impact Munitions deployment 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) Officer will advise medical personnel that the subject has been the subject of a Specialty Impact Munitions deployment;
 - c) Officers shall obtain a hospital release form after treatment and release back to police custody.
(PLEAC 1.3.5)
7. Complete a Departmental Use of Force Report

L. 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 Specialty Impact Munitions 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. Notify the Duty Commander of the incident;
5. Ensure that a Department Use of Force Report is completed;
6. Ensure that all reports associated with the incident are completed properly and submitted prior to the end of the tour of duty.

M. Training Officer Responsibilities:

1. Establish and maintain a training program for Specialty Impact Munitions.
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 Specialty Impact Munitions.
(PLEAC 1.3.9)
4. Ensure re-qualification training for all officers trained in the use and handling of Specialty Impact Munitions is completed annually.
(PLEAC 1.3.10 c)

BY ORDER OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE