



Alexandria Police Department



Directive 7.4

LESS LETHAL MUNITIONS (LLM)

Effective Date: 07-21-2020

Cancels: 04-04-2018

Updated Date:

Section(s):

SME Review Date:

Updated Date:

Section(s):

2024

Updated Date:

Section(s):

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7.4.01 POLICY / PURPOSE

Consistent with the Department’s policy of only using the amount of force necessary to accomplish lawful objectives, the use of Less-Lethal Munitions (LLM) is authorized under this policy. Each LLM is chambered for 40 mm ammunition.

The purpose of these weapon systems is **the preservation of human life**. Their deployment is authorized when time, distance, and circumstances justifying their use are present. They are **not intended** to replace lethal force or other force options that may be justified under the circumstances that are present at the time. The use of the LLM is equivalent to the use of an impact weapon and the same implemental requirements should apply.

7.4.02 AUTHORIZED LAUNCHERS

- A. Penn Arms model P540-3 –This platform has a pump-action and a six-round capacity.
- B. Penn Arms model L140-1 –This platform has a fixed stock and single round capacity.

- C. Penn Arms model L140-4 –This platform has a collapsible stock and single round capacity.
- D. Each of the above listed weapon systems is capable of firing 37mm or 40 mm munitions.

7.4.03 AUTHORIZED AMMUNITION

The following ammunition is authorized for use as an impact weapon:

- A. CTS (Combined Tactical Systems) Sponge Round – a less lethal round.
- B. CTS Sponge with OC Round – a less lethal round, which releases a small amount of OC powder after impact. Upon supervisor approval, this round may be used to introduce OC into a small space for the purpose of displacing a subject who has secreted themselves.

7.4.04 USE OF LESS LETHAL MUNITIONS (LLM)

Munitions, including beanbag rounds, rubber bullets, rubber pellet rounds, foam projectile rounds, and wooden baton rounds, are designed to incapacitate hostile individuals without causing death or great bodily harm. Although designed to incapacitate without causing death or great bodily injury, there always exists that possibility even when the munitions are used properly.

In all instances where LLMs are used, employees will document the use in their report of the incident. The offense report will include a detailed description of the events leading to the necessity for the use of LLMs.

- A. In order to determine which technique or weapon will reasonably deescalate the incident and bring it under control safely, employees will assess the situation where force is warranted. Employees will use only that force which is necessary to accomplish lawful objectives.
- B. LLMs will be maintained by the Special Operations Division (SOD) Commander or his/her designee.
- C. LLMs will be carried and used only by personnel trained in their use. Personnel assigned a LLM will have the weapon available at all times while on patrol duty.
- D. Personnel deploying a LLM will be accompanied by an officer providing lethal cover.

- E. Every effort will be made to ensure other employees involved are aware that a LLM is being used.
- F. Personnel trained in the use of LLMs will qualify on an annual basis with a certified instructor. **[4.3.3.a]**
- G. Whenever time and circumstances permit, personnel will attempt verbal communication prior to deploying a LLM.
- H. All individuals impacted with LLMs will be treated by Emergency Medical personnel at the scene.
- I. The potential for causing death or serious injury with LLMs is a reality. The potential for this is greatly reduced when impacts to the head, neck, or chest are avoided. The preferred impact areas are below the waistline, avoiding the genitals.
- J. Officers should refrain from using the Less-Lethal Munitions (LLM) on persons who only pose a risk of harm to themselves that does not rise to the level of serious bodily injury or death. Officers should also carefully consider the use of LLMs on emotionally disturbed persons regardless of whether or not they are subject to an Emergency Custody Order. LLMs should only be considered against such persons when they pose an immediate danger to the officer or others or a risk of flight.
- K. Examples where LLMs may not be used include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - 1. LLMs will not be used when the operating employee believes it is unsafe to approach within the effective range, or when there is no cover officer with them providing direct protection. [REDACTED]
 - 2. Except as an alternative to the use of lethal force, LLMs will not be used when the subject is likely to be critically injured or killed due to a reactionary response caused by the impact of the munition (i.e. falling or operating machinery).
 - 3. When possible, other less-lethal force options should be considered before using LLMs on the following subjects:
 - a. Elderly persons,
 - b. People in control of a moving vehicle,
 - c. Persons known to have osteoporosis,
 - d. Children, and
 - e. Women who are obviously pregnant.

7.4.05 REPORTING USE OF LESS LETHAL MUNITIONS**A. Employee Responsibilities**

As soon as possible, but within one hour of being involved in any use of a Less Lethal Munition, an employee will verbally notify an on-duty supervisor. [4.2.1, c]

B. Supervisor Responsibilities

The employee's immediate supervisor or an on-duty supervisor will respond to the scene and investigate all incidents involving the use of Less Lethal Munitions in accordance with Police Directive 10.32.08 (B).

In addition to those procedures outlined in Police Directive 10.32.08 (B), the investigating supervisor will:

1. Indicate in the report the serial number of the weapon, the estimated distance at which the round was fired, the number and type of round used, where the munition impacted, and an evaluation of the effectiveness.
2. Photographs of the impact area on the body, regardless of any apparent injury, shall also be taken.
3. Any discharged projectiles will be collected and turned into the Property Section. (See Police Directive 10.28, Property and Evidence.)

C. Commander Responsibilities

All commanders will ensure that the incident was thoroughly investigated in accordance with Police Directive 10.32.08 (B), and that a recommendation for appropriate remedial action, if necessary, is documented. The package will then be forwarded to the Chief of Police through OEAPR. [4.2.2]

By Authority Of:

**Michael L. Brown
Chief of Police**