

Control Devices

303.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for the use and maintenance of control devices that are described in this policy.

303.2 POLICY

In order to control individuals who are violent or who demonstrate the intent to be violent, the Lawrence Police Department authorizes officers to use control devices in accordance with the guidelines in this policy and the Use of Force Policy. The Chief of Police may also authorize other positions or individual department members to use specific control devices.

303.3 ISSUING, CARRYING AND USING CONTROL DEVICES

Control devices described in this policy may be carried and used by members of this department only if the device has been issued by the Department or approved by the Chief of Police or the authorized designee.

Only those members who have successfully completed department-approved training in the use of any control device are authorized to carry and use the device.

Control devices may be used when a decision has been made to control, restrain or arrest a person who is violent or who demonstrates the intent to be violent and the use of the device appears reasonable under the circumstances. When reasonable, a verbal warning and opportunity to comply should precede the use of these devices.

303.4 RESPONSIBILITIES

303.4.1 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The Division Commander or on-duty supervisor may authorize the use of a control device by selected department members who may not currently be issued or carrying the control device or by those in specialized assignments who have successfully completed the required training.

303.4.2 USER RESPONSIBILITIES

Personnel using various devices are responsible for inspecting and reporting any necessary maintenance, charging or cleaning.

Any damaged, inoperative, or outdated munitions, along with documentation explaining the cause of the damage, shall be forwarded through the chain of command to the Special Operations Division Commander.

Any damaged, inoperative, or outdated control devices, along with documentation explaining the cause of the damage, shall be forwarded through the chain of command to the members assigned Division Commander.

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303.5 BATON GUIDELINES

The need to immediately control a suspect must be weighed against the risk of causing serious injury. The head, neck, throat, spine, heart, kidneys and groin should not be intentionally targeted except when the officer reasonably believes the suspect poses an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death to him/herself or others.

When carrying a baton, uniformed personnel shall carry the baton in its authorized holder on the equipment belt. Plainclothes and non-field personnel may carry the baton as authorized and in accordance with the needs of their assignments or at the direction of their supervisors.

303.6 GAS GUIDELINES

OC gas or CS gas may be used for crowd control, crowd dispersal or against barricaded suspects, based on the circumstances. Only the Incident Commander or Crisis Response Team Commander may authorize the delivery and use of gas, and only after evaluating all conditions known at the time and determining that such force reasonably appears justified and necessary.

When practicable, fire and emergency medical services personnel should be alerted or summoned to the scene prior to the deployment of OC gas or CS gas to control any fires and to assist in providing medical aid or gas evacuation, if needed. When applicable, fire and emergency medical services personnel should be informed of any needed decontamination efforts.

303.7 OLEORESIN CAPSICUM (OC) GUIDELINES

As with other control devices, OC spray may be considered for use to bring under control an individual or group of individuals who are engaging in, or are about to engage in, violent behavior. An officer may consider OC spray to gain a physical advantage or control over a verbal and/or physically resistive individual. OC spray should not, however, be used against individuals or groups who merely fail to disperse or do not reasonably appear to present a risk to the safety of department members or the public.

Uniformed members carrying OC spray shall carry the device in its holster on the equipment belt. Plainclothes and non-field members may carry OC spray as authorized, in accordance with the needs of their assignments or at the direction of their supervisors.

303.7.1 TREATMENT FOR OC EXPOSURE

Persons who have been sprayed with or otherwise affected by the use of OC should be promptly provided with clean water to cleanse the affected areas. Those who complain of further severe effects shall be examined by appropriate medical personnel.

303.8 POST-APPLICATION NOTICE

Whenever OC/CS gas or OC spray has been introduced into a residence, building interior, vehicle or other enclosed area, the owners or available occupants should be provided with notice of the possible presence of residue which could result in irritation or injury if the area is not properly cleaned. Such notice should include advisement that cleanup will be at the owner's expense.

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Information regarding how and when the notice was delivered and the individuals notified should be included in related reports.

303.9 KINETIC ENERGY PROJECTILE GUIDELINES

This department is committed to reducing the potential for violent confrontations. Kinetic energy projectiles, when used properly, are less likely to result in death or serious physical injury and can be used in an attempt to de-escalate a potentially dangerous situation.

303.9.1 DEPLOYMENT AND USE

Only department-approved kinetic energy munitions shall be carried and deployed. Approved munitions may be used to compel an individual to cease his/her actions when such munitions present a reasonable option.

Officers are not required or compelled to use approved 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 safety of individuals engaged in criminal or suicidal behavior.

Circumstances appropriate for deployment include, but are not limited to, situations in which:

- (a) The suspect is armed with a weapon and the tactical circumstances allow for the safe application of approved munitions.
- (b) The suspect has made credible threats to harm him/herself or others.
- (c) The suspect is engaged in riotous behavior or is throwing rocks, bottles or other dangerous projectiles at officers, other department members and/or other people.
- (d) There is probable cause to believe that the suspect has already committed a crime of violence and is refusing to comply with lawful orders.

Deployment of any kinetic energy munitions requires supervisory approval. Any expended kinetic energy projectile used against an individual shall be collected and submitted into evidence under the associated incident number.

303.9.2 DEPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Before discharging projectiles, the officer should consider such factors as:

- (a) Distance and angle to target.
- (b) Type of munitions employed.
- (c) Type and thickness of subject's clothing.
- (d) The subject's proximity to others.
- (e) The location of the subject.
- (f) Whether the subject's actions dictate the need for an immediate response and the use of control devices appears appropriate.

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A verbal warning of the intended use of the device should precede its application, unless it would otherwise endanger the safety of officers or others or when it is not practicable due to the circumstances. The purpose of the warning is to give the individual a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply and to warn other officers and individuals that the device is being deployed.

Officers should keep in mind the manufacturer's recommendations and their training regarding effective distances and target areas. However, officers are not restricted solely to use according to manufacturer recommendations. Each situation must be evaluated on the totality of circumstances at the time of deployment.

The need to immediately incapacitate the suspect must be weighed against the risk of causing serious injury or death. The head and neck should not be intentionally targeted, except when the officer reasonably believes the suspect poses an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death to the officer or others.

303.9.3 SHOTGUN SAFETY PROCEDURES

Shotguns specifically designated for use with kinetic energy projectiles will be specially marked in a manner that makes them readily identifiable as such.

When they are not deployed, shotguns will be unloaded with the safety on, action open and properly and securely stored in police department vehicles separate from any other shotgun. Shotguns will be stored with six (6) rounds of kinetic energy projectiles in the sidesaddle ammunition carrier. When deploying a kinetic energy projectile shotgun, officers shall visually inspect the kinetic energy projectiles to ensure that conventional ammunition is not being loaded into the shotgun.

Absent compelling circumstances, officers shall employ the two-person rule for loading kinetic energy projectiles. The two-person rule is a safety measure in which a second officer watches the loading process to ensure that the weapon is completely emptied of conventional ammunition.

After deploying, the shotgun must be completely unloaded, and unexpended kinetic energy projectiles returned to the sidesaddle ammunition carrier.

303.10 TRAINING FOR CONTROL DEVICES

The Training Lieutenant or designee shall ensure that those members who are authorized to carry a control device have been properly trained and certified to carry the specific control device and are retrained or recertified as necessary.

- (a) Proficiency training shall be monitored and documented by a certified, control-device weapons or tactics instructor.
- (b) All training and proficiency for control devices will be documented in the member's training file.
- (c) Members who fail to demonstrate proficiency with the control device or knowledge of the Use of Force Policy will be provided remedial training. If a member cannot demonstrate proficiency with a control device or knowledge of the Use of Force Policy

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after remedial training, the member will be restricted from carrying the control device and may be subject to discipline.

303.11 REPORTING USE OF CONTROL DEVICES

Any application of a control device shall be documented in the related incident report and reported on the use of force report form pursuant to the Use of Force Policy.