

12.0 LESS LETHAL WEAPONS

The Less Lethal Shotgun is described as follows:

- Remington 870 12-gauge Police Shotgun
- 20" barrel with rifle sights
- Distinctively marked (Orange Stock & forearm)

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These shotguns are to be carried in specially designated and marked hard cases.

Less Lethal Shotgun Ammunition

12-gauge Stunbag Weapons

- The authorized ammunition is a 12 gauge Stunbag is a less lethal round, containing a drag stabilized "beanbag", round which is designed to be launched from a conventional 12-gauge shotgun. Only distinctively marked Stunbag-Less Lethal shotguns shall be used for the delivery of these rounds (exception-Tactical Team). These shotguns are to be carried in specially designated and marked hard cases.

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Only 12-gauge shotguns with rifle sights will be designated as Stunbag weapons.

- ~~No personally owned shotguns will be used with Less Lethal ammunition.~~

Prior to the beginning of shift, authorized personnel who are taking a Stunbag-Less Lethal shotgun on patrol shall inspect the weapon as they would any other Shotgun for functionality (checking firing pin, chamber, barrel, etc.).

After authorized personnel have inspected the weapon (Stunbag-Less Lethal shotgun), it shall be loaded with "standard" Stunbag department-issued "Drag Stabilized" ammunition only.

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Stunbag-Less Lethal shotguns will be carried with an empty chamber, "cocked" and the safety "on" unless a threat is identified.

Under no circumstances will these weapons be loaded with duty ammunition any other type of ammunition. "Close range" Excess Less Lethal ammunition will be stored in a specially marked container inside the specially marked shotgun case.

The Stunbag-Less Lethal shotgun shall be returned to the station's designated storage location in an unloaded condition. Stunbag-Less Lethal shotguns shall not be left in the trunk of patrol vehicles at the end of shift.

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12.01 ~~STUNBAG~~ LESS LETHAL SHOTGUNS

Only qualified personnel shall use these weapons. Qualified personnel are those sworn officers who have received and successfully passed department training in use of the weapon deployed. In order to remain "authorized" to use these weapons, personnel shall:

- 1) Successfully complete an 8-hour, department-approved, ~~Stunbag~~ Less Lethal weapon course.
- 2) Qualify with ~~standard the~~ Less Lethal shotgun, ~~twice~~ once a year.

If a ~~Stunbag~~ Less Lethal-qualified officer is assigned to patrol or a specialty unit and a ~~Stunbag~~ Less Lethal weapon is available, it shall be deployed in the unit.

Deployment of these weapons shall be at the discretion of the Sergeant or higher authority. Sworn personnel encountering a situation, which may require the use of one of these weapons, when feasible, will immediately notify a Sergeant. These weapons can be deployed before the arrival of the Sergeant if the situation dictates. Less Lethal weapon applications should not be used when the suspect is in danger of falling from a significant height. The Sergeant shall respond to the situation and assess the circumstances. The involved Officer and/or Sergeant shall make all notifications and reports as required.

Safety to the officer and innocent citizens is paramount.

Generally, an individual officer without the cover of another officer and a tactical plan should not use ~~Stunbag~~ Less Lethal weapons. At least one cover officer should be armed with a pistol, CAR-15, or long gun ~~or shotgun~~ with traditional ammunition.

Only departmentally approved issued ammunition will be used.

~~Less lethal ammunition should not be used when the suspect is in danger of falling from a significant height.~~

Each ~~Less-lethal~~ Lethal round will be individually inspected prior to being loaded into the weapon.

Special consideration should be given when information indicates the suspect has pre-existing physical or medical conditions which could *intensify* the effects of the less lethal ammunition.

To prevent "reactionary" weapon's fire, sworn personnel will announce, "Stunbag (common vernacular) to be deployed" prior to the ~~use~~ discharge of a ~~less~~ Less lethal ~~Lethal~~ shotgun ammunition. During stressful incidents, officers will often hear other officers' gunfire and in turn fire their own weapon. All sworn personnel present must be aware of the intent to fire the Less Lethal weapon.

12.02 MEDICAL TREATMENT

Once a Stunbag-Less Lethal shotgun has been fired at/ or a round has struck an individual, he/she will be examined by on-scene paramedics and transported to a hospital for a medical exam.

Each impact area on the suspect's body *will* be photographed to document the existence or lack of visible injury.

12.03 STUNBAG INSPECTION

Prior to a shotgun becoming designated a Stunbag-Less Lethal weapon, a departmental shotgun armorer will inspect each gun for function and safety. No guns will be approved that do not have a muzzle diameter within the range of 0.718--0.740 inch and have not been tested with the use of a chronograph.