



San Diego Community College District Police Department Policy and Procedures

1.19 BEAN BAG IMPACT WEAPONS

EFF. 10/01/19

I. PURPOSE

This Department procedure establishes guidelines for the use of the Bean Bag Impact Weapon (BBIW).

II. SCOPE

This procedure applies to all members of the Department.

III. BACKGROUND

A. The San Diego Community College District Police Department recognizes and respects the value of human life and the dignity of every individual. It further recognizes that the primary duty of our officers is to preserve human life.

B. The officer's use of a BBIW will be evaluated and reviewed in accordance with policies and procedures outlined in Department Procedure 4.01, Use of Force.

IV. DEFINITIONS

A. Bean Bag Impact Weapon (BBIW) – The BBIW consists of a shotgun firing a special projectile that can be fired with the intent of encouraging compliance, overcoming resistance or preventing serious injury without significant potential of causing death. The BBIW less lethal shotgun shall be classified as an “impact weapon” for identification within Department Procedure 4.01, Use of Force.

B. BBIW Shotgun – The BBIW shotgun is a standard Remington Model 870, 12-gauge shotgun that has been modified with an orange stock and fore-end.

C. BBIW Ammunition – The BBIW ammunition, known as a “bean bag round,” is a round that consists of a fabric sock containing lead shot. The current Department authorized BBIW round is the “Combined Tactical Systems” 12 gauge round, shot-filled flexible sock (approximately 40 grams), Product #2581, white colored shell, 280 to 300 fps terminal velocity, optimal range 5 to 20 yards. Beanbag rounds are

classified as “destructive devices,” and as such, may not be purchased or possessed by anyone other than law enforcement officers.

- D. Deployment – Removing the BBIW shotgun from the vehicle.
- E. Discharge – The actual firing of the weapon.
- F. Contact Officer – The primary officer who is in charge of the incident, usually the first to arrive at the scene and calls for the deployment of the BBIW.
- G. Cover Officer – the officer(s) who provides “lethal force” backup.
- H. Less Lethal Officer – Responsible for the deployment of the less lethal munitions.
- I. Coordinating Officer – The officer responsible for directing the actions of additional officers at the scene.

V FIRING DISTANCES

- A. All distances for BBIW systems shall be measured from the muzzle end of the weapon’s barrel.
- B. Officers generally should not fire either BBIW from a distance of less than ten feet. Shot placement, rather than deployment range, is the critical factor in determining the extent of any injury caused by either projectile.
- C. The target area from all distances should be the lower girdle area of the subject. This would include the lower abdominal region (belly button area) and below. Generally, the head, neck, thorax, heart, and spine area should not be targeted.

VI PROCEDURES

- A. Authorized Users
 - 1. Officers shall not deploy a BBIW until they have successfully completed the required Department-approved training.
 - 2. After the initial training, officers will be required to qualify annually with the BBIW systems in conjunction with a Department Proficiency Shoot.
- B. BBIW Storage
 - 1. BBIW shotguns shall be carried in assigned marked police vehicles properly

secured in a shotgun rack inside the vehicle's trunk.

2. Officers will generally not carry the BBIW shotgun in the vehicle interior.
3. BBIW shotguns shall be carried with four rounds in the magazine tube, no round in the chamber, slide closed, and safety "OFF." This condition is known as "Patrol Ready."
4. All officers deploying the BBIW are responsible for ensuring that nothing other than BBIW ammunition is loaded into, or stored with the designated weapons.
5. Officers are prohibited from "loading" the BBIW shotgun with rounds other than the specified BBIW ammunition.

C. BBIW Loading and Unloading

1. To reduce the danger of injury associated with unintentional discharge, the beanbag shotgun shall never be loaded or unloaded inside a vehicle, in a police station, or close to multi-storied buildings unless using a shotgun containment canister.
 - a. At the beginning of the shift, the driver of the unit shall load the beanbag shotgun in the proper manner.
 - b. Upon conclusion of the incident in which a beanbag shotgun round has been chambered, the officer who chambered the round shall unload and reload the beanbag shotgun in the currently prescribed manner making it patrol ready.
 - c. At the end of the shift, the driver of the unit shall unload the beanbag shotgun in the currently prescribed manner.

D. BBIW Cleaning, Maintenance and Repairs

1. Firearms personnel will be assigned to conduct a quarterly maintenance check of the BBIW shotguns during the quarterly qualifications. The maintenance check shall include removal, cleaning and inspection of the BBIW shotguns.
2. Any BBIW shotgun requiring repair shall be taken to qualified firearms armorer for proper maintenance and repair.

E. BBIW Deployment Procedures

1. Officers may discharge a BBIW to overcome active resistance, within the force

guidelines of Department Procedure 4.01, Use of Force. Specialty munitions may be used in situations that include, but are not limited to:

- a. A violent subject who is armed with a non-traditional weapon, such as a baseball bat, crow bar, shovel, or any other object capable of inflicting injury;
 - b. A subject who is armed with an edged weapon;
 - c. A suicidal person armed with a dangerous weapon, or who is attempting to force officers into shooting him/her in order to accomplish the suicide; and,
 - d. An active or passive resistive subject reasonably believed to possess or have immediate access to a deadly weapon.
2. The option to deploy the BBIW shall be at the discretion of the contact officer, based on their understanding of the situation.
 3. Generally, only one BBIW shotgun is to be deployed at an incident.
 4. Officers shall always have immediate “lethal force” backup when deploying the BBIW.
 5. To prevent “contagious” or “sympathetic” fire, the contact officer shall inform assisting officers that the BBIW is being deployed.
 6. An officer deploying the BBIW shall, whenever possible, notify the Dispatch Center of the deployment. Dispatch shall repeat this information to responding units; indicate an emergency in progress and limit the radio communications from other officers when appropriate.
 7. The contact officer, whenever possible, shall designate the cover officers. The contact officer, whenever possible, shall identify themselves and order the subject to comply with instructions.
 8. Whenever possible, the cover officer or coordinating officer shall inform the Dispatch Center of the intent to discharge the munitions. Dispatch shall repeat this information to prevent the possibility of “contagious” or “sympathetic” fire by other officers.
 9. Due to the possibility of serious injury or death, the BBIW should not be fired from a distance of less than fifteen (15) feet unless lethal force is authorized.
 10. At distances of 15 feet or more, the target area should be the lower center mass

(lower abdomen) of the subject's body. The head, neck and throat areas should not be targeted unless lethal force is justified.

11. Officers should not discharge a BBIW at a subject when there is a danger of the subject falling from a building or similar structure that would likely cause great bodily injury or death.
12. The contact officer shall, whenever possible, not be involved in the physical apprehension of the subject.
13. The BBIW is intended to temporarily incapacitate the subject. The subject should be taken into custody as soon as possible after the discharge of the round(s).
14. The BBIW is a limited use weapon. It shall not be used for breaching doors, euthanizing animals, to fire warning shots, or for shooting at or from moving vehicles.

F. Medical Treatment

1. In the event a person is struck by a BBIW, the arresting officer shall ensure that paramedics are called to examine and treat the subject or that the subject is taken to a medical facility for treatment prior to being booked into jail or released.
2. Jail personnel will be notified of the use of the BBIW and the information will also be noted on the booking slip.

G. Reporting Requirements

Whenever specialty munitions are deployed, appropriate documentation shall be completed.

1. The discharge of a BBIW shall be considered the same as any authorized impact weapon when reporting the use of force. The BBIW shall not be reported as the use of a firearm. Officers discharging BBIW ammunition shall report the incident to dispatch who, in turn, will immediately notify an on duty supervisor who will respond to the scene and initiate an investigation in accordance with Department Procedure 4.01, Use of Force and 4.02, Firearms Procedures.
2. In all incidents where a BBIW has been discharged, the officer who discharged the weapon will comply with the reporting requirements of Department

Procedure 4.01.

3. A copy of all reports involving the discharge of the BBIW shall be sent to the Firearms Coordinator / Firearms Training Unit (FTU) Sergeant for review.
4. Officers who misplace or lose any of the BBIW ammunition shall prepare an ARJIS-9 describing the loss. The loss report shall be submitted to their immediate supervisor who, in turn, will forward the report to the FTU Sergeant. The FTU Sergeant will be responsible for replacing the missing rounds.

H. BBIW Qualification Requirements

An annual BBIW qualification shoot shall be administered during one of the three Department shoots. Only sworn officers who have been trained to use the BBIW will participate in this type of the qualification shoot.

I. Accountability

The Firearms Coordinator (Lieutenant) and/or the FTU Sergeant have overall responsibility for ensuring compliance with all training and inspection requirements.

J. Vehicle Maintenance

During routine vehicle maintenance at the District Service Center, the BBIW will remain secured in the shotgun rack of the vehicle. Any time the vehicle is sent to an outside source for repair, i.e. a dealer or other repair facility, the BBIW will be removed by a member of the FTU and stored at the armory or a secure area at any police sub-station.