

COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Policy and Procedure Manual

CONTROL DEVICES AND TECHNIQUES

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CALEA 6th Edition Standard: 4.1.1; 4.1.4; 4.1.5; 4.2.1; 4.3.1; 4.3.2; 4.3.3; 4.3.4; 17.5.2

308 CONTROL DEVICES AND TECHNIQUES

308.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy describes the control devices authorized for use by this department and provides guidelines for their use, maintenance, training and reporting of use..

308.2 POLICY

In order to control subjects who are violent or who demonstrate the intent to be violent, the Columbia Police Department authorizes employees to use those control devices listed in this policy in the performance of their respective responsibilities both on and off-duty. Control devices shall be used in accordance with the guidelines in this policy and the Use of Force/Response to Resistance policy which requires that personnel will only use reasonable force to accomplish lawful objectives.

308.3 AUTHORIZATION, ISSUANCE AND CARRYING CONTROL DEVICES

Only control devices issued by the Department or approved by the Chief of Police or designee are authorized for use by members of this department in the performance of their responsibilities

Only employees who have successfully completed department-approved training and demonstrated proficiency in the use of specific weapons and control devices, and have received and reviewed all policies related to use of force and response to resistance are authorized to carry and use the device/weapon in performance of their responsibilities. Receipt of policy will be documented in PowerDMS. Associated training and proficiency will be documented and maintained by TRU.

308.4 APPROVED CONTROL DEVICES

- Collapsible Baton and holster
- Oleoresin Capsicum spray
- Tear Gas (S.W.A.T.)
- Kinetic energy projectile
- Conducted electrical weapon (CEW) – covered in policy 309

308.5 USER RESPONSIBILITIES

Employees issued equipment (uniforms, weapons, control devices, restraints, radios etc...) for the performance of their duties shall keep the equipment in a state of operational readiness. All normal maintenance, charging or cleaning shall remain the responsibility of personnel issued and using the various equipment.

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Any employee who finds an issued control device in an unsafe condition or in need of repair outside of normal maintenance should notify their supervisor or an on duty supervisor, as soon as practical, to arrange repair or replacement as needed.

308.6 BATON GUIDELINES

The need to immediately control a suspect must be weighed against the risk of causing injury. The head, neck, throat, spine, heart, kidneys, joints 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 the officer or others.

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

The baton shall only be used in accordance with this directive and the department's Use of Force/Response to Resistance policy.

Appropriate medical aid shall be provided for subjects exposed to baton strikes.

308.7 TEAR GAS GUIDELINES

Tear gas may be used for crowd control, crowd dispersal or against barricaded suspects based on the circumstances. Tear gas shall only be used in accordance with established SWAT procedures, the department's response to resistance policy and by such members who have successfully completed department approved training for its use. When practicable, fire personnel should be alerted or summoned to the scene prior to the deployment of tear gas to control any fires and to assist in providing medical aid or gas evacuation if needed.

308.8 OLEORESIN CAPSICUM (OC) GUIDELINES

308.8.1 OC SPRAY

Uniformed personnel carrying OC spray shall carry the device in its holster on the equipment belt or on the external vest carrier. Plainclothes and non-field personnel may carry OC spray as authorized, in accordance with the needs of their assignment or at the direction of their supervisor.

OC spray shall only be used in accordance with this directive and the department's Use of Force/Response to Resistance policy.

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308.8.2 TREATMENT FOR OC SPRAY EXPOSURE

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

308.9 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 deadly situation.

Kinetic energy projectiles shall only be used in accordance with this directive and the department's Use of Force/Response to Resistance policy.

Appropriate medical aid shall be provided for subjects exposed to a kinetic energy projectile.

308.9.1 DEPLOYMENT

Only department-approved kinetic energy munitions shall be carried and deployed.

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 subjects 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 people and/or officers.
- 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.

308.9.2 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.

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- f. Whether the subject's actions dictate the need for an immediate response and the use of control devices appears appropriate.

A verbal warning of the intended use of the device should precede its application, unless it would otherwise endanger the safety of officers 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 deployment 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 subject 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.

308.9.3 SAFETY PROCEDURES

Shotguns designated for the use of kinetic energy projectiles will be specially marked as such.

Officers carrying these shotguns will inspect the shotgun at the beginning of each shift to ensure that it is in proper working order and loaded only with approved projectiles.

308.10 TRAINING FOR CONTROL DEVICES

At least annually, all agency personnel authorized to carry lethal and less lethal weapons are required to receive in-service training on the agency's use of force policies and demonstrate proficiency with all approved lethal weapons and electronic controlled weapons for which they are authorized to use.

In-service training for other less lethal weapons, control devices and weaponless control techniques shall occur at least biennially.

The training is to be monitored by a certified weapons and tactics instructor. All employees who fail to qualify or meet minimum standards will be required to complete remedial training as designated by the Training and Recruitment Unit before resuming official duties.

Instruction should include confirmation of employee understanding of legal implications and requirements regarding use of force, weapons specific operating and care procedures, documentation and reporting procedures, obligations following the use of force, as well as instruction regarding the appropriate use of de-escalation techniques.

All training will be documented by the Training and Recruitment Unit.

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308.11 REPORTING USE OF CONTROL DEVICES AND TECHNIQUES

Any application of a control device or technique listed in this policy shall be documented pursuant to policy 300 Use of Force/Response to Resistance.