

SOUTH BURLINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
PR-302 Use of Force – Appendix G: Less Lethal Impact Munitions

Effective: 10/1/2021

Updated: 9/15/2021

1. DEFINITIONS

- A. **LLIMS (Less Lethal Impact Munitions):** Extended range munitions including pepper ball launchers and munitions that are specifically designed to be projected from a 12-gauge shotgun, 40-millimeter launcher, or thrown by hand. They are distinctly marked to effectively differentiate them from standard-issue weapons. LLIMs are designed to achieve immobilization of a suspect with a lower risk of serious bodily injury or death than typically found with lethal force options.

- B. **Grenadier:** An officer trained and certified in the use of LLIMs. Any trained officer armed and ready to use LLIMs during a field deployment is also referred to as a grenadier. The purpose of this reference is to provide a separation between LLIMs-armed officers and those armed with conventional weapons and to provide clarity when giving orders. Only officers trained by certified instructors as grenadiers are authorized to carry and utilize LLIMs.

2. PROCEDURE

- A. **Less Lethal Impact Munitions:** LLIMs are designed to function as extended range impact weapons and their use is justified whenever use of an impact technique is appropriate. The intended role of less lethal munitions is to immobilize resistant persons at safe distances to prevent injury to officers or the public.
 - i. LLIMs may be used to prevent the escape of suspects under appropriate circumstances. In these cases, the severity of the threat posed by the continued freedom of the suspect must be carefully weighed.
 - ii. LLIMs are also effective in crowd control and riot situations. When their use is anticipated in this capacity, the Grenadier will obtain clearance from the Officer in Charge prior to deploying one or more LLIMs. No use of force action, including LLIMs, shall be used during peaceful protests and demonstrations.
 - iii. The decision to use LLIMs should never be done at the risk of officers' safety or that of the public. Officers should not assume unreasonable risks in deploying LLIMs against a suspect threatening to use deadly force.
 - iv. In the event that a suspect is threatening to use deadly force and LLIMs offer an opportunity to resolve the incident without use of deadly force, LLIMs may be deployed if:
 - 1. The scene is contained and there are not active attempts of serious bodily injury; and

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2. There is adequate staff on scene to supplement the use of LLIMs with deadly force options should LLIMs fail to control the suspect and result in further deterioration of the incident.

- v. LLIMs may be used against wild and domestic animals to drive them away or to deter an attack. Where an animal poses a threat of bodily injury or must be euthanized, conventional firearms should be used.

- vi. LLIMs will be stored in supervisor vehicles for access by grenadiers. Grenadiers should be identified to the communications center or noted in CAD/RMS systems.

- vii. LLIMs will only be deployed and used by officers trained and certified in their use. These officers will be referred to as “Grenadiers,” a term intended to differentiate them from non-authorized officers who may be present at the scene of an incident or on duty.

- viii. Grenadiers are responsible for maintaining an understanding of the proper application of munitions and considerations for selecting shot placement such as level of threat and target distance, size and clothing. Prior to firing one or more LLIMs, the Grenadier will first receive authorization from the Officer in Charge unless the situation evolves so quickly that prior authorization is not practical. When lethal force is justified, or when a situation escalates to that point, no authorization is necessary.

- ix. Grenadiers shall ensure that all LLIMs brought into the field for are not expired and that if deployment methodologies or guidelines are listed on the munitions, those guidelines display ONLY the current Department practice. Any munitions that are “expired”/out of warranty or those that display non-current deployment guidelines should be removed from service immediately.

- x. If LLIMs are deployed, an effort should be made to recover any deployed canisters or containers post-deployment (to the extent it can be done safely) so that they may be tagged as evidence. Grenadiers shall also document their LLIMs deployment in accordance with current force reporting guidelines.