



# Edina Police Operations Manual

Policy Number  
510.00

Subject:

## USE OF NON-LETHAL FORCE

Effective Date  
06/01/1993

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### PURPOSE:

To establish guidelines for department members to follow when in situations justifying the use of non-lethal force.

#### 510.01

### GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Whenever a department member finds it necessary to use force to accomplish a lawful police objective, it shall be the responsibility of that member to exhaust other justifiable means of employing force before escalating to a more forceful level.

Nothing in this policy should be interpreted as to mean that a department member must begin at the low end of the force continuum if this would mean that the member would be required to engage in prolonged struggles that expose the member or others to significant threat of injury.

#### 510.02

### USE OF CHEMICAL IRRITANT

#### Subd. 1 Authorized Use

- a) Department members may use department issued chemical irritants (CS or OC gas) as an alternative to physical force, provided that such use conforms with the Use of Force Section 500.00 of this manual.
- b) Chemical irritants may only be used by department members who have received instructions and training in its use.

#### Subd. 2 Unauthorized Use

Chemical irritants shall not be used in the following circumstances:

- a) In a punitive manner or on a subject that is effectively restrained posing no additional threat to officers.
- b) In situations where such use could be expected to unreasonably affect innocent bystanders.

#### Subd. 3 Procedure For Use

- a) When the use of chemical irritants is necessary, to achieve maximum effectiveness, the department member should project short, one to two second bursts from a range of up to twelve feet.

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- b) Department members are reminded to use caution in situations where chemical irritants are used. In some cases, it will not stop an aggressor. Disabled, intoxicated, enraged, or mentally ill persons may have reduced sensitivity to such irritants and may react negatively.

**Subd. 4 First Aid**

Department members must render appropriate first aid to all persons exposed to chemical irritants as soon as the situation is controlled and is practical.

First aid may include:

- a) Removing contact lenses and/or contaminated clothing.
- b) Exposing the person to fresh air (OC gas).
- c) Flushing contaminated area with large amounts of cold water (CS).
- d) No salves, creams, oils, or lotions should be applied to exposed areas.

**Subd. 5 Reports**

In cases where chemical irritants are used, the Department member shall verbally report the incident to the on-duty supervisor as soon as possible and complete a written report, which documents:

- a) The justification for its use.
- b) The necessary first aid rendered.
- c) The approximate time that the irritant was applied.
- d) The approximate time first aid was rendered.
- e) Any claims of injury.

**Subd. 6 Damage To Container**

If the chemical irritant container becomes damaged, malfunctions, or if the supply is depleted, the container should be turned in and a new container will be issued. If a department member loses a container of chemical irritant, an informational report should be written describing the details of the loss.

**Subject:****USE OF NON-LETHAL FORCE****Page 3 of 7****510.03      THE USE OF THE POLICE BATON****Subd. 1      Authorized Use**

The baton may be used by an officer:

- a) In self-defense, or in defense of a third party.
- b) To subdue a violently resisting subject.
- c) As a temporary restraining device.
- d) When other methods are not practical and circumstances warrant use of the baton.

**Subd. 2      Target Areas**

Strikes with the baton shall be delivered to primary target areas which have a lower probability of causing damage. These areas include large muscle mass area such as legs, abdomen and arms. Strikes should not be deliberately delivered to joint areas as those areas have a higher probability for injury. Do not intentionally deliver strikes to the face, head or neck as strikes to those areas have a higher likelihood to cause injury or death.

**510.04      FLASHLIGHTS AUTHORIZED AS A WEAPON**

The flashlight may be used as a defensive weapon to ward off blows or kicks. In exceptional circumstances, the flashlight may be used as an offensive weapon also. If it is used in this manner, all rules applying to the proper use of the baton should be adhered to.

**510.05      PROHIBITED WEAPONS**

Weapons such as blackjacks, saps, sap gloves, brass knuckles or other unauthorized items shall not be carried or used by department members, either on or off duty. While on duty, only equipment that has been approved or issued by the department is authorized.

**510.06      EXCEPTIONS**

The chief of police may authorize the use of certain equipment deemed to be outside the scope of this policy. Such authorization will be specific and judged on a case-by-case basis, considering the assignment and personnel involved.

**Subject:****USE OF NON-LETHAL FORCE****Page 4 of 7****510.07      CONDUCTED ELECTRICAL WEAPON (TASER)****Subd. 1      Authorized Use**

- a) Department members may use a Conducted Electrical Weapon (CEW) as an alternative to physical force, provided that such use conforms with the Use of Force Section 500.00 of this manual.
- b) The authorized CEW of the Edina Police Department is the Taser X2 or X26.
- c) Tasers may only be used by Department members who have been trained and certified in its use.

**Subd. 2      Unauthorized Use**

Tasers shall not be used in the following situations:

- a) If the subject is obviously or known to be pregnant.
- b) If the subject is at the extremes of age, unless their actions demonstrate that a substantial physical struggle is likely to result in injury to the subject, officer, or others.
- c) If the subject is near a drop-off, ledge, roof, stair, precipice, swimming pool, or significant body of water where, if the subject were to fall after Tasing, there would be a substantial likelihood of great bodily harm or death, unless the provisions for use of deadly force exist.
- d) In a punitive manner, or on a subject who is effectively restrained posing no additional threat to officers.
- e) In the presence of flammable liquids or fumes.

**Subd. 3      Procedures For Use**

- a) When the department member is confronted with a situation in which a Taser may be required to control a violent, resisting, combative and/or armed subject(s), the member should request backup and a supervisor as soon as it is feasible to aid in dealing with the subject(s), any medical needs, bystanders/witnesses, and scene management.
- b) Announce the presence of, and intended use of, the Taser to other officers present. Announce the intended use of the Taser to the subject, if tactically warranted. Aim for the center of mass of the subject or on an area of tight fitting clothing. Align the high visibility sights on the target area and press trigger switch to deploy the probes.

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- c) After the subject becomes incapacitated, backup officers should approach and restrain the subject with handcuffs (and hobble restraint, if necessary). If the subject is not incapacitated after the initial shock, additional shocks should be delivered as required to bring the subject under control.
- d) The probes should be removed as soon as the subject is under control and cooperative.
- e) If one probe makes contact with the subject but the other probe misses, you may follow up by deploying a second set of probes or using a technique called a drive stun (with cartridge still in place).
- f) If both probes miss, or if you are attacked from behind, or if there are multiple subjects, the Taser may be used as a stun gun (with the air cartridge removed or still in place within the taser) using a technique called a drive stun.
- g) After tasing or stunning and the situation is controlled, the subject should be examined for any injuries. The proper first aid and/or treatment should be rendered by an officer, paramedic, or emergency room as necessary.

**Subd. 4 Reports**

The department member who uses the Taser shall complete a report detailing the circumstances of the incident including, the justification for its use, any injuries or claims of injuries, any first aid, and the number and duration of the discharges administered to the subject. The report shall document which Taser unit was deployed. A copy of the report shall be forwarded to the training officer. The Taser unit should be downloaded as soon as possible, which can be done by any officer who has been trained. All Taser units should be examined periodically to verify operational readiness which will be coordinated by the training officer.

**Subd. 5 Deployed Taser Procedures**

- a) Following the use of the Taser, the department member shall remove the cartridge(s), including the wires and probes. Expended cartridges, including the wires and probes should be disposed of in accordance with routine handling procedures regarding sharps and biohazards.
- b) The department member shall replace the used cartridge(s) and place the unit back into service.

**Subject:****USE OF NON-LETHAL FORCE****Page 6 of 7****510.08      LESS THAN LETHAL MUNITIONS****Subd. 1      Authorized Use**

- a) Department members may use less than lethal munitions as an alternative to physical force, provided that such use conforms with the Use of Force Section 500.00 of this manual.
- b) The authorized less than lethal/specialty impact firearm of the Edina Police Department is the 40mm LMT Less Lethal Launcher and the PepperBall Launcher.
- c) The authorized less lethal munitions for the Edina Police Department are the 40mm eXact iMPact Sponge Round and 40mm eXact iMPact Extended Range Sponge Round for the 40mm LMT and PepperBall branded projectiles for the PepperBall Launcher.
- d) Less than lethal/specialty impact firearms may only be used by department members who are trained in its use.

**Subd. 2      Procedures For Use of the 40mm LMT**

- a) Target areas are legs, thighs, or buttocks. The groin should not be intentionally targeted. The abdomen may be targeted, if necessary, to prevent an imminent attack by the subject.
- b) All other target areas have a higher propensity for serious injury or death to the subject and should only be targeted where deadly force is authorized pursuant to statute 609.066.
- c) The minimum standoff distance for the 40mm eXact iMPact Sponge Round munitions is 5 feet. The maximum effective range is 120 feet. Target size and clothing may decrease the maximum effective range. Officers should be extremely cautious deploying this munition at a distance of less than 5 feet as it has a higher potential for injury.
- d) The minimum standoff distance for the 40mm eXact iMPact Extended Sponge Round is 33 feet. The maximum effective range is 230 feet. Target size and clothing may decrease the maximum effective range. Officers should be extremely cautious deploying these munitions at a distance of less than 33 feet as it has a higher potential for injury.

**Subject:****USE OF NON-LETHAL FORCE****Page 7 of 7****Subd. 3 Procedures For Use Of the PepperBall Launcher**

- a) The PepperBall Launcher may be used in situations where the level of force reaches, at minimum, the authorized use of chemical irritant as outlined in section 500.04 of the department policy under the category of Force Progression.
- b) Target areas include chest, abdomen, arms, buttocks, thighs and legs.
- c) The neck, head, face and spine should not be target areas as there is a high potential for injury. These areas should only be considered where deadly force is authorized pursuant to statute [609.066](#).

**Subd. 5 First Aid**

After the situation is controlled, the subject(s) shall be examined for any injuries. Subjects who are struck by a 40mm eXact iMpact Extended Range Sponge Round or a 40mm eXact iMpact Sponge Round must be transported to a medical facility for examination. If a subject is struck with a PepperBall projectile, follow procedure in section 510.02 Subd. 4 of this policy and consider calling paramedics if the level of injury is obvious that immediate medical attention is necessary. The Chief of Police should be immediately notified in any case involving death or serious injury.

**Subd. 4 Reports**

The department member who discharges less than lethal munitions to subdue a subject should complete a report detailing the circumstances of the incident including the justification for its use, any injuries or claims of injuries, any first aid, and the number less than lethal munitions administered to the subject.