



**ROCKFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT
GENERAL ORDER
- NUMBER 1.10 -**

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ORDER TITLE LESS LETHAL WEAPONS	SERIES NO. 1	SERIES TITLE / SUBJECT LAW ENFORCEMENT ROLE, RESPONSIBILITIES AND RELATIONSHIP	
TOPICS / REFERENCE ASP, Baton, Beanbag Shotgun Training, ERIW, O.C. (Pepper Spray) Taser, Use of Force		APPENDICES A	
EFFECTIVE / ORIGINAL ISSUE DATE January 17, 2007	REISSUE / EFFECTIVE DATE July 18, 2010	EXPIRATION DATE This order remains in effect until revised or rescinded	
CALEA (5 th Edition Standards) 1.3.4 • 1.3.5 • 1.3.6 • 1.3.9 • 1.3.10 • 1.3.11 • 1.3.12			

POLICY

It is the policy of the Rockford Police Department to authorize officers to carry and use Department approved less-lethal weapons in the performance of their duties.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to establish Department policy, procedures and guidelines regarding Department approved less-lethal weapons issued to Rockford Police Department officers.

These guidelines are not meant to be all-inclusive, since each incident must be dealt with on an individual basis, but are intended as broad guidelines to assist the employees and supervisors involved.

This General Order is comprised of the following numbered sections.

- I. DEFINITIONS**
- II. DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZED LESS-LETHAL WEAPONS**
- III. RESPONSIBILITIES**
- IV. LESS-LETHAL WEAPON TRAINING AND PROFICIENCY TESTING**
- V. REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF UNSAFE AND UNSERVICEABLE WEAPONS**
- VI. LESS-LETHAL WEAPON SPECIFICATIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR USE**
- VII. EFFECTIVE DATE**
- VIII. REVIEWS, REVISIONS AND CANCELLATIONS**

APPENDICES

- A. Extended Range Impact Weapons (ERIW)**

I. DEFINITIONS

- A. **Cover Officer:** An officer armed with a conventional firearm that is ready and able to deliver deadly force to a subject if necessary.
- B. **Deadly Force:** That force which can reasonably be expected to cause death or great bodily harm.
- C. **In-service training:** Training provided to an employee after any initial, probationary or new-hire training (i.e., recruit / police academy training, new employee orientation) required before full employment status. In-service training may include, but is not limited to; periodic retraining or refresher training, roll-call training, specialized training, advanced training, promotional training and career development courses.
- D. **Less-lethal Force:** The use of force, which encourages compliance and overcomes resistance without deploying deadly force techniques or weapons. The potential for death or serious physical injury to the subject is thus reduced.
- E. **Subject:** The person who is the focus and intended recipient of the less-lethal weapon.

II. DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZED LESS-LETHAL WEAPONS

- A. Officers may only use less-lethal weapons authorized by the Department.
- B. The Rockford Police Department authorizes the use of the following less-lethal weapons:
 - 1. **Batons (hand held impact weapons)** - 21” or 26” expandable metal baton (ASP) and 24” wooden baton
 - 2. **O.C. / pepper spray** - Oleoresin capsicum aerosol
 - 3. **Electronic Control Weapon** - Taser[®]
 - 4. **Extended Range Impact Weapons and Projectiles:**
 - 1. Drag Stabilized Round (Bean Bag) fired from a Remington 870 12-gauge shotgun - *identified by an orange stock*
 - 2. SAGE SL-6 - Used to launch less-lethal baton projectiles

III. RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. The Training and Personnel Unit / Armament Section will review, inspect and approve all less-lethal weapons prior to the weapon being issued to an officer. Expandable metal batons will be re-inspected by a certified weapons instructor during in-service training.
- B. The Training and Personnel Unit is responsible for issuing O.C. / pepper spray and ensuring the Department has extra replacement items when needed. The Training and Personnel Unit is responsible for maintaining records applicable to O.C. / pepper spray.
- C. The Fiscal Services Section is responsible for issuing batons and ensuring the Department has extra / replacements batons for officers when needed. The Fiscal Services Section is responsible for maintaining records applicable to batons.

- D. The Support Services Unit is responsible for ensuring Tasers[®] are available for issue to officers.
- E. The Training and Personnel Unit / Armament Section is responsible for maintaining records applicable to Tasers[®].
- F. The Training and Personnel Unit / Armament Section is responsible for maintaining records on the Department's Extended Range Impact Weapons and Projectiles and for ensuring they are safely and properly stored.

IV. LESS-LETHAL WEAPON TRAINING AND PROFICIENCY TESTING

- A. All sworn personnel must receive Department approved training on the proper use and safe handling of any less-lethal weapon, and demonstrate proficiency with that weapon, before they are authorized to carry and use the weapon in the performance of their duties. Initial training will include providing each officer with a copy of the Department's policies regarding use of force and less-lethal weapons (General Orders *1.09 – Use of Force* and *1.10 – Less-Lethal Weapons*).
- B. All less-lethal weapons training and proficiency testing will be conducted by a certified weapons instructor.
- C. All less-lethal weapon training and proficiency testing will be documented. Records of the training and testing will be kept by the Training and Personnel Unit supervisor.
- D. All less-lethal weapon courses will include instruction on the Department's policies regarding use of force.
- E. All sworn personnel will receive periodic in-service / refresher training on the proper use of less-lethal weapons and must demonstrate proficiency in order to continue carrying and use the weapon in the performance of their duties.
 - 1. Taser[®] training and proficiency testing will occur annually.
 - 2. Training and proficiency testing on other Department authorized less-lethal weapons (e.g., pepper spray, batons) will occur, at least, biennially.
- F. Officers failing to attend mandatory training or unable to demonstrate proficiency with any less-lethal weapon shall be prohibited from using or carrying the weapon until they attend the appropriate in-service training and/or demonstrate proficiency.
- G. Officers who initially fail proficiency testing with a less-lethal weapon will be given additional opportunities, at the discretion of and with the advice and counsel of the instructor, until they demonstrate proficiency or be assigned to the Training Unit and given remedial training per General Order *20.01 – Training*.

V. REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF UNSAFE AND UNSERVICEABLE WEAPONS

- A. Each officer is responsible for immediately removing any weapon from service when they believe it has become unsafe, damaged, or otherwise unserviceable.
- B. Officers with an unserviceable baton may obtain a temporary replacement from the Patrol Shift Commander. The unserviceable baton along with a completed Clothing / Equipment Requisition form must be brought to or forwarded to the Fiscal Services Section for a permanent replacement.

- C. Officers in need of a replacement O.C. / pepper spray canister may exchange their empty or expired canister for a replacement at the Patrol Shift Commanders' office or the Training and Personnel Unit.
- D. Officers and supervisors encountering an unsafe / malfunctioning Taser[®] must follow the procedures outlined below:
 - 1. Officers must immediately report the malfunction to a supervisor.
 - 2. The supervisor will remove the Taser[®] from service and will complete a faulty equipment notice. The proper indication will also be made in the equipment room Traq system.
 - 3. The supervisor will complete a faulty equipment notice and will forward the notice and the Taser[®] to the Support Services sergeant.
 - 4. The Support Services sergeant will then make arrangements to return the Taser[®] to the manufacturer for repair.
 - 5. The officer who experienced the malfunction will document the incident in an Officers Report.
 - 6. Upon return of the Taser[®] it will be tested by the Training Unit or by a certified Taser[®] instructor prior to it being returned to service.
- E. Officers who believe an Extended Range Impact Weapon (Bean bag shotgun / SAGE) is unsafe or otherwise unserviceable must, complete an Officer's Report documenting the situation and forward the report and unserviceable weapon to the Training and Personnel Unit / Armament Section. No firearm will be returned to service until a Department Armorer has inspected the firearm and determined the firearm to be safe and fully functional.

VI. LESS-LETHAL WEAPON SPECIFICATIONS AND PROCEDURES FOR USE

- A. Batons (hand held impact weapons)
 - 1. The expandable baton is a 21" or 26" metal baton that is carried on the duty belt or trousers belt in a collapsed condition. It is expanded by a flick of the wrist, which causes the baton to extend to an open and locked position.
 - 2. The wooden baton is a 24" baton with a ringed grip.
 - 3. Use of the baton falls under the active resister level in the use of force continuum. Officers are allowed to use the baton when they reasonably believe that its use is necessary to effect an arrest or defend themselves or others from bodily harm.
 - 4. Proper documentation will be provided as part of the police report. When the baton is used, officers will use the Force Code drop down box in the RMS reporting system and make the appropriate selection.
- B. O.C. / Pepper Spray (Oleoresin Capsicum)
 - 1. Oleoresin Capsicum is a naturally occurring substance found in the cayenne pepper. O.C. works on the principle of being an inflammatory agent. It irritates and inflames the mucous membranes.

2. The use of O.C. generally falls under the active resister level in the use of force continuum. See General Order *1.09 Use of Force* for information on the use of force continuum. Officers are allowed to use O.C. when they reasonably believe that its use is necessary to effect an arrest or defend themselves or others from bodily harm.
3. Officers are allowed to use O.C. to subdue or repel any dangerous animal when they reasonably believe that the animal poses a danger to themselves or others.
4. Whenever O.C. is used the subject shall be exposed to fresh air and permitted to rinse off with cool water, as soon as is practicable. Washing the exposed skin area thoroughly with soap and water will reduce its effects. When an officer has reason to believe that primary symptoms have persisted beyond 45 minutes, or there is a need for other emergency medical attention, the subject shall be transported to an emergency medical facility for treatment.
5. Proper documentation will be provided as part of the police report. When O.C. is used, officers will use the Force Code drop down box in the RMS reporting system and make the appropriate selection.
6. The O.C. used by the Rockford Police Department is non-flammable and is compatible for use with the Taser. Officers should be aware, however, that other agencies may use alcohol based O.C. that is flammable and should not be used with a Taser.

C. Electronic Control Weapon (TASER®)

1. The Taser is a less-lethal Conducted Energy Weapon. It uses compressed nitrogen to propel two probes attached to small wires. Electrical waves are sent to the probes controlling and overriding the central nervous system of the body. The subject should normally be incapacitated enough for officers to apply restraints. The Taser can also act as a ‘touch stun’ system when brought into immediate contact with a person’s body using the metal contacts on the front of the Taser. This is often referred to as a “Drive Stun”.
2. Use of the Taser falls under the active resister level in the use of force continuum. See General Order *1.09 Use of Force* for additional information. Officers are allowed to use the Taser when they reasonably believe that its use is necessary to effect an arrest or defend themselves or others from bodily harm.
3. The Taser is authorized for use under circumstances that would otherwise warrant the destruction of an animal, when capture is not possible, and there is a demonstrated danger to the public or the officer.
4. The Taser will not be used when it is known, by officers, the subject or subjects environment is exposed to any flammable liquid or flammable fumes, including Meth labs or when flammable O.C. has been used.
5. The Taser will not be used on females known by officers to be pregnant or on elderly persons unless all other means short of lethal force have been used or considered.

6. Subjects can receive secondary injuries from falling after being subjected to the Taser. Therefore the Taser will not be used on subjects if their fall would likely result in death or serious injury. An example would be a subject on the roof of a building or on a bridge railing.
7. Desired target area is center mass of chest or back. **Both** probes of the Taser must hit the subject for the Taser to be effective. The Taser will not work when only one probe hits.
8. When a Taser is being deployed the officer shall make a reasonable effort to notify officers present that the Taser will be used.
9. Taser probes, that penetrate the subjects skin, shall only be removed by on-scene paramedics or emergency room staff. Only emergency room staff may remove Taser probes that are embedded in soft tissue areas such as neck, face, breast, or groin.
10. Used probes are to be handled the same as contaminated needles. The probes and used cartridge must be tagged in as evidence.
11. Proper documentation will be provided as part of the police report. When the Taser is used, officers will use the Force Code drop down box in the RMS reporting system and make the appropriate selection.
12. Sworn personnel who are trained in accordance with **Section IV** of this Order, may checkout a Taser, if one is available, from the equipment room supervisor at the beginning of their tour of duty. Officers will check-in the Taser at the end of their tour of duty.

D. Extended Range Impact Weapons and Projectiles.

1. Extended Range Impact Weapons (ERIW) are designed to shoot an impact projectile. The impact of the projectile is intended to encourage compliance, overcome resistance, and/or incapacitate a subject with minimal potential for death or serious injury.
2. The ERIW falls under the aggressive/assailant level of the use of force continuum. The ERIW can also be used at the deadly force assailant level when deemed appropriate.
3. The ERIW is an alternative to other less-lethal weapons. Deployment of the ERIW will be backed up by the availability of lethal force, i.e. Cover Officer.
4. The use of less-lethal impact projectiles is considered a use of deadly force if **intentionally** deployed to the areas indicated in **Appendix A, paragraph 4**.
5. All subjects who are struck by an ERIW projectile shall be transported by ambulance to a hospital emergency room for evaluation and/or treatment.
6. Proper documentation will be provided as part of the police report. When the ERIW is used, officers will use the Force Code drop down box in the RMS reporting system and make the appropriate selection.
7. Responsibilities of on-scene commander or supervisor;
 - a. Assign cover officer in all cases involving armed and/or dangerous subjects, even if no firearms are involved.

- b. Make reasonable effort to advise officers that the ERIW is being deployed.
- c. Request ambulance after ERIW is deployed and projectiles struck the subject.
- d. Request ID officers photograph the impact area of the ERIW projectile.
- e. On scene commander or supervisor will leave a supplement report justifying the use of the ERIW, effectiveness of the ERIW, and medical attention given.
- f. Ensure that used ERIW projectiles are collected and tagged as evidence, including the casings. The ID officers will make a diagram of the scene showing the location of each recovered projectile.

VII. EFFECTIVE DATE

- A. The Department's policy on Less Lethal Weapons became effective on January 17, 2007.

VIII. REVIEWS, REVISIONS AND CANCELLATION

- A. This General Order will be reviewed each **July** by the **Training and Personnel Unit Supervisor** and, when necessary, revised or cancelled in accordance with the procedures for reviewing written directives established in General Order **10.01 – Written Directives**.
- B. This Order is a revision of and supersedes General Order **1.10 - Less Lethal Weapons** issued January 17, 2007.
- C. Any employee with suggestions for revisions and/or improvements to this order are encouraged to submit their ideas to the **Deputy Chief of the Administrative Services Bureau**.

BY ORDER OF

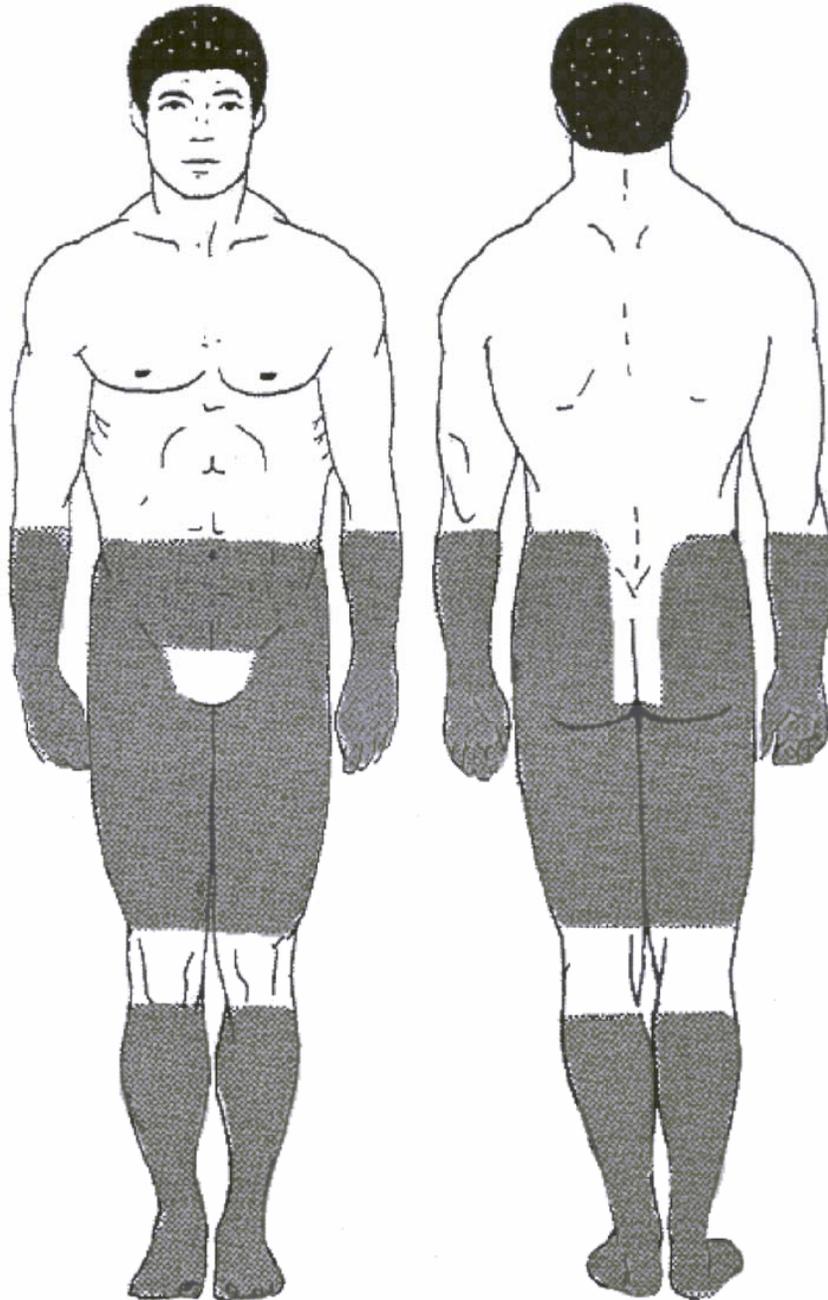
Chet Epperson
Chief of Police

APPENDIX A

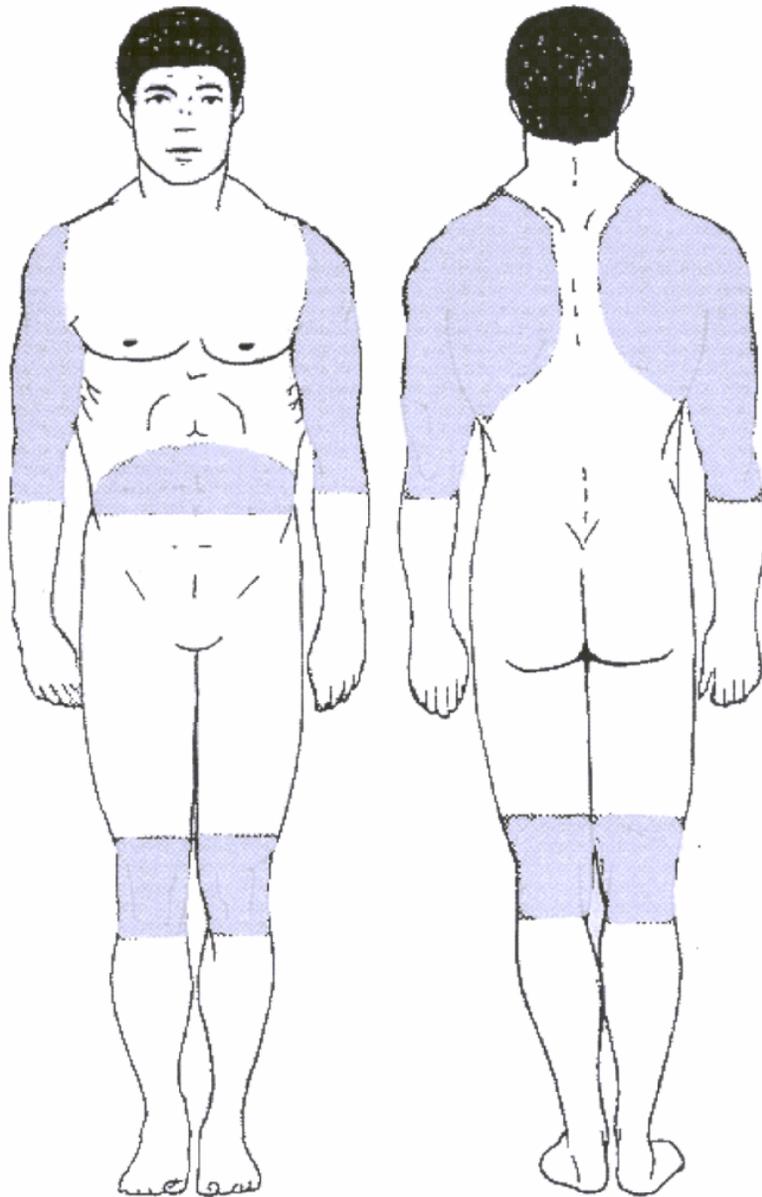
EXTENDED RANGE IMPACT WEAPONS (ERIW)

1. ERIW projectiles will be delivered to the subject target areas based on the circumstances and the level of force justified.
2. Level One – ERIW projectile primary target areas are listed below. See diagram labeled Level One attached to this appendix. These are areas where the resulting trauma, in most cases, will be minimal. If an injury does occur, it tends to be temporary rather than permanent.
 - a. arms below elbows including hands
 - b. lower abdomen and below excluding kidneys, spine, groin, knees, and back of knees.
3. Level Two – These areas listed below and on diagram labeled Level Two attached to this appendix, will be considered when an escalation of force above Level One is necessary and appropriate. There is an increase in the potential for death or serious injury at Level Two.
 - a. upper arms
 - b. elbow joint
 - c. rear shoulder area and shoulder blades
 - d. upper abdomen
 - e. knee joint
4. Level Three – Danger areas are listed below and on diagram labeled Level Three attached to this appendix. Intentional impacts to these areas will be avoided unless the use of deadly force is justified.
 - a. head
 - b. neck
 - c. chest area
 - d. spine
 - e. groin
 - f. kidneys

LEVEL ONE



LEVEL TWO



LEVEL THREE

