

BOLIVAR COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Law Enforcement
Policies and Procedures

Subject: Special Munitions – Less Lethal	Policy Number: 5.04
Issue Date:	Revision Date:
Approval Authority Title and Signature:	

POLICY:

Less-lethal special munitions may be used by the Bolivar County Sheriff's Office in situations when employment helps accomplish mission objectives and/or is calculated to reduce the risk to human life.

Special Munitions Devices:

This policy addresses the use of munitions usually considered *less-than-lethal*, including hand thrown [grenade] devices, and shoulder fired weapons such as service shotguns, fog generators, or 37mm rounds loaded with *rubber sabots, rubber pellets, beanbags, gas, stains, oleoresin capsicum, or similar* projectiles.

Precaution:

All special munitions are employed within the guidelines of the department's *use of force* policy. These weapons can cause serious bodily injury or death under some circumstances. Special munition rounds must not be deliberately fired or thrown at the face, chest, neck, or spine of any individual. Special munitions usually come with manufacturer recommendations and guidelines. Officers designated to use these devices must be familiar with, and trained in the application of these recommendations and guidelines before deployment.

Deployment:

1. Special munitions are normally secured in munitions lockers at the station or transported in secured containers by supervisory personnel.
2. Special munitions must be used in accordance with agency training and manufacturers' instructions.
3. Special munitions may be used in emergencies that require deployment of personnel in dangerous situations, or as a considered alternative to the use of more lethal force.
4. Special munitions rounds are normally used in planned assaults which require the temporary disabling of target individuals, or facilitate maneuver, capture, or temporary disabling of individuals.

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5. Only personnel trained in the use of special munitions and under direct supervision expend these devices.
6. When practical, and to protect human life, staff assigned to deliver these rounds should be backed up by other staff armed with conventional weapons.
7. Emergency medical [first aid] trained officers or medical personnel assist in the deployment of special munitions to provide emergency first aid when available.
8. Officers render first aid and decontaminate those exposed to the effects of gas, chemicals, or OC as soon as practical after the situation is stabilized.

Reporting:

After using special munitions in tactical incidents, a report must be completed that includes:

1. The supervisor authorizing the use of special munitions;
2. Supervisor's perception for the need to deploy special munitions;
3. Identification of officers deploying munitions;
4. Number and types of rounds expended;
5. Effects on targeted person(s) and any injuries;
6. Collateral or unintended injury or damage; &
7. Attachment of any associated medical or damage reports.

This data may be described in the incident or investigative report, and does not have to be reported on a special document.

Reports are reviewed on a yearly basis to determine the effectiveness, of the munition, and to aid in developing future training.

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