

General Order 516.00

Reviewed: 08/15

516.00 LESS LETHAL FORCE

- Police officers are often confronted with situations where physical control over another person is required to affect arrests or protect the public's safety. Initial attempts shall be made to achieve this control through verbal advice, warnings, commands, and persuasion. However, in situations where physical resistance or a threat of bodily injury is encountered and reasonable alternatives have been exhausted or would be ineffective, non-deadly force may be used.
- Where deadly force is not authorized, officers should assess the incident in order to determine which non-deadly technique or weapon will best de-escalate the incident and bring it under control in a safe manner.
- During instances involving subjects engaging in passive resistance to lawful authority, the use of Chemical Mace, baton, Taser, Pepperball, or other less-lethal or lethal weapon is not authorized to overcome that particular level of resistance. Officers may use physical strength via departmentally approved control hold, or lifting to a litter, wheelchair, or other similar conveyance to remove individuals engaging in this activity. However, these situations are fluid and if the subjects involved escalate the level of their resistance to the officers, the officers may meet that resistance with appropriate levels of approved force.
- Officers who are qualified to carry the AR-15 patrol rifle may carry this weapon in the place of a department shotgun. Officers not carrying a department shotgun should carry a less lethal (orange stock and forearm) shotgun for the deployment of less lethal ammunition.
- Parameters of use: When necessary, police officers are authorized to use departmentally-approved less lethal force techniques and issued equipment for resolution of incidents as follows:
 - To preserve the peace, prevent commission of offenses, or to prevent suicide;
 - In making lawful arrests, detentions, searches, overcoming resistance to such arrests, detentions, or searches and preventing escapes from custody, or otherwise to lawfully restrain or subdue a resistant individual;
 - In self defense or defense of another against unlawful violence to persons or property;

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- To prevent or interrupt an intrusion or interference with the lawful possession of property or lawful activity; and
- To gain control of, or defend themselves against, aggressive and/or vicious animals
- Strength and Skill via Control Hold:
 - Only department approved control holds or techniques shall be utilized. If an officer uses a control hold to subdue a suspect, and no visible injuries are present, the officer may transport the individual to jail. If the subject appears to have injuries or complains of pain or injuries, the subject will be transported to a medical facility for treatment prior to taking the subject to jail. If the subject refuses medical treatment, the officer will obtain appropriate documentation for jail intake staff.
- Provisions for carrying less-lethal weapons:
 - A Taser will be carried by uniformed officers at all times unless one is not available or the officer has not been trained.
 - Along with a Taser, officers will select and will carry a second less lethal option. These options are; chemical agent, baton, or an ASP.
 - If the officers do not select the Chemical Agent or one of the Baton/ASP options as their second less-lethal weapon on the duty belt, the less-lethal weapon not selected must be available to the officer by being accessible in the patrol vehicle (only one baton option is required).
 - Sworn supervisors in uniform above the rank of sergeant are exempt from these requirements.
 - **Officers in plain clothed assignment shall carry a minimum of one less-lethal weapon. Exception to this requirement may be approved by the officer's direct supervisor to allow for specialized assignment conditions.**
- Chemical Agent:
 - Only department issued chemical agent will be carried.
 - In the event an officer uses chemical agent against any person, that person shall be transported to the most accessible medical facility for treatment as soon as practical and prior to processing into jail. The person may be treated by employees of the Weld County Ambulance Service, if available.

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- If the subject refuses treatment at the hospital, the individual should be advised to flush his eyes with cold water. The officer will obtain appropriate documentation for jail intake staff.
- Supervisors and SWAT team members will be trained to deliver chemical agents by way of the ProetectoJet and ARWEN delivery systems.
- Baton:
 - The department issued Armament System and Procedures collapsible baton will be carried on the person of the patrol officer at all times while on duty and in uniform. The department also authorizes and issues the 29" Dymondwood straight baton. Officers qualified to carry the straight baton may carry this baton in place of the Armament Systems and Procedures collapsible baton.
 - The SD-1 baton shall be used in accordance with the same parameters set for the ASP baton and Dymondwood straight baton. The Department will not issue the SD-1 baton; however, officers may purchase the SD-1 at their own expense. The SD-1 is not meant to replace the carrying of the Taser, chemical agent, ASP, or straight baton. Officers who are qualified may carry the SD-1 baton in addition to the required two less-lethal weapon requirements.
 - The department may issue wooden riot batons when deemed necessary by the Chief of Police or his designee.
 - In the event an officer uses a baton to strike a suspect, the officer will transport the individual to the hospital for treatment. If the subject refuses medical treatment at the hospital, the officer will request a medical record notation by medical personnel and advise the jail intake staff.
- Less Lethal Shotgun Ammunition:
 - The use of less lethal ammunition requires supervisory notification prior to deployment. A supervisor need not be present on-scene when the weapon is deployed, but must have been notified prior to deployment and must be in route to the incident once notification has been made. Notification must be made via radio transmission.
 - When less lethal ammunition has been used against a subject, the person will be transported to a medical facility for treatment. Only after treatment or refusal of treatment at the facility will a suspect be transported to jail.

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- Prior to the deployment of Less Lethal shotguns, adequate personnel will be on-scene to ensure that at least one officer has un-impeded access to deadly force as an option, should the threat level change quickly.
- Taser®:
 - The Taser, an electronic control device, should be seen as occupying the same level as pepper spray on the department's list of less-lethal force options. This weapon could be considered as appropriate in the following sample situations:
 - A subject armed with a club confronts officers and indicates by words and/or actions his willingness to attack with the weapon.
 - A subject produces a knife or other edged weapon and threatens to harm himself with it but does not directly threaten officers.
 - An individual who possesses the obvious ability to carry out his threats tells officer(s) attempting to arrest him that he will not be taken into custody and begins to make threatening moves towards the officer(s).
 - The Taser is a defensive weapon designed to provide officers with the ability to defend themselves or others against an aggressor. Officers will not deploy the Taser when subjects are not aggressive and are trying to avoid arrest by leaving the scene.
 - The use of a Taser generally would not be appropriate against an apparently unarmed individual who presents verbal noncompliance or verbal threats to officers without further actions.
 - If time allows prior to the Taser being deployed, Dispatch and a supervisor will be notified. If notification prior to deployment is not practical, notification will be made as soon after the deployment as possible.
 - Only those officers certified in the use of the Taser will remove Taser probes that have penetrated a subject. Officers will not remove Taser probes when they are imbedded in a subject's neck, face, throat, groin or breasts. If Taser probes are removed by the officer, the officer will **obtain** medical attention for the **subject exposed to the Taser or for any other reason deemed appropriate by the officer**, prior to transporting the subject to jail.
 - If the Taser is used against a subject and the subject is struck in the neck, face, throat, groin or breasts, the person will be transported to a

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medical facility for treatment and removal of the probes. Only after treatment at the facility will a suspect be transported to jail.

- The Taser will not be used in a situation where the subject involved is driving a vehicle.
- Preferred target areas will conform to Taser® manufacturer recommendations knowing that fast moving street conditions and weapon deployment accuracy will affect actual target zones hit.
- The genitals will not be an intentional target zone.
- Officers will use one standard (5 second) cycle and then evaluate the situation to determine if an additional cycle is necessary. After two Taser Cycles are initiated, officers will evaluate the situation to determine if the Taser is the best less-lethal alternative available for their specific situation. Officers will articulate their selection of less-lethal alternative in their police report.
- The use of other alternatives will be considered when the subject is a pregnant woman, an elderly person, very young person, visibly frail person, and persons of very small build.
- Officers will attempt to coordinate the Taser deployment to avoid two or more officers' tasing one individual.
- Officers will be trained to obtain hands on control of the subject during the Taser cycle. Officers will be trained not to touch the subject between the two probes.
- Tasers should not be used against individuals who are in an elevated position, where a fall may cause injury or death.
- **If the Taser is used against a subject medical attention will be provided through either the Weld County Paramedics or by transporting the subject to the hospital.**
- A subject receiving prolonged exposure to Taser cycles (15 seconds) will be transported to the hospital for evaluation.
- After any application of a Taser, officers will monitor the subjects carefully for any signs of medical issues.

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- Pepperball®:
 - The Pepperball Launching System® (PLS) is considered the same level of force as chemical munitions, Taser, baton and less lethal shotgun ammunition. The Pepperball launches frangible plastic spheres filled with Capsaicin II. It is designed to assist in overcoming resistance directed at officers or others.

Pepperball is a non-lethal chemical agent delivery system that uses high-pressure air, CO² and electronic launchers to deliver PAVA powdered projectiles from a distance. It combines chemical agent exposure with kinetic impact and pain. It is effective on individuals as well as individuals within large groups of people for riot and crowd control.

Pepperball is an impact weapon that allows selected application of force on individuals as well as crowds. Pepperball can be used for individuals as well as large-scale disturbances and barricaded subjects.

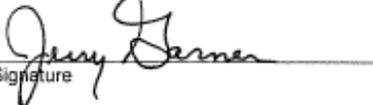
Officers should avoid shooting at the head, neck, or spine unless deadly force situations exist. **With authorization from a supervisor, the Pepperball system can be used to introduce chemical agent “PAVA” into a room or large area to disperse a crowd or draw out a suspect.**

All officers utilizing the Pepperball, will be trained and certified in the use of the weapon system and be re-certified every two years.

- If time allows, a supervisor should be notified prior to deployment. When not practical the notification will take place as soon as possible.
 - If Pepperballs® are used against a suspect; the suspect will be transported to a medical facility for treatment. Only after treatment or refusal of treatment at the facility will a suspect be transported to jail.
- Training:
 - Less lethal force weapons and methods: A police officer is not permitted to use department approved control holds and open hand self defense techniques or less lethal weapon systems and ammunitions unless qualified in its proficient use as determined by departmental training procedures.
 - Each officer will be required to receive training and qualify in basic arrest control and self-defense techniques and the use of less-lethal weapons and ammunitions in accordance with departmental requirements. The Administrative Section shall maintain a record of each officer's training.

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- Reports: It is the supervisor's responsibility to fully review a use of force issue as soon as possible after the event has stabilized.
- No employee shall use non-lethal force except in the performance of his duty and when it is necessary and in compliance with this General Order.
- Officers shall not use unnecessary force or violence in making an arrest or in dealing with a prisoner or any other person. Prisoners and suspects shall be treated in a fair and humane manner. When force is used, only that amount of force necessary is authorized.
- Use of necessary force will cease when resistance ceases or is overcome.
- No police officer will be allowed to carry chemical agents, Taser, less lethal shotgun ammunition, Pepperball or other similar approved delivery system until trained and tested for proficiency in the use of these weapons.
- Flashlights are not authorized as a less lethal weapon. Baton strikes to the head are not authorized as a less lethal technique. The use of a flashlight as a weapon, or intentionally striking a subject in the head with a baton are only authorized in situations justifying the use of deadly force and then only as a weapon or tactic of last resort.
- The FBI Defensive Tactic Instruction provides for the use of personal weapons, i.e., hands, elbows, etc. in conjunction with strikes or slaps to the suspect's head, face, or leg/knee as a diversionary tactic to facilitate the accomplishment of some control hold. The strike or slap to the head or other body parts utilizing personal weapons or otherwise, solely as a diversionary technique is not an authorized tactic of the Greeley Police Department. The head strike using personal weapons as taught by the FBI may be appropriate in cases involving self-defense to ward off actual assault depending upon the circumstances involved. In such an incident, the use of this tactic as a self-defense maneuver is authorized if the nature of the incident warrants such action.
- During arrest or conflict situations, officers will remain alert to the possibility of de-escalation of force and will invoke such procedures if appropriate.

General Order 516.00 Less Lethal Force	Reviewed: 08/15
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