
Control Devices and Techniques

303.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for the use and maintenance of control devices that are described in this policy.

303.2 POLICY

In order to control subjects who are violent or who demonstrate the intent to be violent, the Urbana Police Department authorizes officers to use control devices in accordance with the guidelines in this policy and the Use of Force Policy.

303.3 ISSUING, CARRYING AND USING CONTROL DEVICES

Control devices described in this policy may be carried and used by members of this department only if the device has been issued by the Department or approved by the Chief of Police or the authorized designee.

Only officers who have successfully completed department-approved training in the use of any control device are authorized to carry and use the device.

Control devices may be used when a decision has been made to control, restrain or arrest a subject who is violent or who demonstrates the intent to be violent, and the use of the device appears reasonable under the circumstances. When reasonable, a verbal warning and opportunity to comply should precede the use of these devices.

When using control devices, officers should carefully consider potential impact areas in order to minimize injuries and unintentional targets.

303.4 RESPONSIBILITIES

303.4.1 RANGEMASTER RESPONSIBILITIES

Each division commander shall control the inventory and issuance of all control devices within their respective division and shall ensure that all damaged, inoperative, outdated or expended control devices are properly disposed of, repaired or replaced.

Every control device will be periodically inspected by the the designated instructor for a particular control device.

303.4.2 USER RESPONSIBILITIES

All normal maintenance and cleaning shall remain the responsibility of personnel using the various devices.

Any damaged, inoperative, outdated or expended control devices, along with documentation explaining the cause of the damage, shall be returned to the respective division commander for disposition. A memorandum shall also be prepared and forwarded through the chain of command, when appropriate, explaining the cause of damage.

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303.5 BATON GUIDELINES

The need to immediately control a suspect must be weighed against the risk of causing serious injury. The head, neck, throat, spine, heart, kidneys and groin should not be intentionally targeted except when the officer reasonably believes the suspect poses an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death to the officer or others.

Uniformed personnel shall carry the issued collapsible baton at all times except when in full dress uniform. When carrying a baton, uniformed personnel shall carry the baton in its authorized holder on the equipment belt. The baton carried must be the collapsible baton issued by the Department. Plainclothes and non-field personnel may carry the baton as authorized and in accordance with the needs of their assignment or at the direction of their supervisor.

303.6 SMOKE CANISTER GUIDELINES

The department also has smoke canisters. Smoke canisters can only be deployed and used with a field supervisor or higher's approval. Caution should be used when deploying smoke canisters, as smoke displaces oxygen. Smoke canisters should only be used outdoors as they can cause fires.

When practicable, fire personnel should be alerted or summoned to the scene prior to the deployment.

303.7 OLEORESIN CAPSICUM (OC) GUIDELINES

As with other control devices, oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray may be considered for use to bring under control an individual or groups of individuals who are engaging in, or are about to engage in violent behavior. OC spray should not, however, be used against individuals or groups who merely fail to disperse or do not reasonably appear to present a risk to the safety of officers or the public.

303.7.1 OC SPRAY

Uniformed personnel carrying Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray shall carry the device in its holster on the equipment belt. Plainclothes and non-field personnel may carry OC spray as authorized, in accordance with the needs of their assignment or at the direction of their supervisor.

303.7.2 TREATMENT FOR OC SPRAY EXPOSURE

Persons who have been sprayed with or otherwise affected by the use of Oleoresin Capsicum should be provided with clean water to cleanse the affected areas when practicable. Those persons who complain of further severe effects shall be examined by appropriate medical personnel.

303.8 POST-APPLICATION NOTICE FOR CHEMICAL IRRITANTS IN ENCLOSED AREA

Whenever tear gas or OC has been introduced into a residence, building interior, vehicle or other enclosed area, officers should provide the owners or available occupants with notice of the possible presence of residue that could result in irritation or injury if the area is not properly cleaned. Such notice should include advisement that clean up will be at the owner's expense. Information regarding the method of notice and the individuals notified should be included in related reports.

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303.9 KINETIC ENERGY PROJECTILE GUIDELINES

This department is committed to reducing the potential for violent confrontations. Kinetic energy projectiles, when used properly, are less likely to result in death or serious physical injury and can be used in an attempt to de-escalate a potentially deadly situation.

303.9.1 TRAINING

Training in the use of kinetic energy projectiles will consist of the approved department program and in-service briefing training. Officers will have to review the nomenclature, weapons handling, and target area review for kinetic energy projectiles once every two years. Only personnel who have completed the Department's program and in-service briefing training are authorized to use them during actual operations.

303.9.2 DEPLOYMENT AND USE

Only department-approved kinetic energy munitions shall be carried and deployed. Approved munitions may be used to compel an individual to cease his/her actions when such munitions present a reasonable option.

Officers are not required or compelled to use approved munitions in lieu of other reasonable tactics if the involved officer determines that deployment of these munitions cannot be done safely. The safety of hostages, innocent persons and officers takes priority over the safety of subjects engaged in criminal or suicidal behavior.

Circumstances appropriate for deployment include, but are not limited to, situations in which:

- (a) The suspect is armed with a weapon and the tactical circumstances allow for the safe application of approved munitions.
- (b) The suspect has made credible threats to harm him/herself or others.
- (c) The suspect is engaged in riotous behavior or is throwing rocks, bottles or other dangerous projectiles at people and/or officers.
- (d) There is probable cause to believe that the suspect has already committed a crime of violence and is refusing to comply with lawful orders.

303.9.3 DEPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Before discharging projectiles, the officer should consider such factors as:

- (a) Distance and angle to target.
- (b) Type of munitions employed.
- (c) Type and thickness of subject's clothing.
- (d) The subject's proximity to others.
- (e) The location of the subject.
- (f) Whether the subject's actions dictate the need for an immediate response and the use of control devices appears appropriate.

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A verbal warning of the intended use of the device should precede its application, unless it would otherwise endanger the safety of officers or when it is not practicable due to the circumstances. The purpose of the warning is to give the individual a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply and to warn other officers and individuals that the device is being deployed.

Officers should keep in mind the manufacturer's recommendations and their training regarding effective distances and target areas. However, officers are not restricted solely to use according to manufacturer recommendations. Each situation must be evaluated on the totality of circumstances at the time of deployment.

The need to immediately incapacitate the subject must be weighed against the risk of causing serious injury or death. The head and neck should not be intentionally targeted, except when the officer reasonably believes the suspect poses an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death to the officer or others.

303.9.4 DEPLOYMENT CRITERIA

The approved 12 gauge shotgun will be clearly marked with orange stocks and forends. They will only be loaded at the direction of a field supervisor or higher who is at the location of the incident. The person actually employing the 12 gauge shotgun shall ensure that the shotgun is loaded with only kinetic energy projectiles at the time they load it. Officers deploying a 12 gauge shotgun with kinetic energy projectiles will inform METCAD via radio that they have deployed the less-lethal shotgun.

The field supervisor or higher approving authority will determine when and who will remove the shotgun for possible use. The approving authority shall consider:

- Level of force being confronted.
- The proximity/access of the subject to officers
- The Department safety priorities.

The approving authority will ensure there is lethal force cover for the officer who is deploying the less-lethal shotgun.

Before kinetic energy rounds are fired, a clear verbal command should be given that identifies the rounds about to be fired as less-lethal munitions. This is done to alert other officers and to avoid reactive fire from officers who are not aware of the presence of a less-lethal shotgun. Tactical circumstances may dictate that a verbal command not be given so as to allow for an element of surprise against the subject.

303.9.5 SAFETY PROCEDURES

Shotguns specifically designated for use with kinetic energy projectiles will be specially marked in a manner that makes them readily identifiable as such.

Officers will inspect the shotgun and projectiles at the beginning of each shift to ensure that the shotgun is in proper working order and the projectiles are of the approved type and appear to be free from defects.

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When it is not deployed, the shotgun will be unloaded and properly and securely stored in the vehicle. When deploying the kinetic energy projectile shotgun, the officer shall visually inspect the kinetic energy projectiles to ensure that conventional ammunition is not being loaded into the shotgun.

At no time shall conventional ammunition be loaded into a shotgun designated as a less lethal shotgun.

303.9.6 TARGETING IMPACT AREAS

The kinetic energy projectiles will be delivered to subject target areas based on circumstances, the established safety priorities, and the level of force authorized. The attached training chart is the recognized department model for determining contact areas for kinetic energy projectiles, based on potential for injury.

- Green Areas - These areas will be considered when incapacitation is necessary and a minimal potential for injury is the appropriate response (i.e. calf/thigh muscles and lower abdomen).
- Yellow Areas - These areas will be considered when an escalation of force above green areas is necessary and appropriate, acknowledging an increase in the potential for death or serious physical injury (i.e. knees/elbows and upper chest).
- Red Areas - Intentional impact to these areas will be avoided unless the use of deadly force is justified, necessary and appropriate (i.e. head/neck, spine, solar plexus and kidneys).
- Arms - Careful consideration should be given when targeting these areas since they consist of primarily skeletal areas and are frequently used to protect a more vulnerable area. This could cause the officer to strike an unintended target if they miss or the target moves his/her arms.

See attachment: [PoliceChart.JPG](#)

303.9.7 LEGAL AUTHORITY TO USE KINETIC ENERGY PROJECTILES

It should be noted that Illinois Statutory Law on justifiable use of force establishes that the use of kinetic energy projectiles is not considered the use of deadly force. The use of kinetic energy projectiles is considered deadly force if intentionally deployed at the head or neck.

303.9.8 HANDLING OF SUBJECTS STRUCK BY KINETIC ENERGY PROJECTILES

Subjects who are struck by a kinetic energy projectile shall be transported to a medical facility for examination. The field supervisor who authorized the deployment of the less-lethal shotgun and kinetic energy projectiles shall ensure that the projectile itself and the casing that housed the projectile are collected and submitted into evidence. If either cannot be located after the use of the kinetic energy projectile, that information will be documented in a report.

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303.10 TRAINING FOR CONTROL DEVICES

The Training Officer shall ensure that all personnel who are authorized to carry a control device have been properly trained and certified to carry the specific control device and are retrained or recertified as necessary.

- (a) Proficiency training shall be monitored and documented by a certified, control-device weapons or tactics instructor.
- (b) All training and proficiency for control devices will be documented in the officer's training file.
- (c) Officers who fail to demonstrate proficiency with the control device or knowledge of this agency's Use of Force Policy will be provided remedial training. If an officer cannot demonstrate proficiency with a control device or knowledge of this agency's Use of Force Policy after remedial training, the officer will be restricted from carrying the control device and may be subject to discipline.

303.11 REPORTING USE OF CONTROL DEVICES AND TECHNIQUES

Any application of a control device or technique listed in this policy shall be documented in the related incident report and reported pursuant to the Use of Force Policy.

303.12 KNIVES

Knives may be carried by officers. Officers are responsible for concealing knives in order to ensure their retention.

303.13 TASERS

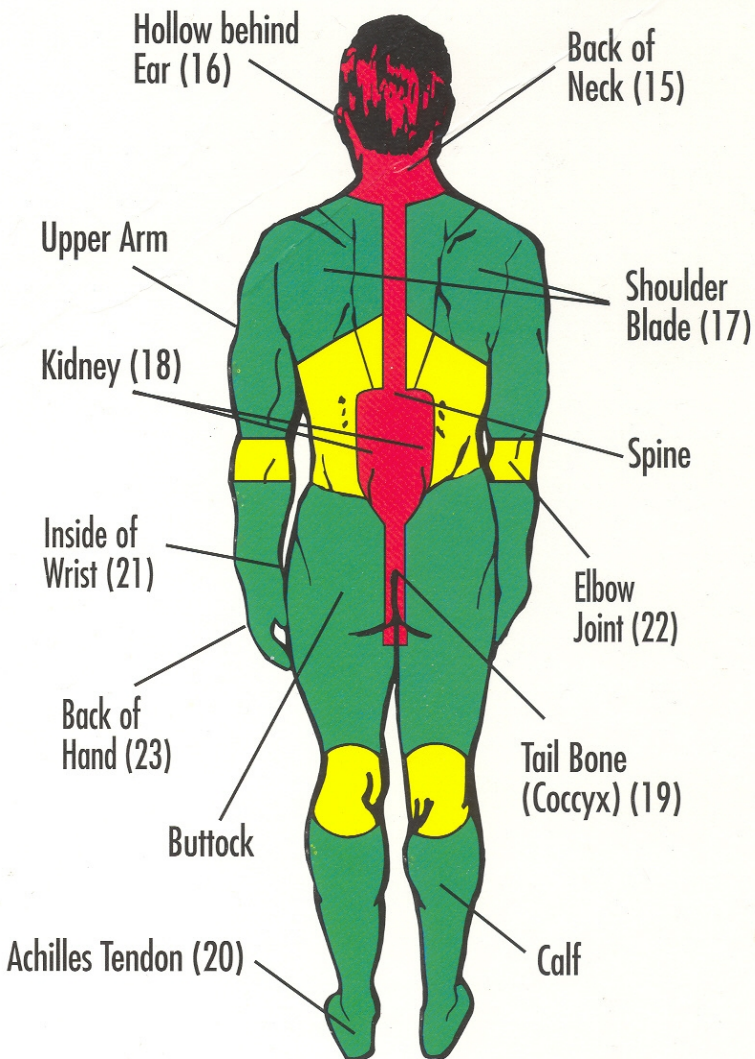
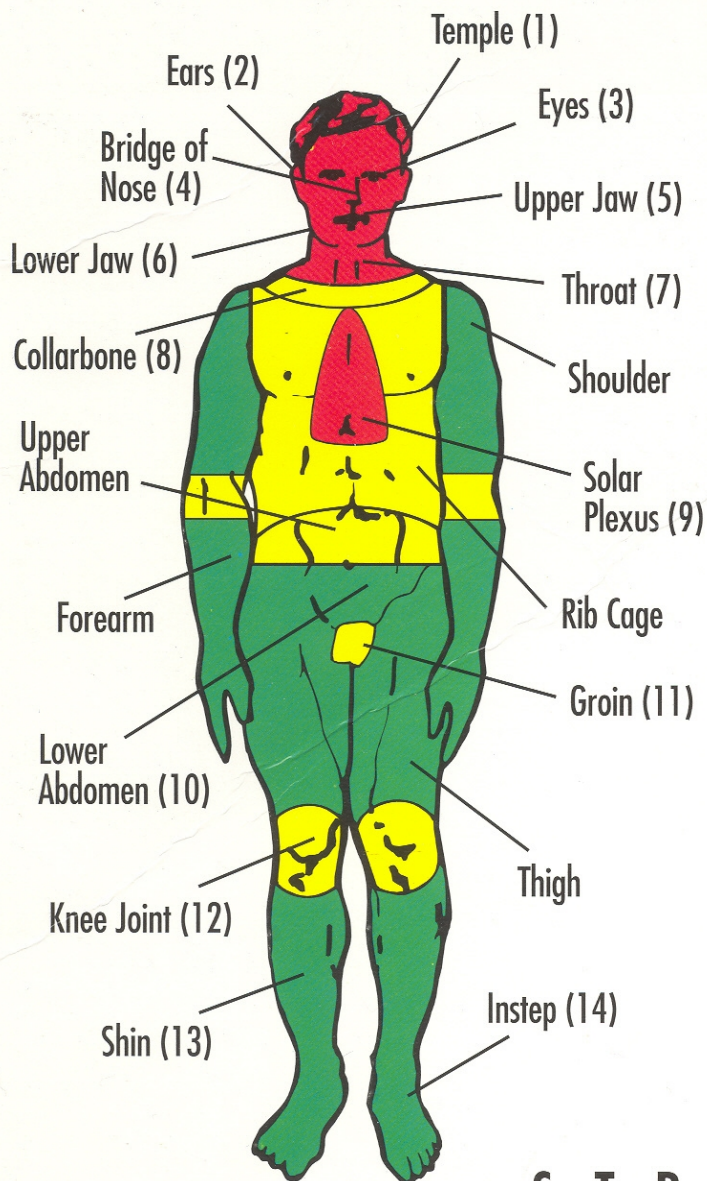
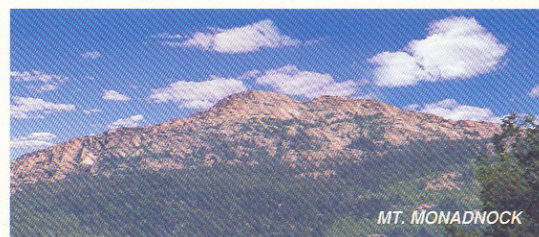
See TASER policy for specifics.

Attachments

PoliceChart.JPG

MONADNOCK BATON CHART

Escalation Of Trauma By Vital And Vulnerable Striking Areas



S T R I K I N G

GREEN TARGET AREAS

REASONING: Minimal level of resultant trauma. Injury tends to be temporary rather than long-lasting, however exceptions can occur.

Except for the HEAD, NECK, and SPINE, the whole body is a Green Target Area for the application of baton blocking and restraint skills.

YELLOW TARGET AREAS

REASONING: Moderate to serious level of resultant trauma. Injury tends to be more long-lasting, but may also be temporary.

RED TARGET AREAS

REASONING: Highest level of resultant trauma. Injury tends to range from serious to long-lasting rather than temporary and may include unconsciousness, serious bodily injury, shock or death.