

# GENERAL ORDER



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

<b>Title</b>		
<b>Extended Impact Weapons</b>		
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Series</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>RAR</b>	<b>901</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Effective Date</b>		
<b>July 29, 2016</b>		
<b>Related to:</b>		
GO-RAR-901.07 (Use of Force)		
GO-RAR-901.08 (Use of Force Investigations)		
SO-10-14 [Instructions for Completing the Use of Force Incident Report (UFIR: PD Forms 901-e and 901-f)]		

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## I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this order is to describe the procedures for the deployment, use, reporting, and investigation of less-lethal extended impact weapons for trained and designated patrol members.

## II. POLICY

The policy of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) is to value and preserve the dignity of human life at all times, especially when lawfully exercising the use of force. Therefore, MPD members shall use the minimum amount of force that the objectively reasonable officer would use in light of the circumstances to effectively bring an incident or person under control, while protecting the lives of the member or others. When using force, a member shall continuously reassess the perceived threat in order to select the reasonable use of force response, or one that is proportional to threat faced by him, her, or others.

## III. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this order, the following terms shall have the meaning designated:

1. Extended impact weapon – a device capable of firing a 40mm sponge projectile (either marking or non-marking) at a high velocity for the purpose of temporarily incapacitating an aggressive, non-compliant

subject who is armed with a weapon **and** who is engaged in dangerous or assaultive behavior toward themselves, the member, or others.

2. Less lethal weapon – any object or device deployed with the intent or purpose of nullifying a threat without causing death (e.g., rubber bullets, oleoresin capsicum spray, and tactical batons).
3. Member – sworn or civilian employee of the MPD or MPD Reserve Corps member.

#### **IV. REGULATIONS**

- A. Consistent with MPD's use of force policy, members are reminded that:
  1. All members who encounter a situation where the possibility of violence or resistance to lawful arrest is present, if possible, shall first attempt to defuse the situation through advice, warning, verbal persuasion, or other de-escalation techniques.
  2. Upon arriving at a situation where the possibility of violence or resistance to lawful arrest is present, proper use of distance and cover can provide the member with additional protection and time to react should the situation change suddenly. As the situation continues to unfold, members should continue to re-evaluate their positioning, and create distance or move as needed.
  3. When using force, members must be able to articulate the facts and circumstances surrounding their tactics, decision making, and the extent of force used in any given situation.
  4. Failure to abide by the regulations outlined in D.C. Official Code, DCMR, or Department directives related to use of force, if sustained, shall subject both civilian and sworn employees of the Department, as well as MPD reserve officers, to disciplinary action and possible criminal prosecution or civil liability.
- B. Members shall treat extended impact weapons with the same care and caution as weapons loaded with "conventional" munitions (e.g., pistols, shotguns).
- C. Authorized Use of Extended Impact Weapons
  1. Extended impact weapons shall only be issued to full-duty members who have been trained in their use and meet all Department qualification and re-qualification requirements. Members must requalify with extended impact weapons on an annual basis.

2. Extended impact weapons shall be used against subjects who are armed with weapons **and** who are engaged in dangerous or assaultive behavior toward themselves, the member or others.

NOTE: The use of extended impact weapons falls under the “Defensive Tactics” category of use of force response.

3. Members shall not use extended impact weapons against a subject unless it is tactically safe to do so (i.e., there is adequate cover and time to deploy the weapon), and, absent exigent circumstances, at least one other member is present at the scene.

NOTE: Having another member present during the deployment enhances officer safety and ensures that the accompanying member can provide cover for the deploying member and assist with handcuffing post-deployment.

4. When feasible, before using an extended impact weapon, the member shall identify himself or herself as a police officer and issue the designated verbal warning (i.e., by announcing “Less-lethal, less-lethal;”) prior to firing the extended impact weapon.

NOTE: The purpose of announcing the designated warning is to alert other members on scene of the utilization of the extended impact weapon. It is critical other members know about the utilization of the extended impact weapon, as its deployment may cause an immediate change in the subject’s behavior that may require immediate police action (i.e., surrender or flight).

5. When confronted by an animal that is an active threat to a member, person, another animal, or that needs to be captured for public safety purposes, members shall consider deploying an extended impact weapon in lieu of deadly force.

- D. Members shall deploy only extended impact weapons that are color-coded orange, identified by stock and barrel or by orange marking tape applied to the device.

NOTE: The purpose of the orange coloring is to designate the device as a less lethal weapon.

- E. Medical Assistance

Members shall request medical assistance in accordance with GO-PCA-502.07 (Medical Treatment and Hospitalization of Prisoners) for all incidents involving deployment of an extended impact weapon, whether or not there is an actual, perceived, or alleged injury.

F. Extended Impact Weapons Prohibitions

1. Members shall not:
  - a. Use extended impact weapons on subjects in handcuffs or who are otherwise restrained.
  - b. Alter the appearance of an extended impact weapon, including but not limited to changing the color of the weapon.
  - c. Attempt to modify or repair extended impact weapons.
  - d. Carry extended impact weapons or ammunition that have not been approved and issued by the Department.
2. Members shall not use extended impact weapons in the following circumstances, unless exigent circumstances exist:
  - a. The subject appears to be no closer than 6 feet and no further than 165 feet;
  - b. The subject is in physical control of a vehicle in motion (e.g., automobiles, motorcycles, ATVs, scooters, bicycles);
  - c. The subject is visibly pregnant;
  - d. The subject is holding a firearm and the member lacks the tactical safety conditions enumerated in Part IV.C.3;
  - e. The subject appears to be under the age of 12 or over the age of 65;
  - f. In any situation where the member has a reasonable belief that the subject might fall resulting in death or serious physical injury, and the circumstances presented do not justify that risk; or
  - g. Against an animal that does not pose an immediate threat to the safety of an officer, person, property, or another animal (i.e., the animal is a nuisance but is not a threat to the safety of others).

- G. The regulations and procedures outlined this directive, notwithstanding, members are reminded that the extended impact weapon may be employed in any means necessary if required to protect the life of a civilian or law enforcement officer subject to the imminent threat of death or serious physical injury, and no other options are feasible.

- H. Unless already assigned to a priority assignment, members equipped with the extended impact weapon shall respond to the following events, regardless of their assigned PSA:
- a. "Man/Woman With A Knife" or other weapon radio runs;
  - b. Armed individuals in the midst of a mental health crisis; and
  - c. Any priority assignment involving an armed suspect.

## V. PROCEDURES

### A. Deployment of Extended Impact Weapons

1. In accordance with Part IV.C.1 of this order, extended impact weapons shall only be issued to full-duty members who have been trained in their use and meet all Department qualification and re-qualification requirements.
2. Roll call officials shall:
  - a. When feasible, ensure at least two extended impact weapons are deployed on each shift. The extended impact weapons shall be assigned only to those members who have successfully completed the requisite extended impact weapons training.
  - b. Ensure members who are deployed with extended impact weapons are noted on the roll call and deployment statistical sheets.
  - c. Inform the Command Information Center (CIC) of the number of members deployed with extended impact weapons at the beginning of every shift.
  - d. Ensure members conduct a brief pre-shift test in accordance with Department training to ensure the device is functioning properly.
3. Members to whom extended impact weapons are assigned shall indicate they are equipped with the device when coming into service and logging into the Mobile Data Computer.

### B. Use of Extended Impact Weapons

1. Members shall aim and fire extended impact weapons in a manner consistent with Department training (Attachment A).

2. Members shall make every effort to avoid aiming at a subject's head, face, neck, heart, chest, and genitals.
3. Once the subject is temporarily incapacitated, members shall be prepared to immediately place the subject in handcuffs.
4. When medical personnel respond to the scene, members shall issue them an Extended Impact Weapon Information Card (Attachment B).

NOTE: The Extended Impact Weapon Information Card communicates essential information to medical personnel, such as the weight and velocity of the projectile.

#### C. Reporting Requirements

1. Upon using an extended impact weapon, members shall:
  - a. In cases where an official is not already present, immediately notify an official to respond to the scene.
  - b. Follow the use of force protocols established in GO-RAR-901.07 (Use of Force) and GO-RAR-901.08 (Use of Force Investigations), and SO-10-14 [Instructions for Completing the Use of Force Incident Report (UFIR: PD Forms 901-e)].

#### D. Investigations

1. The Internal Affairs Division (IAD) shall investigate all use of force incidents involving extended impact weapons in accordance with GO-RAR-901.08 (Use of Force Investigations) except discharges at animals and training incidents.
2. The assigned IAD investigator shall complete and submit a preliminary report, through his or her chain of command, to the Chief of Police no later than 24 hours after use of force incident.
3. Use of force investigations involving discharges at animals and training incidents shall be investigated by the member's chain of command, unless there is evidence of serious misconduct.

#### E. Storage and Maintenance of Extended Impact Weapons

1. When not in use, extended impact weapons shall be stored in the district's designated storage area, in the designated "soft cases" issued to each district or element.

2. Members to whom an extended impact weapons has been assigned shall carry the device and its associated rounds in the designated carrying case in the passenger seat of his or her MPD vehicle.
3. Members to whom an extended impact weapon has been assigned shall ensure his or her vehicle remains locked at all times.
4. Members shall not perform maintenance on extended impact weapons other than changing the batteries for the weapon sights.

## V. CROSS REFERENCES

- A. GO-PCA-502.07 (Medical Treatment and Hospitalization of Prisoners)
- B. GO-RAR-901.07 (Use of Force)
- C. GO-RAR-901.08 (Use of Force Investigations)
- D. SO-10-14 [Instructions for Completing the Use of Force Incident Report (UFIR: PD Forms 901-e and 901-f)]

## VI. ATTACHMENTS

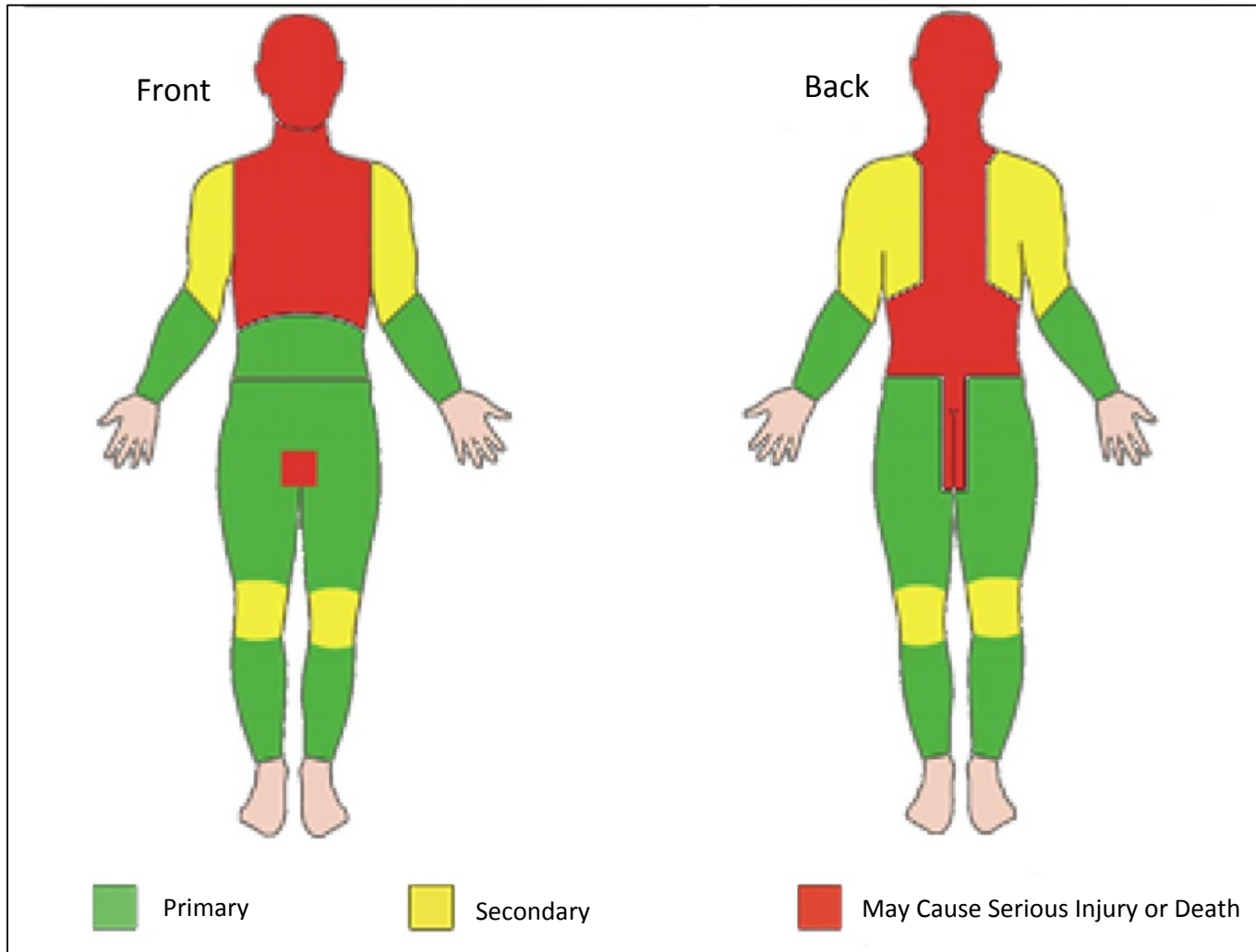
Attachment A: Less Lethal Target Zones

Attachment B: Extended Impact Weapon Information Card

  
Cathy L. Lanier  
Chief of Police


CLL:MBH:MOC:DMH

# Extended Impact Weapon Target Zones





# Extended Impact Weapon Information Cards



**Metropolitan Police Department**  
Washington, DC


### Extended Impact Weapon Use

To preserve the dignity of human life at all times, the Metropolitan Police Department has authorized trained members to utilize less lethal devices, such as **extended impact weapons**, in accordance with Department regulations and procedures outlined in GO-RAR-901.07 (Use of Force) and GO-RAR-901.12 (Extended Impact Weapons). An **extended impact weapon** is a device capable of firing a 40mm sponge projectile at a high velocity for the purpose of temporarily incapacitating an aggressive, non-compliant subject.

Front of Card

### Extended Impact Weapon Deployment

If an extended impact weapon has been used, the following information may be helpful to EMS personnel who provide support to any individual struck by a projectile.



	Non-Marking Round	Marking Round
<b>Velocity of Projectile</b>	325 feet/second	295 feet/second
<b>Material of Projectile</b>	Foam	Foam
<b>Weight of Projectile</b>	30 grams (1.1 ounces)	41 grams (1.45 ounces)

Back of Card