



**Town of Framingham  
Police Department**

**Policy on Less Than Lethal Impact Projectiles # 100-33**

<b>Issue date:</b> 11/06/06		
<b>Type of policy:</b> New ( )	Amendment (X )	Re-Issue ( )
<b>Effective date:</b> 12/20/11		
<b>Level:</b> Public Safety ( )	Police Division ( X )	Town Wide ( )

**Policy Statement**

The Framingham Police Department recognizes that combative, non-compliant, armed and/or violent subjects present handling and control problems that require special training and equipment. Thus, the Framingham Police Department has adopted the *less than lethal* force philosophy to assist in the de-escalation of these potentially violent confrontations.

**References**

**Less Than Lethal Impact Projectiles-** CTS “Super-Sock” commonly referred to as “Bean Bag” 12 gauge round.

**Weapon-** The Remington Model 870,12 gauge shotgun with modified orange colored stock and fore grip.

**[Less Than Lethal Target Zone Chart](#)**- Chart describing the human body target areas ( see page 6)

**Special Terms**

**Less Than Lethal Force** – Application of force with less potential for causing death or serious physical injury than lethal methods.

**Less Than Lethal Impact Projectiles** – Projectiles, which are intended to incapacitate a subject with a minimal potential for causing death or serious physical injury.

**Bean Bag-** CTS Super Sock 12 gauge round.

## Policy

### I. PROCEDURE

1. **Only trained officers with current certifications will utilize the Less Than Lethal projectile system. Instructors must keep up their certifications to standards.**
2. The “bean bag” projectile is designed to cause incapacitation and reduce the subject’s ability to continue his or her actions. The level of energy necessary to cause incapacitation creates the potential for injury, but generally presents a relatively low probability of causing serious physical injury or death.
3. Potential for Causing Death or Serious Physical Injury
  - A. The potential for causing death or serious physical injury with such projectiles is a reality. However, this potential is greatly reduced when impacts to the head and neck are avoided, and when appropriate medical examination is provided in cases where the subject is struck in an area that might conceal a closed injury, including such areas as the head, chest, back, thoracic and abdominal cavities and the groin.
  - B. When engaging a target, the officer should evaluate the effectiveness of each round. Compliance and/or incapacitation are the desired goal, and alternative target areas/response should be considered when rounds are not effective. Alternative target area/response considerations will be based on the circumstances the officer is encountering and the established safety priorities.
  - C. Deployment Areas

- a. The impact projectiles (bean bags) will be delivered to suspect target areas based on the circumstances, the established safety priorities, and the level of force authorized.
- b. The impact weapon-training chart is the recognized model for determining contact areas for impact projectile weapons, based on potential for injury.
  - i. Green Areas – These areas will be considered when incapacitation is necessary and a minimal potential for injury is the appropriate response.
  - ii. Yellow/Red 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 serious physical injury death.
  - iii. Head/Neck – Intentional impacts to these areas will be avoided unless the use of deadly force is justified, necessary and appropriate.

## II. **USE-** ( see Use of Force policy #100-4)

1. Officers may use Less Than Lethal Impact Projectiles when the subject's behavior is considered **Assaultive (Bodily Harm) or above**. This stage is reached when an officer's attempt to gain lawful compliance has culminated in a perceived or actual attack on the officer or others (to include self- harm, i.e. suicide attempts).
2. Less Than Lethal Impact Projectiles may be used when the officer makes the reasonable assessment that such actions by the subject would not result in the officers' or others' death or serious bodily harm.
3. The use of impact projectiles (bean bags) are considered a level of force that *when deployed to designated areas (see impact weapon training chart) of the suspect(s) body are considered "less than lethal" or unlikely to cause death or serious physical injury*. The use of kinetic energy impact projectiles is considered Deadly Force, if **intentionally** deployed at the head or neck.

4. Dedicated System- The issued shotgun will be dedicated to *less lethal* projectiles, and marked in some fashion consistent with such designation (i.e. orange stock). Officers assigned will inspect the chamber and magazine each time the weapon come under their control to ensure the total absence of lethal ammunition. **NO LETHAL AMMUNITION WILL BE STORED WITH THIS WEAPON.**
5. Back-up officers armed with lethal weapons should provide cover in cases involving any armed and/or dangerous subjects, even if no firearms are involved.
6. Suspects, when safely under control who are struck by a less than lethal round SHALL be transported to a medical facility for examination.
7. All visible injuries will be photographed and documented in the officer's report.

### III. REPORTING

1. Every officer who uses force to include a non/less than lethal weapon shall submit a report in a timely manner, subject to applicable law.
2. A separate Use Of Force Report shall be generated during the booking process (completed by the Booking Officer). The report will be filed separately by Records Personnel who will forward a copy to the Deputy Chief of Operations for analysis.
  - If the subject is not processed during booking (i.e. bailed from hospital) or force was used during crowd control tactics, etc. a Use of Force report will be generated manually from the FORMS folder in the "S" drive. The Use of Force report form will be completed by the officer applying the force who will submit the form along with his/her SOR report.
3. If injuries result from the use of force, every officer who witnessed the incident shall, subject to applicable law, submit a supplemental narrative to be included with the initial report,

4. Officers shall note all facts and circumstances involving any use of force and firearms/weapons discharge in the relevant incident report. This Report shall also contain:
  - a. The names and addresses of victims and witnesses;
  - b. The extent of treatment of injuries, if any;
  - c. The name of the treatment facility and physician administering treatment.

#### **IV. MAINTENANCE**

1. Extended range impact weapons shall be inspected when the weapon is initially obtained and/ or issued and at least annually to ensure mission readiness by the Commander-Firearms Training Unit. Any weapon found to be not working properly will be taken out of service for repairs.
2. The Commander- Firearms Training Unit will notify all affected personnel regarding any weapon that has been taken off line for repairs.

#### **V.**

**All certifications must be up to date according to each weapon system company standards.**

