



## COLUMBIA HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY MANUAL

<b>TITLE: LESS-LETHAL MUNITIONS</b>	<b>GENERAL ORDER NUMBER: 107</b>
<b>REFERENCES: General Order 105</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE: 06/01/2016</b>
<b>REVIEW DATE: 01/01/2019</b>	<b>DISTRIBUTION: B</b>

The purpose of this General Order is to establish conditions that justify the use of less-lethal extended range impact weapons, also known as the "super sock round", or less-lethal rounds. Less-lethal munitions are an option where force is justified, but the subject's actions do not rise to a level that permits the use of deadly force and the decision has been made to attempt control techniques not intended to result in deadly force. The policy also establishes the procedure to be followed in the use of less-lethal extended range impact weapons using the 12-gauge shotgun. The policy is established to protect trained personnel deploying less-lethal extended range impact weapons.

### 107:1 Intent

The less-lethal extended range impact weapon is designed to temporarily disable a subject when the super sock round impacts the subject without intent to cause injury.

### 107:2 Usage Guidelines

#### 107:21 Use of Less-Lethal Rounds

The use of less-lethal rounds is justified only in situations when dealing with combative, non-compliant, armed and/or violent subjects, and when the use of other impact weapons or chemical agents is not practical.

#### 107:22 Department-Approved Training Required

An officer shall not use a less-lethal weapon unless that officer has received Department-approved training.

### 107:3 Prohibitions on Use

Less-lethal impact weapons have the potential for causing death or serious injury. Intentional impacts to the head, neck, throat, heart, spine, or other areas of the body, which the officer should know will cause great bodily harm or death, are to be avoided unless the use of deadly force is justified.

### 107:4 Application

#### 107:41 Approved 12-Gauge Pump Action Shotgun

The approved 12-gauge pump action shotgun shall be carried in the squad car. The shotgun shall be clearly marked with an orange stock to distinguish its purpose.

#### 107:411

As part of the daily squad check, officers shall inspect the 12-gauge shotgun and verify that only Department-approved less-lethal extended range impact rounds will be loaded in the weapon.

**107:412**

No live munitions rounds shall be kept with or near the less-lethal rounds.

**107:413**

Trained officers shall carry the approved less-lethal rounds and shotgun at all times during their shift.

**107:414**

Before deploying less-lethal rounds, the officer shall consider the following:

- The level of force being encountered;
- Proximity and access to the subject;
- At distances of less than 5 feet, extreme caution should be used;
- The optimal range is between 5 and 20 feet.

**107:5 Safety Considerations****107:51 Notification and Acknowledgement of Intent to Deploy**

All officers on the scene should be made aware of the impending use of the less-lethal weapon. The officer deploying the weapon should ensure that notification is given and acknowledged. Officers shall restrain and control a subject as soon as possible after deployment, and when tactically safe to do so.

**107:52 Cover/Concealment**

The officer shall determine if lethal cover/concealment is necessary and appropriate. Cover/concealment shall be used at all times, when possible.

**107:521**

Cover shall be provided in all situations by an armed officer.

**107:53 Department Safety Priorities**

When giving consideration to deploying less-lethal munitions, the officer shall give consideration to Department safety priorities. Those priorities are as follows.

- Hostages;
- Involved non-subject citizens;
- Law enforcement personnel;
- Subjects.

**107:54 Evaluation of Effectiveness of Each Round**

When engaging a target, the officer shall evaluate the effectiveness of each round during the volley.

- Dialogue with the subject to attain compliance shall continue during the entire encounter.
- Compliance or incapacitation is the desired goal.
- Alternative target areas or responses shall be considered when less-lethal rounds are not effective.
- Alternative target areas or responses shall be based on the circumstances the officer is encountering, and on Department safety priorities.

**107:6 Medical Treatment****107:61 Offering Prompt Medical Treatment**

Suspects who are struck by a less-lethal round shall be offered prompt medical treatment or examination by trained medical personnel, either on scene or at the jail facility. Or, if no medical personnel are present either at the scene or the jail, the subject shall be transported to a medical facility for examination. This practice shall be followed even if the subject refuses medical treatment, or if the injuries appear minor.

**107:62 Notification of Jail Medical Staff**

Jail staff shall be notified immediately by the transporting officer that the subject has been impacted by a less-lethal weapon.

- Less-lethal rounds shall be retained as evidence. Expended rounds shall be collected at the scene, and property inventoried.

**107:7 Reporting****107:71 Documentation**

Whenever an officer uses a less-lethal shotgun round, the officer shall document the use in accordance with Columbia Heights Police Department's **General Order 105** in the following manner.

- Verbally notify the shift supervisor as soon as possible, but no later than the end of the shift.
- Prior to completing their shift, the officer deploying the less-lethal round shall complete an *Incident Complaint Report*. If the officer is unable to complete the report, the shift supervisor shall complete the report.
- All officers involved in the incident shall be named on the *Incident Complaint Report*.
- All officers involved in the incident shall complete a supplementary report describing their observations and actions. The report shall be completed by the end of their shift.
- Officers shall attempt to photograph the area of impact. Depending on the location of the impact, a same sex officer or medical personnel shall take the photograph. The photographs shall be included with the report. Refusal to be photographed shall be documented. Refusals for medical attention shall also be documented.

**107:8 Training**

All officers authorized to use less-lethal munitions shall be trained by an instructor certified for that weapon. Training on less-lethal munitions shall include instruction on the weapon's intended use, policy requirements on force options, medical concerns, operation of the device, and handling of expended rounds.

**BY ORDER OF:**

Scott Nadeau, Chief of Police

[Back to Top](#)