



SAN JOSE POLICE DEPARTMENT
TRAINING BULLETIN

TO: ALL DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

FROM: Edgardo Garcia
Chief of Police

SUBJECT: BOLAWRAP PILOT PROJECT

DATE: March 18, 2020

BULLETIN #2020-004

The Department has acquired several BolaWrap devices as a less-than-lethal option. The BolaWrap device is intended to immobilize and control resistive/non-compliant persons and persons with known or suspected mental health issues. The BolaWrap is a hand-held remote restraint device [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The Department is implementing field testing of the device. The below temporary policy will be in effect during the field-testing process.

Temporary BolaWrap Device Policy

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for the issuance and use of BolaWrap devices in order to minimize injury to suspects, subjects, and officers.

POLICY

The BolaWrap device is intended to immobilize and control resistive/non-compliant persons and persons with known or suspected mental health issues. The BolaWrap is a hand-held remote restraint device [REDACTED]

ISSUANCE AND CARRYING BOLAWRAP DEVICES

The following guidelines shall be adhered to:

1. Only members who have successfully completed department-approved training may be issued and carry the BolaWrap device.
2. Only personnel who have completed BolaWrap training may use the device.
3. [REDACTED]
4. Officers shall be responsible for ensuring that their issued BolaWrap device is properly maintained and in good working order.
5. [REDACTED]

VERBAL AND VISUAL WARNINGS

A verbal warning of the intended use of the “less-lethal” 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:

1. Provide the individual with a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply.
2. Provide other officers and individuals with a warning that the BolaWrap device may be deployed.

The aiming laser should never be intentionally directed into the eyes of another as it may permanently impair his/her vision.

The fact that a verbal or other warning was given or the reasons it was not given shall be documented by the officer deploying the BolaWrap device in the related report.

USE OF THE BolaWrap DEVICE

The BolaWrap device has limitations and restrictions requiring consideration before its use. The device should only be used when its operator can safely approach the subject [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. Officers should be aware that the device may not achieve the intended results and be prepared with other options.

APPLICATION OF THE BolaWrap DEVICE

The BolaWrap device may be used in any of the following circumstances, when the circumstances perceived by the officer at the time indicate that such application is reasonably necessary to control a person:

1. The subject is violent or is physically resisting.
2. The subject has demonstrated, by words or action, an intention to be violent or to physically resist, and reasonably appears to present the potential to harm officers, him/herself or others.

Mere flight from a pursuing officer is not sufficient cause to use of the BolaWrap device to apprehend an individual unless the individual’s flight poses a greater risk of danger to the public or a greater risk of a higher level of force if the BolaWrap was not used.

SPECIAL DEPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The use of the BolaWrap device on certain individuals should generally be avoided unless the totality of the circumstances indicates that other available options reasonably appear ineffective or would present a greater danger to the officer, the subject or others, and the officer reasonably believes that the need to control the individual outweighs the risk of using the device. This includes:

1. Individuals who are known to be pregnant.

2. Elderly individuals or obvious juveniles.
3. Individuals who are handcuffed or otherwise restrained.
4. Individuals detained in a police vehicle.
5. Individuals in danger of falling or becoming entangled in machinery or heavy equipment, which could result in death or serious bodily injury.
6. Individuals near any body of water that may present a drowning risk.
7. Individuals whose position or activity may result in collateral injury (e.g., falling from a height, operating vehicles or other dangerous machinery).

TARGETING CONSIDERATIONS

Reasonable efforts should be made to target lower extremities or lower arms. The head, neck, chest and groin shall be avoided. If the dynamics of a situation or officer safety do not permit the officer to limit the application of the BolaWrap device to a precise target area, officers should monitor the condition of the subject if it strikes the head, neck, chest or groin until the subject is examined by paramedics or other medical personnel.

MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS OF THE BolaWrap DEVICE

If the first application of the BolaWrap device appears to be ineffective in gaining control of an individual, the officer should consider certain factors before additional applications of the device, including:

1. Whether the Kevlar cord or pellets/barbs are making proper contact.
2. Whether the individual has the ability and has been given a reasonable opportunity to comply.
3. Whether verbal commands, other options or tactics may be more effective.

ACTIONS FOLLOWING DEPLOYMENTS

Following the use of the BolaWrap device:

1. Personnel shall request a supervisor respond to the scene.
2. The supervisor shall determine whether transporting the person to a medical facility is necessary to remove the pellets/barbs. Any pellets/barbs should be removed by medical staff.
3. If the supervisor determines that removal of the Kevlar cord is appropriate at the scene, the supervisor or officer shall remove the Kevlar cord using trauma sheers. Knives should not be used absent exigent circumstances.
4. The expended cartridge, pellets/barbs and Kevlar cord should be collected and

submitted into evidence.

REPORTING THE USE OF THE BolaWrap

The deployment of the BolaWrap shall be documented by the officer on a General Offense report and Use of Force Supplemental in accordance with L2643-Reporting Use of Force. Supervisors will respond to the scene and conduct an investigation in accordance to L2605-Supervisor's Responsibility. An application of the BolaWrap will be a Category (I) use of force, unless an injury is sustained to elevate the category.

MEDICAL TREATMENT

All persons who have been struck by BolaWrap device pellets/barbs shall be medically assessed prior to booking. Additionally, any such individual who falls under any of the following categories should, as soon as practicable, be examined by paramedics or other qualified medical personnel:

1. The person is suspected of being under the influence of controlled substances and/ or alcohol.
2. The person may be pregnant.
3. The person reasonably appears to be in need of medical attention.
4. The BolaWrap device pellets/barbs are lodged in the skin.
5. The person requests medical treatment.

The transporting officer shall inform any person providing medical care and Jail personnel that the individual has been subjected to the application of the BolaWrap device.



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