



Alexandria Police Department



Directive 7.3

IMPACT WEAPONS

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7.3.01 POLICY / PURPOSE

The purpose of this directive is to provide employees with guidelines on the use of Police Impact Weapons in keeping with the Department’s policies on the Use-of Force.

The Monadnock PR-24 side handle baton and Monadnock #9020 Autolock Expandable Baton 21-inch Baton/Foam Grip with Hindi Cap are the authorized and approved impact weapons for use by police officers, special police officers and hack inspectors. It is essential that it be understood that, as with any weapon, they must be used with discretion and emphasis on the protection of life and physical well-being. They are primarily defensive weapons, as are the other weapons available to law enforcement officers. However, they may be used as tools (in accordance with approved training) to overcome resistance and establish control over threatening and/or physically abusive individuals in the protection of life and property.

7.3.02 USE OF IMPACT WEAPONS

- A. Use of force is justified when employees only use the force necessary to accomplish lawful objectives. Employees must always hold a position of advantage over

resistive persons but should escalate or de-escalate the use of force in response to the actions of the other person(s). [4.1.1; 4.1.4]

- B. The degree of force used depends on what the employee perceives as reasonable and necessary under the circumstances and situation at the time the decision to use force is made.
- C. The potential for causing death or serious injury with a less-lethal impact weapon is a reality. This potential is greatly reduced when impacts to the head, neck, and spine are avoided. When using impact weapons, employees will be aware of the below contact areas, which are based on the potential for injury to the human body.
 - 1. Green areas: the extremities (arms, hands, legs and feet); these areas will be considered when incapacitation is necessary, and a minimal potential for injury is the appropriate response. Injury tends to be temporary.
 - 2. Yellow areas: the torso *and major joints (elbows, knees, and shoulders)* these areas will be considered when an escalation of force above the green areas is necessary and appropriate. Impact to these areas has an increased potential for death or serious physical injury. Injury tends to be more long-lasting.
 - 3. Red areas: the head and neck; intentional impacts to these areas will be avoided unless the use of deadly force is justified, necessary and appropriate.
- D. Any person who is struck with an impact weapon will be examined by a paramedic from the Fire Department. Further medical attention will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the attending paramedic. Any person who demands additional medical attention after being released by the attending paramedic will be taken to a hospital for examination.
- E. Except in an emergency, employees will refrain from using a firearm (due to the inherent danger of an accidental discharge) or a flashlight or radio as an impact weapon.
- F. Only those personnel who have received training in their use are authorized to use impact weapons.
- G. The carrying or use of black jacks, saps, lead-lined gloves, or other unauthorized weapons by any employee is prohibited.
- H. Training with less-lethal weapons will occur at least biennially.

7.3.03 REPORTING USE OF IMPACT WEAPONS**A. Employee Responsibilities**

As soon as possible, but within one hour of being involved in any use of an impact weapon, an employee will verbally notify an on-duty supervisor. [4.2.1,c]

B. Supervisor Responsibilities

The employee's immediate supervisor or an on-duty supervisor will respond to the scene and investigate all incidents involving the use of an impact weapon in accordance with Police Directive 10.32.08 (B).

C. Commander Responsibilities

All commanders will ensure that the incident was thoroughly investigated in accordance with Police Directive 10.32.08 (B), and that a recommendation for appropriate remedial action, if necessary, is documented. The package will then be forwarded to the Chief of Police through OEAPR [4.2.2]

By Authority Of:

**Michael L. Brown
Chief of Police**