



Alexandria Police Department
Directive 7.5



PEPPERBALL LAUNCHER

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7.5.01 PURPOSE

The purpose of this directive is to provide police officers with guidelines on the use of the PepperBall Launcher as a less-lethal use of force. Its deployment is authorized when time and circumstances justify such use. It is not intended to replace lethal force or any other form of use-of-force that may be justified under the circumstances that are present. Although designed to incapacitate without causing death or great bodily injury; the potential for causing death or serious injury, as with an impact weapon, does exist.

7.5.02 DESCRIPTION AND USE

- A. The PepperBall launcher is a less-lethal chemical agent delivery system that provides an alternate subduing method when traditional control tactics have proven to be, or are likely to be, ineffective. The PepperBall Technologies *Custom Carbine SX and FTC*, with *LIVE and LIVE-X* Pepper Powder Projectiles, is the department approved weapon.
- B. The PepperBall launcher will only be used by *Civil Disturbance Unit (CDU)* personnel trained in its use. *All CDU personnel will successfully complete training annually on the use and operation of the Pepperball Launcher.* **[4.3.3a]**

- C. The potential exists for PepperBall projectiles to inflict injury if they strike the face, eyes, neck, and groin. Personnel deploying the PepperBall launcher shall avoid intentionally striking those body areas unless a life-threatening situation exists.
- D. The PepperBall launcher may be used *by CDU members to disperse unruly or rioting crowds threatening unlawful property damage or physical force.*
- E. *When deploying the Pepperball Launcher, the operator should target individuals within the crowd and should avoid firing indiscriminately into the crowd. Only in limited circumstances, where it can be articulated that the entire crowd poses a threat, should the operator fire the Pepperball Launcher without identifying a specific target within the crowd.*
- F. *Any person who is directly exposed to OC resulting from the deployment of a Pepperball Launcher will be examined by a paramedic from the Fire Department unless circumstances prevent this from being accomplished safely. The effects of OC are generally immediate and temporary, and usually dissipate within 45 minutes. Further medical attention will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the attending paramedic* [4.1.5]

7.2.03 REPORTING USE OF THE PEPPERBALL LAUNCHER

A. Employee Responsibilities

As soon as possible after the use of a Pepperball Launcher, an employee will verbally notify an on-duty CDU supervisor. [4.2.1,c]

B. Supervisor Responsibilities

An on-scene CDU supervisor will investigate all incidents involving the use of a PepperBall Launcher in accordance with Police Directive 10.32.08 (B).

C. Commander Responsibilities

The CDU Commander will ensure that the incident is 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