



**Las Cruces Police Department**  
**GENERAL ORDERS**  
**FIELD OPERATIONS VOLUME 2**  
**GO-257 LESS-LETHAL IMPACT MUNITIONS (MOST CRITICAL)**  
**Revised 9/8/2011**

**257 LESS-LETHAL IMPACT MUNITIONS**

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this General Order is to establish procedures for the availability and use of Less-Lethal Impact Munitions (LLIM).

**POLICY**

The Las Cruces Police Department (LCPD) shall use LLIM only when reasonably necessary to protect the sanctity of human life, preserve and protect individual liberties, and to affect lawful objectives. Less-lethal options for the LCPD may vary as to their ability. The least intrusive level of force should be deployed based upon the facts and circumstances for each individual incident.

**APPLICABILITY**

This General Order applies to all employees issued less-lethal impact munitions. This General Order supersedes all previous versions.

**REFERENCES**

- CALEA 1.3
- NMML ADM.05
- Graham v. Connor, 490 U.S. 386 (1989)

**257.01 LLIM LAUNCHERS**

- A. LLIM launchers shall be a pump action, smooth bore 12-gauge shotgun or other device specifically designed to launch LLIM. Semi-automatic shotguns shall not be utilized.
- B. Only launchers specifically designated by the department shall be used to deploy LLIM.
- C. LLIM launchers shall be definitively marked by **BLAZE ORANGE** on the stock and fore grip identifying them as LLIM launchers.
- D. LLIM launchers shall not be used for any other purpose and shall be loaded only with department issued less-lethal impact munitions.



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- E. Officers certified and authorized to deploy LLIM shall not carry any other type of shotgun or shotgun ammunition.
- F. LLIM launchers shall be kept in a locking rack or locked in the trunk of the assigned officer's vehicle.

**257.02 LLIM PROJECTILES**

- A. Only approved projectiles shall be purchased and issued to officers as LLIM. The two approved types of LLIM projectiles are:
  - 1. Flexible projectiles – Projectiles with lead shot sewn into heavy cloth bags and have the potential to conform to the shape of the target.
  - 2. Non-Flexible – Rigid plastic, rubber, or wood, single or multi-projectiles such as rubber pellets or rubber sabot.

**257.03 PROCEDURE**

- A. LLIM are not intended to be an alternative to the use of deadly force when such force is clearly authorized and necessary. In order to determine which technique or weapon will reasonably de-escalate the incident and bring it under control safely, officers should assess the situations where force is warranted. For a more detailed analysis regarding use of force, see General Order 255 Use of Force. LLIM may be utilized on an individual(s) who is:
  - 1. Believed to have committed a felony based on reasonable suspicion and/or is resisting arrest or attempting to avoid apprehension.
  - 2. Armed with a deadly weapon and/or possesses the ability to inflict great bodily harm. (Careful consideration must be given to distance, cover, and the type of threat.)
  - 3. Fleeing to avoid being served with an arrest warrant and/or is arrested and the individual poses a threat to the public safety.
  - 4. Armed and needs to be restrained for their safety.

**257.04 DEPLOYMENT**

Officers involved in an incident in which LLIM may be deployed shall:



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- A. Constantly evaluate the force option selected against changing circumstances.
- B. Advise other officers of LLIM deployment, if practical.
- C. Use a cover officer with lethal munitions.
- D. Use multiple tactics to overwhelm the suspect, i.e. LLIM may be used in conjunction with a distraction device or chemical agent.
- E. Restrain subjects as necessary and provide immediate medical attention to persons struck by LLIM.
- F. Photograph the subject and injured areas.
- G. Make a detailed Offense/Incident report as well as a Blue Team Use of Force report.

**257.05 CERTIFICATION**

- A. Initial certification:
  - 1. All officers who carry and/or deploy LLIM shall satisfactorily complete a certification course on the use and application of LLIM. Each officer must qualify with the LLIM delivery system prior to receiving authorization to carry LLIM. Only officers who have met LCPD training requirements for use of LLIM are permitted to carry and/or deploy LLIM.
- B. Annual certification:
  - 1. All officers shall attend a qualification course annually on the use and application of LLIM.

**257.06 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

Supervisors shall respond to all deployments of LLIM and ensure that all required reports are completed prior to the officer going off-duty.