



Shelburne Police Department

SUBJECT: Less-Lethal Impact Munitions

GENERAL ORDER # 21

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 3, 2026

REVIEW DATE:

AMENDS/SUPERCEDES: N/A

APPROVED:


Joshua Flore, Chief of Police

I. Introduction and Purpose

Less-Lethal Impact Munitions (LLIMs), or impact projectiles, are designed to function as extended-range impact weapons, and their use is justified whenever an impact technique is appropriate. The intended role of less-lethal munitions is to immobilize resistant persons at safe distances to prevent injury to officers or to the public. LLIMs are discharged only by specially trained officers called "Grenadiers."

II. Definitions

Less-Lethal Weapons: Devices used by police officers to stop, control, and restrain individuals while causing less harm than deadly force to the targeted individual.

Impact projectiles: means a projectile designed to incapacitate, immobilize or stun a human being through the infliction of impairment of physical condition, function or senses, including physical pain or discomfort. It is not necessary that a munition leave any lasting or permanent incapacitation, discomfort, pain, or other injury or disability in order to qualify.

Extended Range Impact Weapon: A less-lethal weapon that is used to incapacitate a subject with minimal potential for causing death or serious bodily injury.

Special Populations: Members of special populations include subjects an officer has reason to believe are:

- a. Cognitively impaired such that they are unable to comply with an officer's instructions
- b. Experiencing an emotional crisis that may interfere with the ability to understand the consequences of their actions or follow directions
- c. Persons with disabilities whose disability may impact their ability to communicate with an officer or respond to an officer's directions.
- d. Under 18 years of age.

- e. Pregnant
- f. Over 65 years of age
- g. Physically infirm, subject to or diagnosed with a heart condition, or epilepsy, or a seizure disorder

III. Policy

- A. The availability of less-lethal weapons can assist officers in de-escalation of potentially violent confrontations and provide additional alternatives to the use of deadly force. Impact projectiles are an important component of this agency's less-lethal force equipment. Officers are authorized to employ impact projectiles in accordance with the provisions of this policy and this department's overall policy on use of force.
- B. The Shelburne Police Department recognizes and respects the value of human life. However, in the performance of their duties, officers occasionally face situations where the use of force is reasonable to effect an arrest, overcome resistance, control a suspect, or protect themselves or others.
- C. Impact projectiles are a force option that, when used properly, are less likely to result in death or serious bodily injury. The Shelburne Police Department only authorizes and trains on the use of the 6325 Exact Impact 40MM Standard Range Sponge Round on the LMT 40mm launcher and less-lethal shotgun with bean bag munitions currently. All other projectiles and launch platforms are prohibited.
- D. At the beginning of their shift, the designated Shelburne Grenadier will sign out the 40mm LMT launcher and rounds to be carried within their patrol vehicle for the duration of their shift. A sign-out/inspection checklist will be completed by the officer when drawing the launcher. If, during their shift, another designated Grenadier arrives and the launcher is turned over, the new Grenadier will complete the sign-out/inspection checklist before securing the launcher in their patrol vehicle.
- E. The Shelburne Police are permitted to allow an assisting agency to utilize our launching platform with their own munitions in the event of an equipment malfunction, provided that the officer who is borrowing the platform is adequately trained on the platform.

IV. Procedures

- A. Guidelines for Use of Impact Projectiles
 - 1. All uses of LLIMs should be consistent with this agency's policy on Use of Force (Shelburne Police Department General Order 17).

2. LLIMs are primarily designed for use against subjects who appear to pose a threat of death or serious bodily injury to themselves or others. No part of this policy shall override the state use of force policy or standard operating procedure when responding to a person who poses a threat to themselves.
3. There is a broad range of scenarios in which the use of LLIMs may be justified. Major factors to consider when deciding whether such use is justified include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. Seriousness of any crime committed by the individual
 - b. Whether the individual is armed and, if so, the potential lethality/threat
 - c. Propensity of the individual to be violent
 - d. The urgency of the situation and the potential impact of actions that the suspect may commit
 - e. The ability of officers to use an impact projectile against the suspect in accordance with policy and training
 - f. The potential for collateral damage to officers, other persons, or property
 - g. Is the suspect a member of a Special Population, and is there potentially more risk of harm deploying an extended range impact weapon against them
4. Consideration may be given to use of LLIMs against those who are posing a threat of death or serious bodily injury to themselves or others in accordance with the state use of force policy.
5. Only officers who have met this agency's training requirements for use of LLIMs are permitted to carry or deploy impact projectiles.
6. LLIMs may be used to prevent the escape of suspects under appropriate circumstances. In these cases, the severity of the threat posed by the suspect's continued freedom must be carefully weighed.
7. No use of force action, including LLIMs, shall be used during lawful assemblies and demonstrations.
8. The decision to use LLIMs should never be made at the risk of the officers' safety or that of the public. Officers should not assume unreasonable risks in deploying LLIMs against a suspect threatening to use deadly force.
9. If a suspect is threatening to use deadly force and LLIMs offer an opportunity to resolve the incident without the use of deadly force, LLIMs may be deployed if:

- a. The scene is contained, and there are no active attempts at serious bodily injury; and
 - b. There is adequate staff on scene to supplement the use of LLIMs with deadly force options should LLIMs fail to control the suspect and result in further deterioration of the incident.
10. LLIMs may be used against wild and domestic animals to drive them away or to deter an attack. Where an animal poses a threat of bodily injury or must be euthanized, conventional firearms should be used.

B. Deployment

1. Specific weapons shall be designated for deployment of less lethal and extended-range impact projectiles. These shall not be used for any other purpose, shall be loaded only with less-lethal or extended-range impact projectiles, and shall be kept only by authorized personnel in a manner designated by the department.
2. Where possible, officers should inform other police personnel in the immediate vicinity that impact rounds will be deployed, so that the shot will not precipitate the use of firearms by other officers.
3. Where possible, officers should warn the suspect that a less-lethal round is going to be administered unless compliance is received.
4. Suspects who are struck with a projectile should be restrained as necessary and evaluated by emergency medical services.
5. A use-of-force report shall be submitted, and an investigation shall be conducted in any situation involving the discharge of an impact projectile. In accordance with Shelburne Police Department General Order 17.

C. Targeting

1. All rounds fired with LLIMs will comply with the officer's training with respect to shot placement on the suspect's body. LLIMs have the potential to cause death or serious injury. Intentional impacts to the:
 - a. Head
 - b. Neck
 - c. Throat
 - d. Heart
 - e. Spine, or
 - f. 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.

D. Training

1. Officers authorized to deploy LLIMs shall receive designated training and certification as required by this agency and shall requalify with the weapon on an annual basis.
2. Officers shall receive agency-authorized training specifically designed to simulate actual deployment situations and conditions to enhance officers' discretion and judgment in using projectiles in accordance with this policy.

V. Reporting Procedures

- A. Accidental discharges as well as intentional uses of LLIMs will be reported to the immediate supervisor as soon as possible.
- B. A case report along with any other incident and supplement reports will be completed following all discharges of impact munitions except during training.
- C. Officers shall attempt to photograph the area of impact on the suspect.
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.

VI. Supervisor Responsibilities

- A. On-duty supervisor/OIC will respond immediately to all incidents of LLIMs deployment.
- B. Ensure proper medical attention is requested.
- C. Ensure Use of Force Report is completed.