

Columbus Police Division Directive	EFFECTIVE	NUMBER
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Gas Guns and Grenades		



I. Introduction

- A. Gas guns and grenades are used to deploy projectiles, distraction devices, and chemical agents that are not designed to be lethal, but have the potential to cause injury or death.
- B. Chemical agents in the form of aerosol canisters that are thrown and spray devices worn on the gun belt that are not deployed by the ignition of a primer are excluded from the provisions of this directive.

II. Definitions

A. Bean bag round

Also referred to as a flexible baton round, a bean bag round contains a cloth bag filled with silica sand and is fired from a gas gun. It is designed for direct impact on a targeted subject.

B. Flashbang

A non-bursting detonation device that emits light and sound when deployed.

C. Gas gun

A 37mm single-barrel or rotary-style firearm used to deploy projectiles, distraction devices, and chemical agents.

D. Gas round

Any of a variety of rounds fired from a gas gun that release chemical agents or projectiles containing chemical agents.

E. Knee-knockers

A common term for multiple baton rounds.

F. Less-lethal weapons

This includes gas guns, grenades, bean bag rounds, and knee-knockers which have the potential to cause death, though they are not designed to be lethal. The term "intermediate weapons" includes a wider variety of weapons.

G. Multiple baton round

A high or low velocity round containing projectiles made of rubber, wood, foam, or other material fired from a gas gun. It is designed to be skip-fired (ricocheted off a hard surface) toward a targeted subject or be used as a distraction device (deployed through and breaking a window) depending on the circumstances. Multiple baton rounds are commonly referred to as knee-knockers.

III. Policy Statements

- A. The Division's **use of force** policy shall be employed as the basis for using gas guns and grenades; therefore, any discharge of a gas gun or detonation of a grenade (excluding flashbangs) shall be a **use of force**.
- B. Only officers assigned to SWAT, In-Tac, and sworn supervisors who have satisfactorily completed annual specialty impact and gas munitions training are permitted to possess or deploy these munitions in the field.

IV. Procedures

A. Use of Gas Guns and Grenades

1. Zone Lieutenant

- a. Ensure that the zone has at least one gas gun available for use at all times.
- b. Determine whether to use a gas gun or grenade immediately or call for SWAT.
- c. When necessary, issue the order to use the gas gun or grenade.

Such an order may be given via electronic or radio communications.

2. SWAT Section Lieutenant

- a. Determine when a gas gun or grenade is to be used.
- b. Issue the order to deploy the weapon.
 - (1) The order may be given via electronic or radio communications.
 - (2) When necessary, designate a lower-ranking SWAT officer to give the order.

3. Personnel assigned to possess or use a gas gun or grenade

- a. Maintain the gas gun or grenade in good working order.
- b. Use a gas gun or grenade only on the order of a lieutenant, higher-ranking personnel, or the SWAT Section Lieutenant's designee.

Note: Sergeants deploying beanbag rounds are not required to obtain prior approval.

- c. Do not fire a gas gun or detonate a grenade without the assistance of a cover officer with a firearm.

4. Ordnance Unit Personnel

Resupply personnel with gas guns, grenades, and less-lethal ordnance at the direction of a lieutenant or higher-ranking supervisor.

B. Reporting and Investigation of Deployment

1. Investigating personnel

- a. Comply with the "Discharged Firearms" directive and forward a copy of the administrative investigation to the Legal Advisor when:
 - (1) A human subject is struck and serious physical harm, as defined in the Ohio Revised Code, results.
 - (2) A human subject is struck and death results.

- b. Comply with the “**Use of Force**” directive and forward a copy of the administrative investigation to the Legal Advisor when:
 - (1) No human subject is struck.
 - (2) A human subject is struck and not injured.
 - (3) A human subject is struck, and the resulting injury does not amount to serious physical harm as defined in the Ohio Revised Code.
 - (4) A human subject is struck and flees the scene in an unknown condition.
- 2. Internal Affairs Bureau
 - a. Maintain required records of **uses of force**.
 - b. When the involved personnel are ordered by a supervisor to fire a gas gun or detonate a grenade, categorize the incident as an ordered **use of force** for purposes of the Employee Action Review System.
- 3. Personnel detonating explosive devices that must be logged as required by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF)
 - a. Be aware of the reporting requirement for devices such as the Defense Technology Corporation of America Distraction Device.
 - b. Report the **use of force** as required by the “**Use of Force**” directive.
 - c. Complete a Distraction Device Deployment report, form U-11.102, and forward it directly to the 1st Shift Ordnance Unit.
- 4. 1st Shift Ordnance Unit
 - Maintain a log of all explosive devices as required by ATF.