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**SHERIFF**

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## LINE-UP TRAINING

### Rubberball Grenade

### Topic #93

*After discussing/reviewing the below training material in line-up (briefing), sworn staff shall sign off as completed in LMS. In the event a staff member is not present when this topic is discussed in line-up, they shall independently read, review, and complete the training.*

*Completion of this line-up training topic includes reviewing the associated standardized Power Point presentation available on the DTU SharePoint site [\(#93-Standard Presentation\)](#).*

*By clicking "Yes" to "Have you completed this activity?" in LMS, you are attesting that you have viewed, read, and completed the training activity.*

#### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this training is to familiarize sworn staff with the procedures in the event there is an occurrence within a Sheriff's Office facility which requires the deployment of the Rubberball Grenade.

#### II. POLICY

Authorized defensive devices shall be operated by trained and qualified personnel. Absent exigent circumstances, the watch commander, sergeant, or their designee shall be notified prior to deploying specialty munitions. The use of defensive devices shall adhere to all use of force guidelines, including but not limited to those found in San Diego County Sheriff's Office Policy and Procedures Manual, [Section 11](#). (Also refer to DSB P&P sections [I.69](#) Facility Security-Weapons and [I.85](#) Use of Defensive Devices.)

#### III. DISCUSSION

The Rubberball Grenade is listed as an intermediate force option specialty munition used to stop assaultive behavior. Assaultive behavior is represented by conduct that suggests the potential for human injury. Such behavior may be conveyed through body language, verbal threats and/or physical actions.

The Rubberball Grenade is a device that delivers three stimuli for psychological and physiological effects: heat, light, and sound. When deployed properly, it has an initial 1.5 second delay that initiates fuze (a mechanical device, not to be confused with fuse, which is a friction device) assembly separation, followed by another 0.5 second delay leading to a blast sufficient enough to project the 0.32 caliber pellets in a 50-foot radius.



The Rubberball Grenade is intended to be hand thrown in the general direction of the target. It is usually ground burst; however, given enough height it is possible to air burst the device. The device can be used to distract, disorient, and/or redirect a target.

### **Effects of the Rubberball Grenade**

The Rubberball Grenade will affect a person's psychological (internal) and physiological (external) makeup. Psychological effects will drive a person's decision making and reactions. These reactions can be based on the following:

- **Human Instinct** – fight or flight syndrome.
- **Chemical Makeup / Nervous System** – causing someone to be startled or have an adrenaline dump.
- **Learned Behavior** – "Hot Stove" theory. Knowing the stove is hot, one may not want to touch it. However, with prior experience one may recognize the device and make preparation for its deployment.

Physiological effects include the following:

- **Visual Effects**
    - A. The intense light bleaches the retina and causes constriction of the pupil.
    - B. It can take up to 2 minutes for the pupil to recover and 10-30 minutes to restore normal vision.
  - **Auditory Effects**
    - A. Temporary ringing in the ears.
    - B. Disturbed equilibrium.
- \*\*CAUTION:** Can cause hearing damage in small children and the elderly.

### **Required Safety Equipment**

- Fire Extinguisher
- Eye Protection
- Nomex Gloves
- Hearing Protection (during training)

### **Key Factors**

- Facility commanders or designees should ensure a minimum of one deputy trained and qualified to deploy a Rubberball Grenade is assigned to each shift.
- Whenever an incarcerated person is subjected to a projectile from the Rubberball Grenade, the incarcerated person shall be referred to health staff for medical assessment and treatment as soon as practical.
- The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) shall be notified in writing of any Rubberball Grenade use (to be completed by facility training coordinator). The serial number on the spoon should be included in the notification.
- Rubberball Grenades shall be secured in a locked and safe area.



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- In the event that a Rubberball Grenade fails to detonate, *it should be left where it fell and the area should be secured*. If a sympathetic detonation cannot be achieved, the Sheriff's Bomb Arson Unit should be requested to respond to render the Rubberball Grenade safe.

**Documentation**

Use of defensive devices shall be documented according to establishes Office use of force reporting guidelines, including but not limited to those found in the San Diego County Sheriff's Office Policy and Procedures Manual, Section 11.

Use of defensive devices shall be documented in the narrative of a NicheRMS report. The force will be documented as outlined in [Section 11](#).

Color photographs shall be taken showing the area where the device/rounds came into contact with the incarcerated person.