



San Diego County Sheriff

Training Bulletin

William D. Gore, Sheriff

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PepperBall Launcher Deployment

In an effort to unify training standards on the San Diego Sheriff's Department, the minimum distance to deploy the PepperBall Launcher will be 0 feet for all sworn personnel. This minimum distance will supersede any past training.

PepperBall technologies does not require the operator to be a minimum distance away from their intended target when deploying PepperBall rounds. However, the sheriff's department recommends deputies attempt to remain at least 3 feet (End of barrel to target) away from the intended target unless circumstances dictate otherwise. This recommendation is based on the following reasons, but not limited to: Better retention of the launcher, less likelihood of deputy contamination of PAVA, and possible malfunctions to the PepperBall Launcher.

The PepperBall delivery system will be carried and deployed by trained deputies. As a refresher the recommended range for the PepperBall projectile is 0-60 feet for individual target and 3-150 feet for area saturation. Continue to avoid targeting the head, neck, spine, and groin.

Some of the common deployment errors made when using less lethal chemical agents are:

- No tactical plan prior to deployment
- Missing your target
- Moving in too soon
- Cross contamination
- No other force option considered

Additionally it is the responsibility of the deploying deputy to ensure of appropriate decontamination measure, as soon as practical after application.

If the PepperBall Launcher is deployed follow Addendum F ([Click Here](#)) guidelines when reporting a use of force.

The information in this Training Bulletin was provided by Corporal Daniel Gutierrez and edited for distribution by the In Service Training Unit. If you have expertise in a particular subject and would like to write a training bulletin, please contact Corporal Michael Cruz at In Service Training, [REDACTED]