



## Request for Council Action

**TO:** Mayor and City Council  
**THROUGH:** Tim Murray, City Administrator  
**FROM:** Andy Bohlen, Police Chief  
**MEETING DATE:** July 9, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** Approve Conversion from Lethal Shotguns into Less Lethal Shotguns

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### **Background:**

The Faribault Police Department is requesting Council approval to convert our current lethal shotguns into less lethal shotguns. The request for change comes as all police vehicles are now equipped with patrol rifles which removes the need for lethal shotguns. Less lethal shotguns are used by agencies across the state giving law enforcement an additional tool. Less lethal projectiles are bean bag rounds to be utilized to control a non-compliant, uncontained violent, or armed subject in order to protect officers and others from harm. See policy attached for further details. The less lethal shotgun application has been approved by the Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training.

### **Recommendation:**

Approve conversion of current lethal shotguns into less lethal shotguns.

### **Attachments:**

- Policy 318, 12 Gauge Less Lethal Shotgun

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## Faribault Police Department

<b>Policy #:</b> 318	<b>Subject:</b> 12 Gauge Less Lethal
<b>Issued by:</b> Chief Andy Bohlen	<b>Shotgun</b>
<b>Personnel:</b> Sworn Personnel	<b>Date Issued:</b>

### Purpose

Less lethal weapons are to be utilized to control a non-compliant, uncontained, violent, or armed subject in order to protect officers and other from harm. This may also include protecting the subject from self-induced injury.

### Definitions

1. The 12 gauge pump shotgun is an orange marked shotgun solely used for less lethal 12 gauge rounds.
2. Less Lethal Munitions (12 gauge less lethal rounds) are used to disorientate and incapacitate the subject
3. A 12 gauge drag stabilized round (less lethal munition) is a tear shaped bag or "bean bag" filled with number #9 shot with tails. It is a direct fire munition intended to be directly fired at a subject. The less lethal 12 gauge shotgun round is also referred to as a kinetic energy projectile round.

### Training

A Faribault Police Officer is not permitted to use to a less lethal shotgun unless qualified in its proficient use as determined by training procedures. Proficiency will be demonstrated at least annually.

### General Guidelines

1. Officers are not required to or compelled to use approved munitions in lieu of other reasonable tactics if the involved officer determines that deployment of these munitions cannot be done safely. The safety of hostages, innocent

persons and officers takes priority over the safety of subjects engaged in criminal or suicidal behavior.

2. Circumstances appropriate for deployment include, but are not limited to, situations in which:
  - A. The suspect is armed with a weapon and the tactical circumstances allow for the safe application of approved munitions.
  - B. The suspect has made credible threats to harm him/herself or others.
  - C. The suspect is engaged in riotous behavior or is throwing rocks, bottles or other dangerous projectiles at people and/ or officers
  - D. There is probable cause to believe that the suspect has already committed a crime of violence and is refusing to comply with lawful orders.
3. Deployment considerations before discharging projectiles. The officer should consider such factors as:
  - A. Distance and angle to the target.
  - B. Type of munitions employed.
  - C. Type and thickness of the subject's clothing.
  - D. The subject's proximity to others.
  - E. The location of the subject.
  - F. The physical stature, physical condition and the age of the subject.
  - G. Whether the subject's actions dictate the need for an immediate response and the use of the less lethal shotgun appears appropriate.
4. The less lethal shotgun option should only be deployed when the officer has direct lethal force cover available.
5. The less lethal shotgun should not be intentionally directed at the head/neck area of the subject unless deadly force is justified.
6. Targeted impact areas of a subject when deploying the less lethal shotgun are as follows:
  - A. First impact area to be considered should include the buttocks, thighs and calf's areas of the subject's body.
  - B. Second impact area to be considered should include the abdominal area of the subject's body.

- C. Third impact area to be considered could include the shoulders and arms of the subject but due to the mobility of these areas there is a potential to miss the subject and hit an unintended area.
7. A verbal warning of the intended use of the less lethal shotgun should precede its application, unless it would otherwise endanger the safety of officers or when it is not practicable due to the circumstances.

The purpose of the warning is to give the individual a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply and to warn other officers and individuals that the less lethal shotgun is being deployed.

Officers should keep in mind the manufacturer's recommendations and their training regarding effective distances and targeted areas. However, officers are not restricted solely to use according to manufacturer's recommendations. Each situation must be evaluated on the totality of circumstances at the time of deployment.

### **Medical Treatment**

Any person struck with a less lethal 12 gauge round should be evaluated and if necessary, be taken to a medical facility for attention. A report including photographs must be submitted to a supervisor.

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Lesson Plan LESSLETHALSHOTGUNFBO-2019  
Less Lethal Shotgun Certification

Faribault Police Department

**Less Lethal Shotgun Training**



Lesson Plan

Created May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019

**One hour Course of Training**  
**(Classroom Lecture, Qualification, Reality Based Scenarios)**

**Prepared By:**  
**Officer Benjamin Johns, 216**  
**Firearms Instructor**  
**Less Lethal Shotgun Instructor**  
**Reality Based Scenario Training Instructor**

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Audience:

Faribault Police Department Sworn Officers

Time Allocated:

To complete all classroom work, qualification and active scenarios, each student will be allotted 1 hour for the class. Class size will be limited to no more than 6 students to allow for efficient presentation of curriculum.

Lesson Plan Completion:

Faribault Police Department Less Lethal Shotgun Certification Lesson Plan  
Completed May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019

Author/Lead Instructor

Benjamin Johns POST #19603

Position: Patrol Officer/Field Training Officer

Firearms Instructor: Alexandria Technical College

Less Lethal Shotgun Instructor: Alexandria Technical College

Reality Based Scenario Training Instructor: Combat Focus Shooting

Use of Force Instructor:

Sergeant Matthew Long POST #18562

Position: Patrol Sergeant/Use of Force-Reality Based Training Supervisor

Use of Force Instructor: A&S Training

Certified ASP Baton Instructor

Reality Based Scenario Training Instructor

Locations:

Rice County Jail Annex

Classroom Presentation Date/Time:

To Be Determined

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Performance Objectives:

Given a one hour classroom presentation with included practical drills, qualification and reality based training scenarios, the student/officer will be required to demonstrate and employ both classroom knowledge and practical technique. The student/officer shall demonstrate the knowledge of the Faribault Police Department's policy concerning the use of the less lethal shotgun. The student/officer should be able to describe the importance of the factors influencing the point of aim, impact areas, and when/why those factors apply during the appropriate situation. The student/officer should be able to demonstrate how to properly load and unload the less lethal shotgun. The student/officer should be able to demonstrate the "cruiser carry" mode for the less lethal shotgun. The student/officer will accurately deploy less lethal rounds to preferred target areas.

Purpose:

The purpose of this coursework is to train officers to be able to thoroughly understand the less lethal shotgun, and appropriately utilize the less lethal shotgun in the field.

Method:

Use of classroom lecture, in class discussion and hands on practical demonstrations of use.

Method of Evaluation:

Student/Officer shall be able to effectively demonstrate proper use of the less lethal shotgun through reality based training scenarios using "simunition" training rounds. Proficiency will be demonstrated annually using less lethal shotgun rounds approved for duty.

Written Exam:

There shall be no written exam.

Practical Exercise:

Student/Officer shall participate in a hands on, real time scenarios in which the less lethal shotgun (via simunition training rounds) shall be utilized. Student/officer shall demonstrate correct utilization of the less lethal shotgun, accurate targeting, and appropriate verbal commands.

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Practical Exercise continued:

Instructional staff shall demonstrate correct procedure prior to practical exercise at reduced speed.

Qualification:

Using approved less lethal shotgun rounds, students/officers will deploy the rounds at a training target (dummy target) specifically designed for less lethal rounds. Student/officer shall demonstrate accurate targeting of the training target. Proficiency will be demonstrated at least annually.

Course Requirements:

Students/officer shall have full duty gear required for their assigned duties. Student/officer will be provided a 12 gauge less lethal, orange marked shotgun. Students/officers will be provided simunition training rounds for the training scenarios involving actors. Students/officers will only be provided less lethal approved rounds during qualification using the training target.

Instructor Requirements:

A certified less lethal shotgun instructor will be present for the classroom portion. A certified less lethal shotgun instructor and another use of force instructor for safety reasons will be present during training scenarios and qualification.

Equipment Requirements:

1. A classroom for lecture.
2. Designated area for less lethal shotgun training scenarios and qualification.
3. Training target (dummy target)



Lesson plan:

1. Introduction to Less Lethal Munitions
  - A. Munitions developed to give police, corrections, security and military forces a less-lethal option to use against crowds, aggressive or violent individuals, and to support special tactical operations.
  - B. Psychological Effects: Less lethal shotgun pointed in the direction of a subject creates anxiety in the subject. Also creates fear and panic in the subject causing the subject to have mental distraction and less control.
  - C. Physiological Effects: Less lethal munitions are used to disorient and incapacitate a subject. Low energy equals pain compliance and high energy equals incapacitation. Injury should be expected.
  - D. Also called a Kinetic Energy Projectile Round
  - E. Less lethal munitions can be utilized to control a non-complaint, uncontained, violent, or armed subject in order to protect officers and others from harm. This may also include protecting the subject from self-induced injury.
  
2. 12 Gauge Drag Stabilized Round
  - A. Tear shaped bag with tails filled with number #9 shot (bean bag round)
  - B. Velocity of the round is 270 feet per second
  - C. Minimum safe distance of the round is 20 feet
  - D. Maximum effective distance of the round is 75 feet
  - E. The round is a direct fire munition and is intended to be fired directly at the subject
  
3. 12 Gauge Pump Shotgun (Remington Model 870)
  - A. Orange marked shotgun solely used for the less lethal 12 gauge round
  - B. Cost efficient , accessible and portable
  - C. The less lethal shotgun holds multiple rounds for follow up shots
  - D. Less lethal shotguns will be carried in locked gun storage areas in the squad cars and other police vehicles
  - E. Less lethal shotguns will be stored in the "Cruiser Carry" mode
  
4. Blunt Trauma vs. Penetrating Trauma
  - A. Blunt Trauma:
    1. Maximum desired effect when the impact of the projectile leaves the body surface in tact but leaves sufficient injury to incapacitate the subject.

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Blunt Trauma continued:

2. Target area is critical to reduce injury

3. Creates pain, swelling and range of movement. Generally heals in days but some bruises may take months to heal

B. Penetrating Trauma:

1. Unintended and undesirable
2. Possibility of death

5. Deployment Considerations

A. Successful outcome depends on:

1. Assessment of the situation
2. Training experience
3. Operational experience

B. Appropriate use of force for the exhibited level of threat

C. Available target areas

D. Distance:

1. Affects accuracy and munition energy.
2. Close range increases the potential incapacitation and increases the risk of injury
3. Long range may affect the accuracy and increase the potential for serious injury

E. Accuracy prevents potential injury and gives optimum energy from the munition.

F. Energy:

1. Sufficient energy needed for incapacitation or distraction

6. Impact or target areas

A. Areas such as the head, neck, spine, and groin should be avoided if possible (only in a deadly force situation)

B. Shots to the center mass provide for the highest probability for immediate incapacitation but also have the potential to cause serious injury or death

C. Large muscle groups such as the buttocks, thigh, and calf should be considered as the first impact area or targeted area

D. Medium muscle groups such as the abdominal area should be considered as the second impact area or targeted area

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E. Shoulders and arms are primarily skeletal areas and because of their mobility, there is a greater potential to miss and unintentionally hit another area

F. Factors influencing point of aim:

1. Clothing
2. Physical stature of the subject
3. Physical condition of the subject
4. Subjects age
5. Immediate surroundings
6. Impact areas or target areas
7. Target Picture
8. Threat level

7. Appropriate circumstances for deployment of the Less Lethal shotgun, but not limited to:

- A. Situations in which the subject is armed with a weapon and the tactical circumstances allow for safe application of approved munitions.
- B. The subject has made credible threats to harm him/herself or others.
- C. The suspect is engaged in riotous behavior or is throwing rocks, bottles or other dangerous projectiles at people and/ or others.
- D. There is probable cause to believe that the subject has already committed a crime of violence and is refusing to comply with lawful orders.

8. Other considerations for 12 gauge Less Lethal Munition Deployment

- A. Documentation of the incident in a report to include photographs of injured areas on a subject
- B. Medical Treatment for any subject struck with a less lethal 12 gauge round. The subject should be evaluated and if necessary, be taken to a medical facility for attention.
- C. Officers deploying the 12 gauge Less Lethal shotgun should only do so when the officer has direct lethal force cover available.
- D. A verbal warning should be given before intended use of the Less Lethal shotgun, unless it would otherwise endanger the safety of officers or when it is not practicable due to the circumstances. The purpose of the warning is to give the individual a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply and to warn other officers and individuals that Less Lethal shotgun is being deployed.
- E. Each situation must be evaluated on the totality of circumstances at the time of deployment.
- F. Officers should understand current Minnesota Use of Force and Deadly Force Statutes and be familiar with the Faribault Police Department policies pertaining to the same.

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### Bibliography

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Safariland LLC, 2012

Defense Technology, 12 gauge Drag Stabilized Round  
Safariland LLC, 09/2015

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