

# Force Option – Noise-Flash Diversionary Devices

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## **Policy Statement**

The use of NFDDs can momentarily distract suspects who are intent on causing harm to law enforcement personnel or innocent persons or hostages, allowing tactical team members to rapidly take control of dangerous situations.

## **Definitions**

**NFDD** – Noise-Flash Diversionary Device – a device that produces a loud audible sound pulse (noise) and rapidly-generated visible light (flash) designed to disorient hostile persons or crowds but not intended to produce lethal injury

## **Use of Force Policy Compliance**

All responses with the force option covered in this policy must comply with the Sheriff's Office's Use of Force policy.

## **Authorization**

Designated tactical team members may in the course of their duties:

- Deploy NFDDs to gain entry into a building for the purpose of arresting violent suspects, where the diversion created by NFDDs would increase the safety of the team or the community.
- Deploy NFDDs *outside a building or structure* to induce suspects to surrender, where it is known or reasonably suspected that violent suspects are inside.
- Deploy NFDDs to induce suspects engaged in a riot or other violent acts to cease their threatening behavior immediately.

Team members shall not deploy NFDDs solely for the preservation of evidence.

## **Deployment Decision**

Except in extreme emergencies (e. g., life-threatening situations), team members shall only deploy NFDDs after receiving permission from the team commander, or team leader in the commander's absence.

## **Deployment Considerations**

In addition to the factors contained in the Use of Force policy, deputies should consider the following when determining whether or not to respond with, or modify their use of (e.g., to the exterior vs. interior of a building), NFDDs in each situation:

- The presence of pregnant women, children or elderly persons in or near the building.
- The presence of flammable or explosive materials (e.g., gasoline cans, natural gas lines).

Whenever possible, team members shall observe the target area immediately before deploying an NFDD.

## **Personnel and Training**

Designated tactical team members may use NFDDs only after they successfully complete a Sheriff's Office-approved course in the handling and deployment of NFDDs. Thereafter, such personnel shall complete refresher training annually.

## **Equipment, Devices and Materials**

Sheriff's Office personnel shall only use Sheriff's Office-obtained or approved NFDDs.