

Kinetic Energy Projectiles

Table of Contents

Policy Statement	2
Persons Affected	2
Definitions	2
Use of Force Policy Compliance	2
Authorization	2
Deployment Considerations	2
Verbal Announcement	3
Deployment Distances and Shot Placement	3
Personnel and Training	3
Equipment, Devices and Materials	3

Policy Statement

The Sheriff's Office is committed to reducing the potential for violent confrontations. Kinetic energy projectiles can be used during attempts to de-escalate potentially deadly situations by temporarily incapacitating violent or potentially violent persons so deputies can safely take them into custody.

Persons Affected

All law enforcement deputy sheriffs

Definitions

Kinetic energy projectiles – Projectiles that are intended to temporarily incapacitate a person with minimal potential for causing death or serious 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

Deputies may use kinetic energy projectiles to compel violent or potentially violent individuals to cease their actions. Circumstances appropriate for deployment include, but are not limited to, situations in which:

- The suspect is armed with a weapon.
- The suspect has made credible threats to harm him or herself, or others.
- The suspect is engaged in riotous behavior or is throwing rocks, bottles, or other dangerous projectiles at deputies or others.
- There is probable cause to believe that the suspect has already committed a crime of violence and is refusing to comply with lawful orders.

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, kinetic energy projectiles in each situation:

- Distance and angle to the target.
- Type and thickness of the suspect's clothing.

Deputies who deploy kinetic energy projectiles should be covered by deputies with ready lethal force options in circumstances involving any armed or dangerous subject, even if no other firearms are involved.

Verbal Announcement

Prior to the discharge of kinetic energy projectiles, the deploying deputy should verbalize [REDACTED] in a loud voice and/or over the radio, whenever practicable. The purpose of this announcement is to advise other law enforcement personnel at the scene that kinetic energy projectiles are about to be deployed.

Deployment Distances and Shot Placement

Deputies should generally follow the manufacturer's recommendations regarding minimum deployment distances and target areas. However, any target area or distance may be considered when it reasonably appears necessary to accomplish immediate incapacitation in order to prevent serious injury or death to others and other reasonable methods have failed or would reasonably appear ineffective. Deputies must evaluate each tactical situation based on the totality of circumstances at the time of deployment.

Personnel and Training

Commissioned personnel who have completed a Sheriff's Office-approved training course on the specific type of kinetic energy projectile and its associated delivery method may use that system. Such personnel will complete an annual recertification course using each system on which they are qualified.

Equipment, Devices and Materials

Commissioned personnel may deliver kinetic energy projectiles via properly-marked Sheriff's Office-issued or approved delivery systems, and shall only use Sheriff's Office-obtained or approved projectiles.