

**SAN DIEGO POLICE DEPARTMENT
PROCEDURE**

DATE: 08/15/14

NUMBER: 1.38 - ADMINISTRATION

SUBJECT: EXTENDED RANGE IMPACT WEAPON (ERIW)
SYSTEMS

RELATED POLICY: 1.04, 1.05

ORIGINATING DIVISION: TRAINING / VOLUNTEER SERVICES

NEW PROCEDURE:

PROCEDURAL CHANGE:

SUPERSEDES: DP 1.38 – 08/09/2011

I. PURPOSE

This Department procedure establishes guidelines for the use of Extended Range Impact Weapon (ERIW) Systems.

II. SCOPE

This procedure applies to all sworn members of the Department. This does not limit SWAT Personnel from using additional ERIW systems. For use of specialty munitions by SWAT, refer to Department Procedure 1.36, Use of Specialty Munitions.

III. BACKGROUND

- A. The San Diego Police Department recognizes and respects the value of human life and the dignity of every individual. It further recognizes that the primary duty of our officers is to preserve human life.
- B. The officer's use of an ERIW will be evaluated and reviewed in accordance with policies and procedures outlined in Department Procedure 1.04, Use of Force.

IV. DEFINITIONS

- A. 40MM - this ERIW is a 40MM single shot launcher; a Combined Tactical Systems model TGL-1, or a Defense Technology Model 1325.
- B. 40MM ammunition- the 40MM ERIW round is a sponge baton cartridge. The current Department-authorized 40MM round is a Combined Tactical Systems 40MM sponge baton (approximately 60 grams). The 40MM rounds are classified as “destructive devices” and as such, may not be purchased or possessed by anyone other than law enforcement officers and active duty military personnel.
- C. Beanbag shotgun – this ERIW is a standard Remington Model 870, 12-gauge shotgun that has been modified with an orange stock and forend.
- D. Beanbag ammunition – the 12-gauge ERIW ammunition, commonly known as a beanbag round, consists of a fabric sock containing lead shot contained within a standard 2 ¾ inch shot shell casing. The current Department-authorized round is the Combined Tactical Systems 12-gauge round, shot-filled flexible sock (approximately 40 grams), white colored shell. Beanbag rounds are classified as “destructive devices” and as such, may not be purchased or possessed by anyone other than law enforcement officers and active duty military personnel.
- E. Contact officer – the officer who deploys the beanbag shotgun or 40MM.
- F. Cover officer – the officer(s) who provides “deadly force” backup.
- G. Extended Range Impact Weapon (ERIW) Systems – the ERIW Systems consist of a device firing a special projectile designed to gain compliance, overcome resistance, or prevent serious injury or death. The Department currently uses two ERIW systems. Both the beanbag shotgun and 40MM single shot launching system shall be classified as “Extended Range Impact Weapons” for identification within Department Procedure 1.04, Use of Force.

V. FIRING DISTANCES

- A. All distances for ERIW systems shall be measured from the muzzle end of the weapon’s barrel.
- B. Officers generally should not fire either ERIW from a distance of less than ten feet. Shot placement, rather than deployment range, is the critical factor in determining the extent of any injury caused by either projectile.
- C. The target area from all distances should be the lower girdle area of the subject. This would include the lower abdominal region (belly button area) and below. Generally, the head, neck, thorax, heart, and spine area should not be targeted.

VI. PROCEDURES

A. Authorized Users

1. Officers shall not deploy an ERIW until they have successfully completed the required Department-approved training.
2. After the initial training, officers will be required to qualify annually with the ERIW systems in conjunction with a Department Proficiency Shoot.

B. ERIW Storage

1. Beanbag shotguns and 40MM are maintained in firearm cases that shall be carried horizontally within the police vehicle trunk. Officers are prohibited from carrying the ERIW in the vehicle interior rack.
2. Beanbag shotguns shall be carried unloaded until time of deployment - safety on, hammer down on an empty chamber with four rounds in a buttstock mounted sleeve.
3. The 40MM shall be carried unloaded until time of deployment. If the 40MM round is not used during deployment, the unused round will be unloaded and inspected for integrity.
4. All officers deploying the ERIW systems are responsible for ensuring that only ERIW ammunition is loaded into, or stored with, the designated weapons.
5. Officers are prohibited from “cross-loading” either the beanbag shotgun or standard shotgun with inappropriate rounds.

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C. ERIW Loading and Unloading

1. To reduce the danger of injury associated with unintentional discharge, the beanbag shotgun shall never be loaded or unloaded inside a vehicle, in a police station, or under any overhead structure. If close to multi-storied buildings (i.e., Headquarters E Street parking lot), ensure the muzzle is pointed in a safe direction at all times.
 - a. At the beginning of the shift, the driver of the unit shall ensure the beanbag shotgun is unloaded, safety on, hammer down on an empty chamber, empty magazine tube. The beanbag shotgun should not be loaded until time of deployment. When loaded for deployment, the beanbag shotgun shall be loaded to “patrol ready” in the prescribed manner- safety off, hammer down on an empty chamber with four rounds in the magazine tube.

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6. Officers, generally, should not deploy an ERIW at a subject when there is a danger of the subject falling from a significant height.
7. The ERIW is intended to assist in gaining compliance from the subject. Multiple shots to the same body part should be avoided. If additional shots are required, they shall be directed to different parts of the body. The subject should be taken into custody as soon as possible after the discharge of the round(s).
8. ERIW systems are limited use weapons. They shall not be used for breaching doors, euthanizing animals, firing warning shots, or for shooting at or from moving vehicles.

F. Medical Treatment

1. In the event a person is struck by an ERIW projectile, the arresting officer shall ensure that the subject is taken to a medical facility for treatment prior to being booked into jail or released.
2. Jail personnel will be notified of the use of the ERIW. The information on which system was used shall be noted on the booking slip.

G. Reporting Requirements

1. The discharge of an ERIW shall be considered the same as any authorized impact weapon when reporting the use of force. The ERIW shall not be reported as the use of a firearm. Officers discharging ERIW ammunition shall report the incident in accordance with Department Procedure 1.04, Use of Force, and complete the required Force Effectiveness Form.
2. The unintentional discharge of an ERIW shall be treated the same as the unintentional discharge of a firearm, as outlined in Department Procedure 1.05, Firearm Procedures. In the event of an unintentional discharge, the officer shall report the incident immediately to a supervisor. The supervisor shall conduct an investigation and complete a Shooting Incident Report form (PD-128).
3. In all incidents where an ERIW has been fired, the expended rounds should be impounded, if feasible. The officer's report shall include:
 - a. Distance from the suspect when fired;
 - b. Point of aim/point of impact; and,
 - c. Injuries or property damage

4. Officers who misplace or lose any ERIW ammunition shall prepare an ARJIS-9 describing the loss. The report shall be submitted to their commanding officer for approval.