

8.300-POL-5 Use of Force – IMPACT WEAPONS

This policy applies to the use of Department-approved and exigent (improvised) impact weapons, by all sworn Department employees. An impact weapon is any object that is used to forcefully strike a subject in a manner that is reasonably likely to cause injury. The baton is capable of delivering powerful blows to interrupt or incapacitate an aggressive subject. It is also capable of delivering lethal or permanently disabling blows.

Using a bicycle to forcefully strike a subject is a reportable use of force governed by this policy.

See Manual Section 8.300 for information on approved impact weapons.

1. Education & Training Section (ETS) Will Train and Certify Officers on Department-Approved Impact Weapons Every Two Years

Officers will be trained and certified to use Department-approved impact weapons before being authorized to carry these weapons.

2. Officers Shall Only Use Impact Weapons When Objectively Reasonable. See Manual Section 8.000.

3. Officers Will Not Use Impact Weapons on Subjects Who Are Restrained and Under Control, or Complying With Police Direction

4. A Hard Strike to the Head With Any Impact Weapon, Including a Baton, Is Prohibited Unless Deadly Force is Justified

The head, throat, neck, spine, groin, or kidneys shall not be targeted unless deadly force is justified. Unintentional or mistaken blows to these areas must be reported to ensure that all reasonable care was taken to avoid them.

Preferred target areas include arms, legs and torso.

5. Officers Shall Not Use Flashlights as Impact Weapons, Except in Exigent Circumstances

The improvised use of weapons, such as flashlights, may present a greater risk of injury than batons. Use of another object in place of the baton, including flashlights, is prohibited unless there is an immediate need to strike and an officer is precluded from using or cannot feasibly use the CEW, baton, or OC spray.

The failure to carry a baton, in and of itself, does not justify the regular use of a flashlight as an impact weapon. Routine reliance on flashlights as an impact weapon is prohibited.

6. Officers Must Justify Each Separate Impact Weapon Application in Their Use-of-Force Report

a. Officers are Required to Report the Use of an Impact Weapon to their Sergeant, Regardless of Whether a Subject is Struck.
