

LESS LETHAL WEAPONS COURSE

Folsom Police Department (5990)

CCN:30995| POST Certification II | Reimbursement Plan IV | 4 hours

Rev. 7-24-2025

COURSE GOAL:

This course will provide the trainee with an understanding and ability to deploy less lethal impact weapons within department policy and the law. The trainee will develop the necessary knowledge and skills to safely and effectively deploy extended range kinetic energy impact munitions (12-gauge bean bag rounds and 40mm or 37mm impact rounds) as appropriate to potential field encounters

The course consists of a hands-on/practical skills less lethal weapons training for in-service officers

This course will address changes in use of force as it pertains to Penal Code Section 835a, Penal Code Section 13652 and Penal Code Section 13652.1.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The trainee will:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the Folsom Police Department Use of Force and Less Lethal Weapons Policy.
2. Demonstrate a minimum standard of less weapons proficiency with every technique, exercise, and course-of-fire, to include:
 - a. Judgment and Decision Making
 - b. Weapons Safety/Nomenclature/Maintenance
 - c. Fundamentals of Marksmanship
 - d. Presenting Less Lethal Weapons
 - e. Threat Assessment/Identification
 - f. Speed, Accuracy and Effectiveness; Under Stress, From Cover, Movement
 - g. Shot Placement: Combat Effectiveness
 - h. Capabilities and limits of the Less Lethal munitions
 - i. Malfunctions Clearing – in exercise(s)
 - j. Loading/Reloading – in exercise(s)

Minimum standards of performance shall be tested by an instructor observing the trainee during their performance of each technique and exercise. If the trainee does not meet minimum standards, remediation will be provided until the standard is met.

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EXPANDED COURSE OUTLINE

(4 Hours)

I. INTRODUCTION/ORIENTATION

- A. Introduction, Registration and Orientation
 - 1. Instructor/Student Introductions
 - 2. Registration/Rosters
- B. Course Objectives/Overview, Exercises, Evaluation/Testing
 - 1. Overview of course objectives
 - a. Judgment and Decision Making
 - b. Weapons Safety/Nomenclature/Maintenance
 - c. Fundamentals of Marksmanship
 - d. Presenting Less Lethal Weapons
 - e. Threat Assessment/Identification
 - f. Speed, Accuracy and Effectiveness; Under Stress, From Cover, Movement
 - g. Shot Placement: Combat Effectiveness
 - h. Capabilities and limits of the Less Lethal munitions
 - i. Malfunctions Clearing – in exercise(s)
 - j. Loading/Reloading – in exercise(s)
 - 2. Overview of exercises/drills
 - 3. Evaluation/testing/remediation procedures
- C. Weapon Safety Orientation, Review of Range and Shooting Safety Rules
 - 1. All weapons are to be considered loaded
 - 2. Never point the muzzle at anything you are not willing to shoot at
 - 3. Keep finger off trigger until you are ready to fire
 - 4. Be sure of your target and background
- D. Range and Tactical Safety
 - 1. Follow range rules
 - 2. Follow instructor commands
 - 3. Strict weapon discipline and muzzle control
 - 4. No “lasering” of personal body parts
 - 5. Movement and reloading
- E. Review of Range Safety Rules
 - 1. Cover primary elements as a checklist with students
 - 2. Local emergency/first aid procedures to include radio/telephone procedures/closest medical facility

II. LESS-LETHAL FORCE OVERVIEW

- A. Intended to incapacitate, not seriously injure/kill
- B. Shot placement is critical
- C. NOT to be used in lieu of deadly force when deadly force is justified
- D. Immediate lethal cover should be present when deploying

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E. Verbal warning prior to deployment when feasible

III. USE OF FORCE/ LESS LETHAL FORCE POLICY

A. Use of Force Options

1. Less Lethal force within the spectrum of force options
2. Verbal, hands, less lethal, lethal force
3. Escalation and de-escalation process

B. Department Policy

1. Reasonable cause to believe
2. Imminent threat
3. Death or great bodily injury
4. Fleeing or violent felon specifications
5. Other policy areas and issues

C. Capabilities/Limitation of Munitions

1. Minimum standoff distance
2. Maximum effective range
3. Effects of bulky clothing/body size/mental status

D. Legal Standards/Case Law

1. Use of Force Considerations

a. PC 835a

- i. Objectively reasonable force may be used to effect an arrest
- ii. Deadly force shall not be used on a person who only poses a threat to themselves

b. AB 392

- i. Changes to Law Enforcement requirements and need to document

c. SB 230

- i. Agencies adopt and implement a Use of Force policy
- ii. Requires periodic training consistent with the agencies policy

2. Supporting Case Law

a. Graham vs. Conner

- i. Objectively Reasonable Force

b. Quezada V. County Of Bernalillo (1991)

- i. Officer might be held liable for putting them self in a situation that requires them to use deadly force against an armed suicidal person.

c. Plakas V. Drinski (1994)

- i. Use of a less lethal alternative was not required when the use of deadly force by police was justified.

d. Glenn V. Washington County (2011)

- i. Use of Less lethal OK for suicidal subject
- ii. Court “uncomfortable” with use of significant force to prevent suicide.

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Rev. 7-24-2025

e. Deorle V. Rutherford (2001)

i. Must give warning if feasible for less lethal

E. Report Writing and Preliminary Investigation Overview

1. Report writing and articulation

IV. FUNDAMENTALS OF MARKSMANSHIP

A. Stance

1. Athletic stance, balanced, ready position
2. Weight shifted slightly forward
3. Head upright, not ducked
4. Torso squared toward target

B. Grip

1. High firm grip
2. Two hands on weapon system

C. Sight Alignment/Sight Picture

1. Target focused
2. Bring optic to eye level

D. Trigger Control

1. Smooth, continuous pressure straight to the rear
2. Without disturbing sight picture

E. Follow through

1. Manage recoil
2. Reset the trigger during recoil to the ready position and obtain another sight picture

V. DRILLS AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

A. Range Orientation and Safety Briefing

1. Conduct second range safety briefing
2. Review command sequence

B. All Courses emphasize:

1. Firearms safety
2. Muzzle and fire discipline
3. Fundamentals of marksmanship
4. Safe Drawing and Presenting Firearms

C. Dry Fire Course (warm-up drill)

1. Patrol Ready
2. Chambering round, providing verbal challenge
3. Simulated dry firing and reloading

D. Live-Fire Exercises

1. Accurate delivery of munitions from various distances
2. Appropriate use of cover/concealment

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3. Reloading drills
4. Clearing malfunctions
5. Transition to deadly force
- E. Shotgun – Remington 870
 1. Review
 2. Safety
 3. Never use lethal shotgun with less lethal ammo
 4. Distance limits
 5. Patrol ready set up
 6. Loading/Unloading
 7. Ammunition management/reload drills
 8. Transition to handgun/ lethal force
 9. Fire from 5, 10, and 20-yard lines, verbal commands, target areas as commanded
 10. Combat load and reload from shell carrier
 11. Qualification
- F. Multi Launcher - 37mm / 40mm
 1. Safety
 2. Impact munitions
 - a. Distances
 - b. Effects
 3. Chemical Munitions
 - a. Distances
 4. Patrol ready set up
 5. Loading/Unloading
 6. Ammunition management/reload drills
 7. Transition to handgun/ lethal force
 8. Fire from 15-yard line and 40-yard line, verbal commands, target areas as commanded
 9. Speed reloading from ammo carrier
 10. Qualification
- G. Tactical Formations
 1. Officer Roles
 - a. Less Lethal
 - b. Less Lethal Cover
 - c. Lethal Cover
 - d. Arrest/React Officer
- H. Post Deployment
 1. Medical Treatment for Subject
 2. Documentation

VI. TESTING/REMEDIATION

- A. Student Testing and Evaluations

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1. Any student performing below standard on any exercise, as established by the instructor, will be remediated, and tested until competency is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the instructor.
 - a. Student's ability to safely handle the weapons and follow range safety rules will be taken into account with qualification.
 2. Unsafe students or students with negligence will fail immediately and will be allowed to remediate at a predetermined time.
- B. Certificates and Evaluations