

# The Tulare County Sheriff's Office

## Less Lethal Weapons/Pursuit Control Device Course Outline



**Tulare County Sheriff's Office**  
**Less Lethal Weapons/Pursuit Control Device**  
**Expanded Course Outline**  
**(8 hours) Created 07-11-2019**  
**Revised 12-10-2020**

**Instructional Goal:** To provide students with the information and hands-on experience needed to effectively use Less Lethal Weapons and Pursuit Control Devices.

**Performance Objectives:** Under the supervision of a qualified instructor each student will:

- Demonstrate their understanding of the Six Basic Safety Rules for handling Less Lethal Launchers.
- Demonstrate the ability to field strip the weapon and to properly clean and maintain it.
- Demonstrate understanding of the agency policy regarding the use of Less Lethal Weapons.
- Demonstrate the ability to properly load, unload, and fire the weapon.
- Clear malfunctions that might occur with the weapon.
- Demonstrate proficiency with the weapon and obtain agency qualification.
- Demonstrate the knowledge of when and how to safely deploy Pursuit Control Devices.

## **I. INTRODUCTION AND ORIENTATION**

- A. Welcome and Introduction
  - 1. Welcome participants
  - 2. Instructor introduction
- B. Administrative Duties
  - 1. Roll call
  - 2. Class roster
  - 3. Course guidelines, rules, and expectations
- C. Evolution of Less Lethal for Law Enforcement

## **II. LAWS, AGENCY POLICY, AND CLASSIFICATIONS OF LESS LETHAL**

- A. Agency Force Option Policies and Definitions
  - 1. Different force options available
  - 2. Department policy of Less Lethal Weapons.
  - 3. Definition of Lethal Force
  - 4. Definition of Less Lethal Force
  - 5. Definition of Less Lethal Munitions
  - 6. SB230 relation to Department Policy
- B. Law Update
  - 1. Tennessee vs. Garner
  - 2. Graham vs. Conner
  - 3. AB392 and how it changed PC 835 in 2020
  - 4. The 4<sup>th</sup> amendment
  - 5. Nelson vs. City of Davis
  - 6. CA Penal Code 12601
- C. Classifications
  - 1. Target Specific vs. Non-Target Specific
  - 2. High Velocity vs. Low Velocity
  - 3. Non-Flexible vs. Flexible

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**III. SAFETY AND RANGE RULES**

- A. The Six Basic Safety Rules include
  - 1. Treat all launchers as if they are loaded.
  - 2. Be sure the launcher is loaded with less lethal munitions only.
  - 3. Never point the muzzle at anything you are not willing to destroy.
  - 4. Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on the target.
  - 5. Communicate Less Lethal Deployment to others before discharging.
  - 6. Always be sure of your target, between and beyond.
- B. Range Rules
  - 1. After weapons have been grounded, and the line has been called safe by an instructor do not touch the weapon until all students are back from their targets, and the instructor has given the okay.
  - 2. If a problem arises on the line, raise your non-gun-hand to summon an instructor.
- C. Admonishment of No Live Sidearm Firing Practical for This Course

**IV. NOMENCLATURE, SPECIFICATIONS, AND CAPABILITIES OF LESS LETHAL LAUNCHING SYSTEMS**

- A. 40mm Launchers
  - 1. Rifled bore, smokeless powder guns
    - a. Single shot and multi-shot variants
  - 2. Accessories
- B. Pepperball Launchers
  - 1. Powered by compressed air 3,000 PSI
  - 2. Accessories
  - 3. Hoppers

**V. LESS LETHAL LAUNCHER CARE, DISASSEMBLY/ASSEMBLY, AND MAINTENANCE**

- A. Refer to the manufacturer's care and operation manual.

**VI. BASIC SHOOTING SKILLS**

- A. Stance/Position
  - 1. Standing
  - 2. Kneeling
  - 3. Sitting
  - 4. Prone
- B. Sight Alignment/Picture
  - 1. Sight Alignment
  - 2. Top of front sight post centered in the rear peep.
  - 3. 100 percent focus is on the top edge of the front sight post. The rear peep and target are blurred.
  - 4. Instructor will illustrate proper sight alignment.
- C. Sight Picture
  - 1. Defined as the relationship of sight alignment to the target.
- D. Trigger Control
  - 1. Emphasize that this is the single most important element.

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2. Shooter must apply gradual pressure on the trigger for a surprise trigger break so as to not disturb sight alignment when the shot is made.
- E. Grip/Stock Weld
- F. Breathing
1. Breath must be held at the moment the shot is made.
  2. Breathing while firing will cause vertical stringing of shots.
  3. Holding breath too long will cause vision to blur and muscles to tremble, so the shot must be made before this happens.
- G. Follow Through
1. Maintain all the elements throughout the shot.

**VII. CLEARING MALFUNCTIONS AND STOPPAGES**

- A. In close quarter confrontations, consider immediate transition to the handgun (NO LIVE FIRE WITH HANDGUN).
- B. Failure to fire
1. Contact Cover Officer
  2. Assess Launcher, pull trigger again if ready to deploy
  3. Remove munition or source of munitions
  4. Insert new munition or source of munitions

**VIII. TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- A. Based on agency guidelines and training
- B. Physical environment
- C. Be aware of cover Officer
- D. Provide verbal warning to partners around you
- E. Appropriate justification
- F. Evaluation of the suspect
- G. Contingencies should Less Lethal fail
- H. Team effort tactics

**IX. DEPLOYMENT CONCERNS**

- A. Check with a partner prior to loading munition
- B. Distance to Target
- C. Body weight or mass of suspect
- D. Clothing
- E. Wind Conditions
- F. Always have a lethal cover Officer
- G. Areas on the body to avoid if possible
  1. Head
  2. Neck
  3. Heart Region
  4. Spine
- H. Prime Target Areas
  1. Arm below the elbow
  2. Lower Abdomen
  3. Thigh
  4. Leg Below the knee



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**X. TYPES OF MUNITIONS AND COLOR CODES**

- A. 40mm
  - 1. Minimum penetration potential
  - 2. Large impacting diameter
  - 3. Generic range is five to sixty feet
  - 4. Foam Baton
  - 5. Sponge Round
  - 6. Wood Baton
- B. Pepperball
  - 1. Pepper Rounds
  - 2. Impact Rounds
  - 3. Glass Breaking Round
  - 4. Training Rounds

**XI. SKILL DEVELOPMENT**

- A. Dry and Live Firing Exercises of Less Lethal Munitions
  - 1. Done under the direct supervision of the instructors.
  - 2. Live fire at various distances based on agency mission and environment.
  - 3. Precision shooting exercises.
  - 4. Reloading and firing exercises.
  - 5. Malfunction exercises.
- C. Qualifications (LESS LETHAL MUNITIONS ONLY)

**XII. PURSUIT CONTROL DEVICE**

- A. Pursuit Policy
- B. Stop Stick introduction
- C. Stop Stick construction
- D. Safety considerations for deployment locations
- E. Tactical Considerations
  - 1. Deployment on hard surfaces
  - 2. Safe location for the deploying Deputy
- F. Storage
- G. Deployment Methods
  - 1. Side arm motion
  - 2. Keep Stop Stick below waist
  - 3. Position yourself in safe location
  - 4. Reel in slack while waiting for target vehicle

**XIII. SKILL DEVELOPMENT**

- A. Students will deploy Stop Sticks using the correct deployment method.

**XIV. CONCLUSION OF COURSE WITH DEBRIEF**

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