

PROVIDENCE POLICE DEPARTMENT

HEADQUARTERS

COLONEL OSCAR L. PEREZ

CHIEF OF POLICE

TYPE OF ORDER	NUMBER/SERIES	ISSUE DATE	EFFECTIVE DATE
General Order	310.05	12/19/2023	12/21/2023
SUBJECT TITLE	PREVIOUSLY ISSUED DATES		
Less-Lethal Munitions & 40mm Launcher	2/3/2022; 4/14/2021; 10/28/2019; 4/17/2019; 10/17/2018; 2/6/2017; 2/10/2016; 9/6/2013; Supersedes G.O. #19 Series 2005		
REFERENCE	RE-EVALUATION DATE		
CALEA Standards 4.1.4; 4.1.5; 4.2.1; 4.3.1 – 4.3.3	10/28/2025		
SUBJECT AREA	DISTRIBUTION		
Law Enforcement Operations	All Sworn Personnel		

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide Officers with guidelines regarding the issuance and deployment of Department-issued less-lethal munitions (LLM) and 40mm launchers.

POLICY

The Providence Police Department issues less-lethal munitions and 40mm launchers to specially selected and trained officers as less-lethal force options for use in the field.

These less-lethal weapons are not intended to replace verbal problem-solving skills, self-defense techniques, firearms, or any other force options that an officer may deem appropriate under a given set of circumstances.

These weapons shall only be utilized in order to assist officers in bringing certain incidents under control while protecting the safety of the officers and others, and only when deemed reasonable according to Department training. Under no circumstances shall these weapons, or any use of force option, be used as a means of interrogation, coercion, or punishment.

DISCUSSION

For the purpose of this General order, the following definitions shall apply:

LLM Equipment: The Department-issued 40mm less-lethal munitions launcher and less-lethal munitions.

LLM Officer: A sworn officer of the Providence Police Department who is in good standing with the Department; who has successfully passed all required training; and who has been selected and authorized by the Department to carry and use LLM equipment in the line of duty.

This directive is an adjunct to General Order 300.01 *Use of Force*; and as such, it shall be considered within the context of that general order.

The following Department-issued LLM equipment is the only such equipment authorized for field deployment and use:

- 1) LMT 40mm munitions launcher
- 2) Direct Impact® 40mm Marking Crushable Foam Round.
- 3) Direct Impact® LE 40 mm OC Crushable Foam Round
- 4) Stinger® 40mm 60-Caliber Rubber Balls Round
5. Direct Impact® LE 40 mm CS Crushable Foam Round
6. Direct Impact® LE 40 mm CS Crushable Foam Round Inert
7. Direct Impact® LE 40 mm CS Crushable Foam Round Marking
8. The DefTec® 40mm Speed-Heat CS Long Range
9. The DefTec® Model 40mm Direct Impact Foam Baton
10. The DefTec® Model 40mm Ferret Round CS Power/Liquid (Barricade Round)
11. The DefTec® Model 40mm eXact iMpact Crushable Foam Round
12. CTS-5230 RIOT CS Smoke Canister
13. Defense Technology Aerosol OC/CS Canister
14. Defense Technology Nosie Flash Distraction Device
15. Defense Technology Stinger Rubber Ball Grenade

PROCEDURE

I. TRAINING

- A. Only Department-certified LLM instructors shall provide training for LLM Officers.
- B. No members of this Department may deploy or discharge an LLM unless they have successfully passed all required LLM training courses.
- C. In-service training covering LLM usage/proficiency, and a thorough review of the Department's Use of Force and LLM policies, shall be conducted and completed yearly by all LLM Officers.
 - 1. Training records shall be well documented, providing the date of attendance, persons in attendance, identity of instructor(s), pass/fail scores of all LLM Officers, and a copy of the lesson plan.
 - 2. LLM Officers who fail to meet the training requirements will be prohibited from deploying and/or using LLM equipment unless and until a remedial training course is successfully completed.
 - 3. Training records shall be maintained by the Weapons Bureau, and shall be made available to the Chief of Police or his/her designee(s), and to the Office of Professional Responsibility.

II. LLM EQUIPMENT

- A. The Department will make available 40mm tactical launchers (LLM launchers) to officers who have successfully completed all required certification courses and who are authorized to deploy and/or use these weapons.
- B. If there is a mechanical malfunction or question of the performance of the LLM equipment, the Weapons Bureau is to be notified and the weapon is to be taken out of service immediately.

III. LLM STORAGE AND TRANSPORT

- A. LLM Officers must utilize the designated secured area within Headquarters reserved for the storage of LLM equipment when such equipment is not in use.
- B. LLM Officers will relinquish their LLM equipment whenever ordered to do so by proper authority.

IV. LLM DISCHARGE PARAMETERS

- A. LLM officers shall use only that force which is objectively reasonable to accomplish lawful objectives. Officers shall exercise all safe and reasonable means of control and containment, using only the amount of force necessary to overcome resistance and/or gain control of an individual and when any of the following scenarios exist:
 - 1. A subject is exhibiting active resistance or active aggression, and any attempts to subdue the subject by lesser force options have been, or will likely be, ineffective in the situation at hand.
 - 2. To prevent an individual from harming themselves or others.
- B. The less-lethal munitions officer may carry or display the 40mm launcher on calls or incidents that may reasonably require its utilization, with specific information that the call or incident reasonably indicates there is a potential for its use.
- C. Under deemed circumstances the LLM may be displayed, drawn, or used as a dispersal device.
- D. Under no circumstances shall an LLM be displayed, drawn, or used as a means of interrogation, coercion or punishment.
- E. Alternative force techniques shall be considered in lieu of using LLM equipment when dealing with pregnant women, elderly persons, young children, and visibly frail persons, unless exigent circumstances warrant otherwise.
- F. LLM Officers should always be cognizant of a subject's location when evaluating the consequences of an LLM discharge (i.e., situations where a subject falling may cause substantial risk of injury or death).
- G. Unless exigent circumstances exist, LLM Officers shall refrain from discharging an LLM on subjects who are in physical control of any moving vehicle.
- H. LLM Officers shall neither simultaneously draw nor have drawn their firearm and their LLM launcher.
 - 1. This does not preclude other officers on scene from drawing a firearm should circumstances require it.
- I. At the discretion of the supervising officer the utilization of multiply LLM Officers shall be determined dependent on the incident at hand.

- J. When tactically feasible, LLM Officers shall:
 - 1. Notify the dispatcher and the officers in the surrounding area that an LLM discharge is imminent. The dispatcher shall then re-broadcast this information.
 - 2. Issue a warning to a subject prior to discharging the LLM launcher, unless doing so would place any person at risk.
- K. Officers (other than the LLM Officer discharging the LLM launcher) should be prepared to handcuff or control the suspect while the suspect is incapacitated by the LLM.
- L. At the discretion of the LLM Officer, the LLM launcher may be discharged to control animals, such as vicious dogs, when circumstances warrant such usage.

V. MEDICAL ATTENTION

- A. Any suspect who has been subjected to an LLM discharge (who is injured or complains of injury) will be transported as soon as practicable by an EMS vehicle to a medical facility for evaluation by trained medical personnel.
- B. Detention personnel will be notified by the transporting officer whenever a detainee has sustained an LLM discharge, and shall increase physical observations of the detainee while the detainee is in custody.

VI. POST-INCIDENT REQUIREMENTS

- A. A supervisor not involved in the LLM discharge incident shall be notified of and shall respond to the scene of the discharge as soon as practicable. This includes responding to accidental discharges of any nature.
- B. The Officer-In-Charge of the Patrol Bureau (OIC) shall report all LLM discharges to the Commanding Officer of the Uniform Division, who shall in turn notify the Chief of Police.
- C. The Force Investigation Team (FIT) will be notified of the incident by the OIC, and shall respond to the scene of any LLM discharges.
 - 1. The Weapons Bureau Commanding Officer or his/her designee (usually the FIT's Weapons Bureau representative) shall respond to the scene and shall seize and secure the LLM launcher pending further investigation.

D. Documentation and further investigative actions shall be completed in accordance with the following written directives:

1. General Order 300.01 *Use of Force*.
2. General Order 310.02 *Investigations of Serious Use of Force Incidents*.

VII. AUDITS

A. An audit of all LLM equipment shall be conducted at least biannually by the Commanding Officer of the Weapons Bureau. Audit results shall be forwarded to the Chief of Police, and any discrepancies/issues shall be brought to the attention of the Office of Professional Responsibility.

APPROVED:



COLONEL OSCAR L. PEREZ
CHIEF OF POLICE