



LARRY V GONZALEZ  
CHIEF OF POLICE

# RIVERSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## LESS LETHAL WEAPONS TRAINING

### *PEPPERBALL*



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# COURSE OVERVIEW

- PepperBall system familiarization
- Launcher and projectile nomenclature
- Department policy familiarization
- Deployment procedures and considerations
- Post deployment procedures
- Report writing considerations
- Practical application



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# COURSE OBJECTIVES

- The student will have an understanding of the PepperBall system, safety priorities, and (RPD) department policy.
- The student will demonstrate his/her ability to safely operate the PepperBall launcher.
- The student will receive instructions on how to handle a person / property after deployment of the PepperBall system.
- The student will receive instruction on how to document the use of the PepperBall system.



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# WHAT IS PEPPERBALL?

- PepperBall is a kinetic energy, less lethal delivery system.
- PepperBall projectiles are plastic, frangible spheres that have different uses.
- Invented to control violent or potentially violent individuals and minimize risk of serious injury.

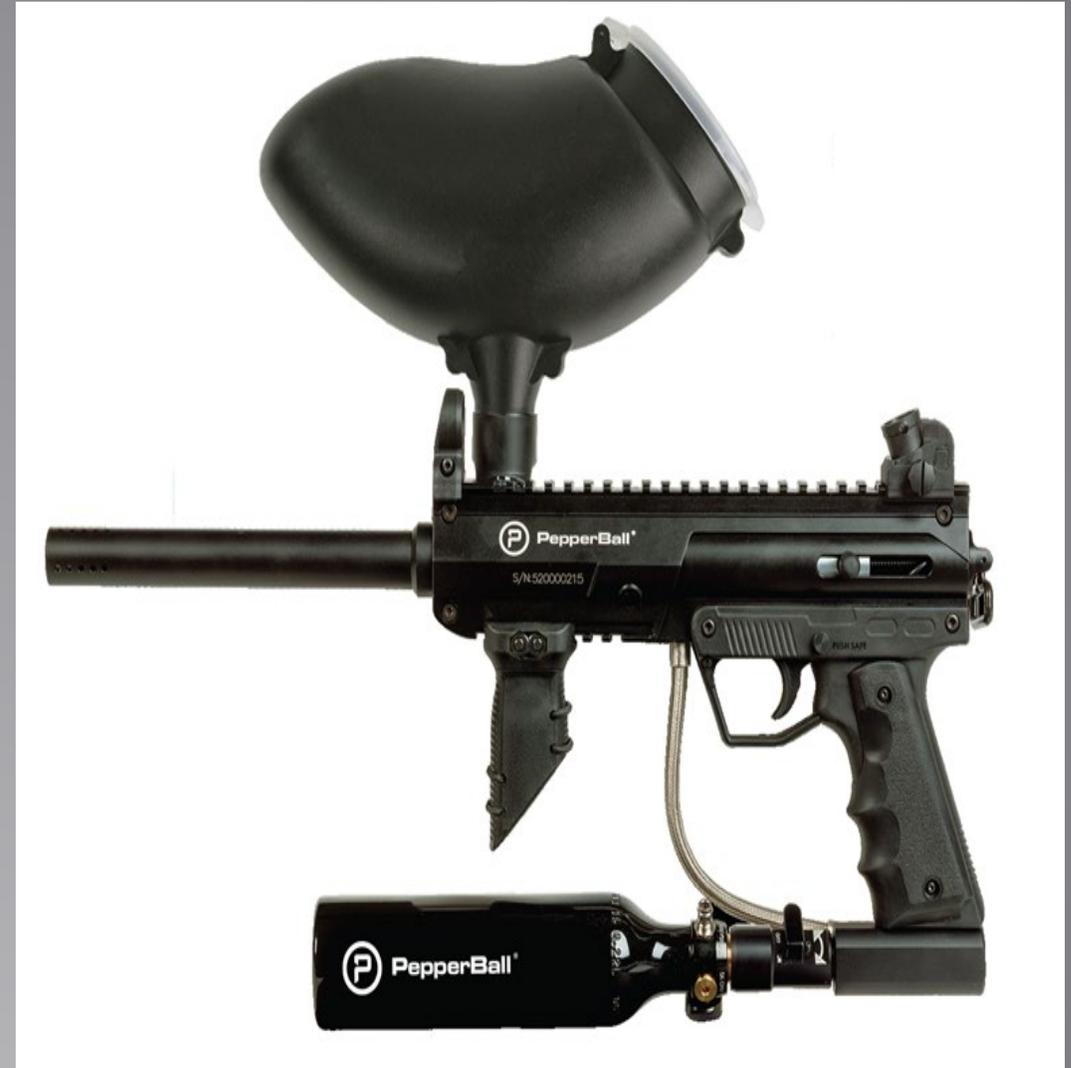


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# FTC CHARACTERISTICS

## Full Tactical Carbine (FTC)

- Semi-automatic
- 180 projectile capacity
- Minimum distance (standoff)  
**NONE**
- Maximum effective distance  
for direct impact **60 feet**
- Maximum effective distance  
for area saturation **150 feet**





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# FTC NOMENCLATURE





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# PEPPERBALL PROJECTILES

- Hard, plastic frangible (breakable) sphere
- Ultrasonically welded, non-flammable, waterproof
- .68 caliber, weight = **3 grams**
- Velocity envelope = **300 fps** (feet per second)
- Kinetic impact = 10 to 12 ft./lbs. of energy (14 to 16 joules of energy)
- Operational Temperature range: **Minus 30° to plus 150° Fahrenheit** (powder projectiles)
- Projectiles should **never be frozen** and fired
- Shelf life of **three years** for Live and Live-X projectiles
- Chemical agent rounds contain **PAVA**



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# PAVA AND ITS EFFECTS

**PAVA is a non-flammable, pharmaceutical grade product derived from pepper plants which is used in hot sauce and cooking oil.**

**CENTRAL NERVIIOUS SYSTEM:** headache, dizziness and extreme general discomfort / panic

**EYES:** Tears, burning and involuntary closure; eyes will be red/bloodshot for up to an hour

**NOSE:** Discharge, burning, sneezing / irritation

**MOUTH:** Increased saliva production

**THROAT:** Irritation of throat lining and airway causes gasping/gagging sensation

**EXPOSED SKIN:** Burning / stinging feeling

**CHEST:** Tightness and coughing



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# TYPES OF PROJECTILES



LIVE

Red / White

Contains PAVA

2% Chemical Agent

Used for direct impact and area saturation



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# TYPES OF PROJECTILES



## LIVE-X

Red / Black

Contains PAVA (more concentrated version)

5% Chemical Agent

Used for direct impact and area saturation

Suited for high-intensity / MFF / Crowd control situations



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# TYPES OF PROJECTILES



## MARKING

Green

Contains indelible dye

Used for direct impact and marking suspects or vehicles

0-30 feet (0-9 meters) direct impact



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# TYPES OF PROJECTILES



## GLASS BREAKER

- White
- Breaks side glass on vehicles and residential glass
- 0-30 feet direct impact
- Only issued by SGT / LT for pre-authorized use
- **LETHAL IF USED ON HUMANS / ANIMALS**



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# TYPES OF PROJECTILES



## INERT

White / Purple

Contains scented white talcum powder

Used for training



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# POLICY 371

## ISSUANCE

- **FIELD OPS:** System will be issued at the beginning of each shift and returned at the end of shift.
- Only Officers who have completed Department approved training.
- Must recertify every 2 years
- Issued by supervisors to specific officers
- Officers will only use department issued systems and accessories.



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# POLICY 371

## CARRY

- Officers should not hold PepperBall and firearm at the same time.
- Shall be stored in a hard or soft case, locked in trunk or rear storage compartment.
- Stored with unloaded chamber and safety on.
- Officers are responsible for maintaining the PepperBall system.



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# POLICY 371

## VERBAL WARNINGS

- A verbal warning should precede the application, unless unsafe or not practical to do so.
- The purpose of the warning is to give the subject / crowd the opportunity to comply and to let others know that PepperBall is going to be deployed.



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# POLICY 371

## USE AND APPLICATION

- PepperBall is just another tool to gain compliance and work through problems.
- It may not work as intended so have a backup plan.
- BWC shall be activated when a use of force can be reasonably anticipated.
- Officers should make a reasonable effort to notify a supervisor prior to deploying.



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# POLICY 371

## DEPLOYMENT CIRCUMSTANCES

- Violent or physical resistance
- Words/actions showing the intent to be violent, physically resist and reasonably appears to present harm to officers, self, or others.
- To disperse an unlawful or riotous group of people, after notifications have been given (unless exigency exists).
- Specific PepperBall projectiles should only be used for their specific purpose (LIVE, Inert, Glass Breaking ETC.).
- Projectiles **SHALL NOT** be intentionally fired at the face, eyes, neck spine or groin (unless deadly force is justified).



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# POLICY 371

## DEPLOYMENT CIRCUMSTANCES (continued)

- Swift application of appropriate medical attention **SHALL** follow deployment.
- Can be deployed to prevent or to stop an attack by a vicious animal, if other means of prevention / containment / avoidance are not reasonable.
- System shall not be used to “clear” places where a suspect is not known to be. It is not a substitute for a proper search.
- Lethal cover should be provided by someone other than the officer assigned the PepperBall system.



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# CROWD CONTROL SITUATION

13652. (a) Except as otherwise provided in subdivision (b), kinetic energy projectiles and chemical agents shall not be used by any law enforcement agency to disperse any assembly, protest, or demonstration only.

(b) Kinetic energy projectiles and chemical agents shall only be deployed by a peace officer that has received training on their proper use for crowd control to defend against a threat to life or serious bodily injury to any individual, including any peace officer, or to bring a dangerous and unlawful situation safely under control under the following requirements:



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# CROWD CONTROL SITUATION CONT.

- (1) De-escalation techniques or other alternatives to force have been attempted, when objectively reasonable, and have failed.
- (2) Repeated, audible announcements are made announcing the intent to use kinetic energy projectiles and chemical agents. The announcements shall be made from various locations and delivered in multiple languages, if necessary.
- (3) Persons are given an objectively reasonable opportunity to disperse and leave the scene.
- (4) An effort has been made to identify persons engaged in violent acts and those who are not, and targeting only those individuals engaged in violent acts. Projectiles shall not be aimed indiscriminately into a crowd or group of persons.



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# CROWD CONTROL SITUATION CONT.

- (5) Kinetic energy projectiles and chemical agents are used only with the frequency, intensity, and in a manner that is proportional to the threat.
- (6) Officers shall minimize the possible incidental impact of kinetic energy projectiles and chemical agents on bystanders, medical personnel, journalists, or other unintended targets.
- (7) An objectively reasonable effort has been made to extract individuals in distress.
- (8) Medical assistance is promptly provided, if properly trained personnel are present and safe to do so.



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# CROWD CONTROL SITUATION CONT.

- (9) Kinetic energy projectiles shall not be aimed at the head, neck, or any other vital organs.
  
- (10) Kinetic energy projectiles or chemical agents shall not be used by any law enforcement agency solely due to any of the following:
  - (A) A violation of an imposed curfew.
  - (B) A verbal threat.
  - (C) Noncompliance with a law enforcement directive.



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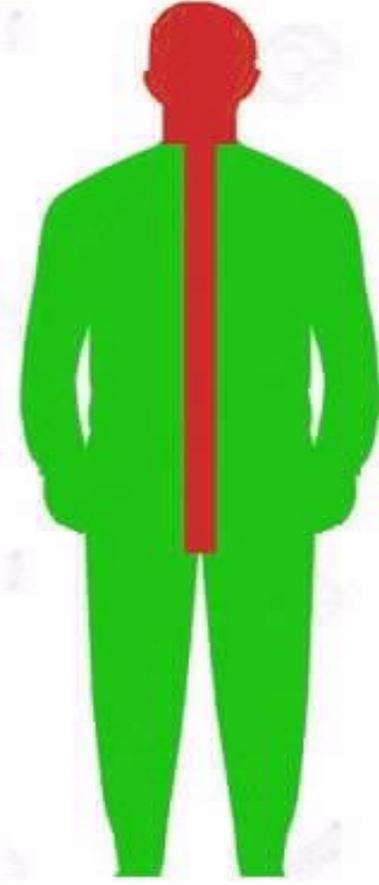
# RIVERSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Target Areas

FRONT



BACK



GREEN - PREFERRED  
CENTER BODY MASS

YELLOW - SECONDARY  
SENSITIVE (FEMALES)

RED - NON TARGET AREA  
FACE, EYES, NECK, GROIN, HEAD, SPINE



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# DEPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Distance and angle to the target
- Type of projectiles being deployed
- Proximity to others
- Location of the suspect
- Actions of the suspect



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# MEDICAL TREATMENT

- All persons impacted by PepperBall should be medically assessed
- Decontamination: water, fresh air
- Call RFD/AMR for decontamination if possible
- Monitor for signs of distress
- SHALL get “Ok to Book” prior to booking



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# INJURIES

- **Bruising:** will get darker with time
- **Abrasions:** impact over bone increases likelihood (may cause bleeding)
- **Welts:** Raised skin / swelling at impact site

➤ DOCUMENT AND PHOTOGRAPH

ALL INJURIES





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# POST DEPLOYMENT

- Notify a supervisor
- Photographs (scene, injuries or lack of, expended projectiles).
- Collect and book any unbroken projectiles that were deployed.  
(Seal in K-pack to prevent possible exposure)
- When LIVE / LIVE-X is used in a residence, vehicle or enclosed area, property owner should be notified of potential for irritation / injury if not cleaned.
- Document this notification in police report and provide report number to responsible party.
- Down FTC Launcher for inspection by Range Staff or PepperBall Instructor prior to re-deployment



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# REPORT WRITING

- PepperBall system should be referred to as a launcher.
- PepperBalls are referred to as projectiles that are deployed.
- Avoid the following terms: shot, fired, paintballs, gun etc.
- Rest of deployment is documented like any other less lethal use of force (12ga, 40mm etc).



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# PRACTICAL APPLICATION

- Hands on instruction and practical application to follow

## FTC Launcher Qualification

- 9 Total Projectiles
- Launched from 5 yards (3), 10 yards (3) , and 20 yards (3)
- 2 left arm, 1 right arm / 2 right arm, 1 left arm / 3 Center Body Mass