



EXPANDABLE BATONS

Directive: 8 – 104

Date of Issue: May 2015 Amends/Cancel: 8-104 July 2013

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Directive is to establish guidelines for the use of Department issued expandable batons.

II. POLICY

This department has issued expandable batons to provide Police Officers with an intermediate weapon for use when authorized to repel an attack or terminate unlawful resistance. It is the policy of this department that personnel may use the expandable baton only in accordance with the guidelines and procedures set forth herein and in the department's Use of Force Directive 8-101.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Expandable Baton

1. The expandable baton will be carried on the Officer's duty belt at all times.
2. Police Officers will only carry an issued or authorized expandable baton.
3. The baton may be used to protect the Officer or other persons from injury or to gain compliance in an arrest situation when other use of force options are not appropriate and the use of deadly force is not justified.
4. The expandable baton will only be deployed in those situations that require the use of force and the Officer reasonably believes that an arrest is imminent.
5. The expandable baton may be used to strike the suspect in designated target areas of the body, such as the torso, legs and arms. Strikes to the knee joint should be avoided as they can result in permanent damage to bones, tendons and muscles. Intentional strikes to the head, neck, spine, kidney area and groin will be avoided whenever possible. Courts have held that a blow to the head is tantamount to using deadly force. The baton may also be used to block strikes by the suspect directed at the Police Officer or another person.
6. Whenever feasible and without compromising officer safety, Police Officers will warn the suspect prior to striking with the expandable.

7. Officers may remove the expandable baton from its holder whenever it can be reasonably anticipated that it may be needed to achieve a lawful purpose. The expandable baton will never be removed and/or displayed solely for the purposes of intimidation.
8. Whenever a suspect is struck with an expandable baton, the Officer will request medical attention for the suspect. If there is any evidence of injury or the suspect requests medical attention, the suspect will be transported to the hospital prior to booking. The Officer that utilized the force must also complete a Use of Force report as outlined in Directive 8-101.