

Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office

Pepper Ball System

1 Hour

Course Title: Pepper Ball update

Course Goal: Train deputies to effectively operate the Pepper Ball projectile launching system.

Audience: Sworn personnel

Core Competencies: Decision making; firearms safety; operation of weapon system.

DATE: 02/12/2026

TIME: 1600-1700

LOCATION: San Benito County Sheriff's Office Shooting Range 1456 Bolsa Road, Hollister, CA 95023

INSTRUCTORS: E. Engelhardt / P. Sandlin / M. Moise

Method of Presentation: Lecture, demonstration, discussion, dry practice, live fire, scenarios

I. Orientation / Instructor / Overview

1. Class Orientation
 - a. Instructor introductions (Instructors, background, etc)
 - i. Course Outline / Overview (Purpose of training, what will happen throughout the class – safety brief, less-lethal policy & procedure review, **Pepper Ball Tac S-A** nomenclature and operation, live fire training, scenarios with live fire and qualification course)

II. Safety Plan

1. Designated class medic (if any participants or instructors are certified EMT or higher)
2. Location of first aid kit
3. Location of nearest emergency room
4. Location of nearest trauma center (this gets briefed but is obviously up to AMR and varies based on nature of injury and availability)

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5. Actions in event of injury
 - a. Minor injury – treat with first aid kit (ensure that a Sgt or higher completes Worker's Comp forms within 24 hours; also notify Firearms Team Sgt)
 - b. Transport to ER by private vehicle if necessary (private vehicle only if injured deputy agrees and injury will not be worsened by transport)
6. Actions in event of serious/traumatic injury
 - a. Begin treatment with first aid kit
 - b. Notify dispatch by radio or 911 for EMS response
 - c. If necessary, evacuate to ER by marked Code 3 vehicle
7. Notify dispatch that firearms training is in progress

III. References

1. Lexipol Policy 300 – Use of force
 - a. Duty to intercede
 - b. Duty to report excessive force
 - c. Deputies shall use only that amount of force that reasonably appears necessary given that the facts and totality of the circumstances known to or perceived by the deputy at the time of the event to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose.
 - d. Any peace officer may use objectively reasonable force to effect an arrest, prevent escape, or to overcome resistance.
2. Lexipol Policy 302.7 – Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Guidelines
 - a. Pepper projectiles may be considered for use to bring under control an individual or groups of individuals who are engaging in, or about to engage in violent behavior.
 - b. Not to be used against individuals or groups who merely fail to disperse or do not reasonably appear to present a risk to the safety of officers or the public.
3. Lexipol Policy 302.7.2 – Pepper Projectile Systems
 - a. Do not intentionally target the head, neck, spine or groin.
 - b. Notify a supervisor as soon as practical
 - i. Includes situations where the launcher was directed toward the suspect.
4. Lexipol Policy 302.7.3 – Treatment for OC Spray Exposure
 - a. Treat promptly with clean water.

IV. Classroom Instruction

1. Powerpoint presentation
 - a. Policy (See above)
 - b. Start of shift requirements
 - c. Loading procedures

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- d. De-escalation
- e. Videos
- f. Fill station
- 2. Practical Exercises
 - a. Load and unload 5 times
 - I. Feed the hopper
 - II. Slide hopper forward
 - III. Air tank on
 - IV. Pull the bolt to the rear
 - b. Unloading
 - I. Air tank to OFF (kill air intake)
 - II. Safely remove rounds from Hopper (1 round remains in the chamber.)
 - III. Toggle Hopper lever to expose barrel opening and remove the round in the chamber.
 - IV. After verifying the chamber is empty and air is off, put the bolt forward by pulling the trigger.
 - V. Safety on.
- 3. Live fire training
 - a. Each student will fill their Pepperball launcher airtanks at the fill station before each course of fire
 - b. Area denial course of fire – This course of fire is designed to simulate creating an area of denial.
 - I. Items needed: Less lethal target
 - II. Each shooter will start with a speed loader with 5 inert pepperball projectiles.
 - III. 15 yards
 - 1. Student will engage the less lethal target by giving orders to stay back.
 - 2. Fire 3 rounds into the ground directly in front of the target but not striking it.
 - 3. Rounds will be ineffective.
 - 4. Fire 2 more follow up rounds.
 - c. Area saturation course of fire
 - I. Items needed: cardboard backer with square cut out to simulate a window, shields
 - II. Each shooter will start with a speed loader with 5 inert pepperball projectiles.

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- III. 15 yards – one student holds the shield to simulate cover. The other student leans out from cover to engage the target (window)
 - 1. Fire 2 rounds into cut out cardboard backer.
 - 2. Rounds will be ineffective.
 - 3. Fire 3 more follow up rounds.

- 4. Qualification course of fire
 - a. Each student will start with a speed loader with 19 inert pepperball projectiles.

 - b. 10 yards
 - I. Fire 3 round
 - II. Challenge – Suspect complies – De-escalate

 - c. 15 yards (For the first course of fire at the 15 yard line, instructors have students toggle air tank to OFF and send the charging handle home, in order to simulate a malfunction for the next course of fire. Do not rack charging handle to the rear in order to simulate a user created malfunction).
 - I. Fire 7 rounds
 - II. Fire 3 rounds

 - d. 20 yards
 - I. Fire 3 rounds
 - II. Fire 2 round

- 5. Review of material/Student questions & further discussion
- 6. Secure from training
 - a. Unload and make safe
 - b. Secure munitions
 - c. Clean up

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