

## Remote Restraint Device

### 350.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for the issuance and use of BolaWrap™ devices in order to minimize injury to suspects, subjects, and officers.

### 350.2 POLICY

The BolaWrap™ device is intended to immobilize and control resistive/non-compliant people. The BolaWrap™ is also intended to control violent or potentially violent individuals. The BolaWrap™ is a hand-held remote restraint device that discharges an eight-foot bola style Kevlar tether to entangle an individual at an optimal range of 10-25 feet.

### 350.3 ISSUANCE AND CARRYING BOLAWRAP DEVICES

The following guidelines shall be adhered to:

- (a) Only a department-approved BolaWrap™ device that has been issued by the Department shall be utilized by personnel.
- (b) Only members who have successfully completed department-approved training may be authorized to carry and deploy the BolaWrap™ device.
- (c) All BolaWrap™ devices shall be clearly and distinctly marked to differentiate them from the duty weapon and any other device.
- (d) Uniformed and non-uniformed sworn staff who have been authorized to carry the BolaWrap™ device shall wear the device in an approved holster on their person or keep the device safely & properly stored in their City vehicle.
- (e) Officers shall be responsible for ensuring that their BolaWrap™ device is properly maintained and in good working order.
- (f) Officers should not hold both a firearm and the BolaWrap™ device at the same time.

### 350.4 VERBAL AND VISUAL WARNINGS

A verbal warning of the intended use of the BolaWrap™ device should precede its application unless it would otherwise endanger the safety of officers or when it is not practicable due to the circumstances. The purpose of the warning is to:

- (a) Provide the individual with a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply.
- (b) Provide other officers and individuals with a warning that the BolaWrap™ device may be deployed.

The aiming laser should never be intentionally directed into a person's eyes as it may permanently impair his/her vision.

The fact that a verbal or other warning was given or the reasons it was not given shall be documented by the officer deploying the BolaWrap™ device in the related report.

## *Remote Restraint Device*

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### **350.5 USE OF THE BOLAWRAP DEVICE**

The BolaWrap™ device has limitations and restrictions requiring consideration before its use. The device should only be used when its operator can safely approach the subject within the ideal operational range of 10 to 25 feet. The minimum recommended standoff distance is 10 feet. Officers should be aware that the device may not achieve the intended results and be prepared to transition to other force options.

#### **350.5.1 APPLICATIONS OF THE BOLAWRAP DEVICE**

The BolaWrap™ device may be used in any of the following circumstances when the circumstances perceived by the officers at the time indicate that such application is reasonably necessary to control a person:

- (a) The subject is violent or is physically resisting.
- (b) The subject has demonstrated, by words or action, an intention to be violent or to physically resist, and reasonably appears to present the potential to harm officers, him/herself, or others.

Mere flight from a pursuing officer, without other known circumstances or factors, is not good cause for the use of the BolaWrap™ device to apprehend an individual.

#### **350.5.2 SPECIAL DEPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

The use of the BolaWrap™ device on certain individuals should generally be avoided unless the totality of the circumstances indicates that other available options reasonably appear ineffective or would present a greater danger to the officer, the subject or others, and the officer reasonably believes that the need to control the individual outweighs the risk of using the device. This includes:

- (a) Individuals who are known, or believed, to be pregnant.
- (b) Elderly individuals or obvious juveniles.
- (c) Individuals who are handcuffed or otherwise restrained.
- (d) Individuals detained in a police vehicle.
- (e) Individuals in confined spaces that may prohibit the eight-foot-wide tether expansion.
- (f) Individuals in danger of becoming entangled in machinery or heavy equipment, which could result in death or serious bodily injury.
- (g) Individuals near any body of water that may present a drowning risk.
- (h) Individuals whose position or activity may result in collateral injury (e.g., falls from height, operating vehicles)

The BolaWrap™ device shall not be used to psychologically torment, elicit statements or to punish an individual.

#### **350.5.3 TARGETING CONSIDERATIONS**

Reasonable efforts should be made to target lower center mass and avoid the head, neck, chest and groin. If the dynamics of a situation or officer safety do not permit the officer to limit the

# Santa Ana Police Department

## Santa Ana PD Policy Manual

### *Remote Restraint Device*

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application of the BolaWrap™ device to a precise target area, officers should monitor the condition of the subject if it strikes the head, neck, chest or groin until the subject is examined by paramedics or other medical personnel.

#### 350.5.4 ACTIONS FOLLOWING DEPLOYMENTS

Following the use of the BolaWrap™ device:

- (a) Personnel shall request a supervisor to the scene.
- (b) The supervisor shall determine whether transporting the person to a medical facility is necessary to remove the pellets/barbs.
- (c) If the supervisor determines that removal of non-penetrating Kevlar tether, pellets and barbs from subjects is appropriate at the scene, the supervisor or officer shall remove the tether using medical scissors.
- (d) The expended cartridge, pellets, barbs and cord should be collected and submitted into evidence.

#### 350.5.5 DANGEROUS ANIMALS

The BolaWrap™ device should not be deployed against an animal as part of a plan to deal with a potentially dangerous animal, such as a dog, etc. This device is not intended for use against animals. However, if the animal reasonably appears to pose an imminent threat to human safety and alternative methods are not reasonably available or would likely be ineffective, the BolaWrap™ may be deployed to protect against harm to suspects, subjects and officers.

#### 350.5.6 REPORTING THE USE OF THE BOLAWRAP

- (a) Officers shall notify a supervisor as soon as practical when the BolaWrap™ is deployed.
- (b) The deployment of the BolaWrap™ shall be documented by the officer and/or supervisor using the department approved BolaWrap™ Test and Evaluation form.
- (c) The supervisor shall determine whether further documentation of the incident is necessary, in accordance with department policy.
- (d) The supervisor shall also determine whether the cartridge, pellets, barbs and cord should be collected as evidence, in accordance with department policy.

#### 350.5.7 OFF-DUTY CONSIDERATIONS

Officers are not authorized to carry department BolaWrap™ devices while off-duty

Officers shall ensure that BolaWrap™ devices are secured while in their homes, vehicles or any other area under their control, in a manner that will keep the device inaccessible to others.

### **350.6 DOCUMENTATION**

All BolaWrap™ device discharges shall be documented in the appropriate report by the user. The supervisor handling any use of force inquiry shall also include circumstances surrounding

# Santa Ana Police Department

Santa Ana PD Policy Manual

## *Remote Restraint Device*

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the deployment in the appropriate Blue Team report. Unintentional discharges will also require appropriate report documentation.

### 350.6.1 BOLAWRAP DEVICE FORM

The deployment of the BolaWrap™ shall be documented by the officer and/or supervisor using the department approved BolaWrap™ Test and Evaluation form. Items that shall be included in the BolaWrap™ device report form are:

- (a) The BolaWrap™ device & cartridge serial numbers.
- (b) Date, time and location of the incident.
- (c) Whether any display or laser deterred a subject and gained compliance.
- (d) The number of BolaWrap™ device activations and the duration between activations, and (as best as can be determined).
- (e) The range at which the BolaWrap™ device was used.
- (f) Location of any deployments impact.
- (g) Whether medical care was provided to the subject.
- (h) Whether the subject sustained any injuries.
- (i) Whether any officers sustained any injuries.

The Training Bureau should periodically analyze the report forms to identify trends, including deterrence and effectiveness.

### 350.6.2 REPORTS

The officer should include the following in the appropriate police report:

- (a) Identification of all personnel firing BolaWrap™ devices.
- (b) Identification of all witnesses.
- (c) Whether or not injuries were sustained by involved parties.
- (d) Any medical care provided to any affected subjects.
- (e) Observations of the subject's physical and physiological actions.
- (f) Any known or suspected drug use, intoxication or other medical problems.

### 350.7 MEDICAL TREATMENT

Consistent with local medical personnel protocols and absent extenuating circumstances, only appropriate medical personnel should remove BolaWrap™ device pellets when the barbs penetrate a person's body.

All persons who have been struck by BolaWrap™ device shall be medically assessed as soon as practical and prior to booking. Additionally, any individual who falls under any of the following categories should, as soon as practicable, be examined by paramedics or other qualified medical personnel:

# Santa Ana Police Department

## Santa Ana PD Policy Manual

### *Remote Restraint Device*

---

- (a) The person is suspected of being under the influence of controlled substances and/or alcohol.
- (b) The person may be pregnant or states they are pregnant.
- (c) The person reasonably appears to be in need of medical attention.
- (d) The BolaWrap™ device pellets are lodged in a sensitive area (e.g., groin, female breast, head, face, neck).
- (e) The person requests medical treatment.

Any individual exhibiting signs of distress shall be transported to a medical facility for examination or medically evaluated prior to booking. If any individual refuses medical attention, such a refusal should be witnessed by another officer and/or medical personnel and shall be fully documented in related reports. If an audio or BWC recording is made of the contact or an interview with the individual, any refusal should be included, if possible.

The transporting officer shall inform any person providing medical care or receiving custody that the individual has been subjected to the application of the BolaWrap™ device.

#### **350.8 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

When possible, supervisors should respond to calls when they reasonably believe there is likelihood the BolaWrap™ device may be used. A supervisor should respond to all incidents where the BolaWrap™ device was deployed.

A supervisor should review each incident where a person has been exposed to a deployment of the BolaWrap™ device. A supervisor should conduct an appropriate use of force inquiry and ensure a proper investigation is conducted.

#### **350.9 TRAINING**

Personnel who are authorized to carry the BolaWrap™ device shall be permitted to do so only after successfully completing the initial department-approved training. Any personnel who have not carried the BolaWrap™ device as a part of their assignment for a period of one year or more shall be recertified by a department-approved BolaWrap™ device instructor prior to again carrying or using the device.

Proficiency training for personnel who have been authorized to carry BolaWrap™ devices should occur every year. A reassessment of an officer's knowledge and/or practical skill may be required at any time if deemed appropriate by the Training Bureau. All training and proficiency for BolaWrap™ devices will be documented in the officer's training file.

Command staff, supervisors and investigators should receive BolaWrap™ device training as appropriate for the investigations they conduct and review.

Officers who do not carry BolaWrap™ devices should receive training that is sufficient to familiarize them with the device and with working with officers who use the device.

# Santa Ana Police Department

Santa Ana PD Policy Manual

## *Remote Restraint Device*

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The Training Division is responsible for ensuring that all members who carry BolaWrap™ devices have received initial and annual proficiency training.

Application of BolaWrap™ devices during training could result in injury to personnel and should not be mandatory for certification.

The Training Bureau should ensure that all training includes:

- (a) A review of this policy.
- (b) A review of the Use of Force Policy.
- (c) Device nomenclature, function, manipulation, deployment, storage and maintenance.
- (d) Target area considerations, to include techniques or options to reduce the unintentional application of pellets near the head, neck, chest and groin.
- (e) Handcuffing a subject during the application of the BolaWrap™ device and transitioning to other force options.
- (f) De-escalation techniques.
- (g) Restraint techniques that do not impair respiration following the application of the BolaWrap™ device.