





## **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL**

	<b>40mm LESS LETHAL IMPACT SYSTEM</b>	
	<b>POLICY NUMBER: 4-4</b>	ISSUING AUTHORITY 
	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2025</b>	Christine A. Elow Police Commissioner

### **I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS AND GUIDELINES**

Officers are authorized to use reasonable and proportionate force to gain, maintain, or re-establish control in situations where de-escalation tactics have been attempted and failed or are not feasible based on the totality of the circumstances. During harmful threat encounters, it may be reasonable for specially trained officers to deploy the 40mm Specialty Impact Weapon and Munition System (SIWAMS) as a means to gain compliance and control of the physical abilities of a subject, from a safe and extended distance, using a less lethal force option. The 40mm SIWAMS may also be a reasonable and proportionate force option in specific circumstances where a lethal threat has materialized, but other factors reasonably indicate a less lethal force response by officers may also be effective in stopping or diminishing the lethal threat, thus providing an opportunity for officers to successfully gain conclusive control of the subject without using lethal force.

### **II. POLICY**

It is the policy of the Cambridge Police Department to:

- A. provide the department's 40mm Less Lethal Impact System to all officers specifically trained in its use as a less lethal force option, subject to all provisions of the department's Use of Force, Authorized Weapons, and Use of Force Reporting policies;
- B. require those officers authorized to deploy the 40mm launcher to complete the prescribed course of instruction, pass the requisite testing, and demonstrate proficiency in its use; and
- C. direct the department armorer to conduct required inspections, maintenance, and replacement procedures as prescribed by the manufacturer.

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

- A. *SIWAMS*: Specialty Impact Weapon and Munitions System.

- B. *Specialty Impact Munitions (SIM)*: Projectiles intended to gain compliance and control of the physical abilities of a subject with a reduced potential for causing death or serious physical injury. The SIM used by the department is the *Exact Impact*, a lightweight projectile consisting of a plastic body and sponge nose.
- C. *MPTC*: Municipal Police Training Committee.

## IV. PROCEDURES

- A. Authorization
  - 1. Only officers who have completed the prescribed course of instruction on the use of department-issued SIWAMS, passed requisite testing, and demonstrated proficiency in its use are authorized to carry and/or deploy the SIWAMS. Such instruction shall include a review of the department's Use of Force and related policies and procedures, MPTC's Use of Force curriculum, and the related provisions of 6.00 CMR.
- B. Authorized Equipment
  - 1. The 40mm Less Lethal Impact System authorized for deployment by department officers is the Lewis Machine & Tool, Tactical Single Shot Launcher equipped with International, orange-colored stock and fore-end. The words *Less Lethal* shall be stenciled on the stock.
  - 2. The *Exact Impact* SIM is the only authorized munition to be used with the SIWAMS.
- C. Storage and Maintenance
  - 1. All 40mm launchers entering service will be assigned by the armorer. They will be secured within the cruiser's vault compartment in a cruiser-carry configuration with an empty chamber. A tactical bag containing SIMs for each assigned 40mm launcher will also be stored within the vault compartment.
  - 2. All unassigned launchers and SIMs will be stored in the department's property vault, unloaded in the closed-chamber position.
  - 3. All normal maintenance and cleaning shall remain the responsibility of trained department armorers. Any damaged, inoperative, outdated, or expended control devices or munitions, along with documentation explaining the cause of the damage, shall be returned to the armorer for disposition.
  - 4. The armorer shall ensure that all damaged, inoperative, outdated, or expended SIWAMS or SIM are properly disposed of, repaired, or replaced.
- D. Deployment
  - 1. Officers may deploy the 40mm launcher when responding to situations where armed or unarmed subjects are threatening to harm themselves or others.

2. Where feasible and based on the totality of the circumstances, officers should provide a loud and clear verbal announcement, stating *Less Lethal, Less Lethal*, immediately prior to discharging the 40mm launcher to safeguard against sympathetic firearms discharge from cover officers. A verbal announcement is not required if doing so would compromise the safety of officers or others. Any such circumstance shall be documented in the officer's report.

E. Notifications

1. Any time a 40mm launcher is deployed or discharged, officers shall notify their direct supervisor as soon as practical.

F. Post Deployment

1. All subjects impacted with a SIM should be controlled and restrained as soon as tactically feasible.
2. After a subject has been conclusively controlled and the scene is rendered safe, officers shall provide for medical aid until EMS personnel arrive. Injuries may not be visible to officers and a subject may not be aware of an injury. Therefore, EMS shall be called to respond to and examine any subject who has been impacted by a SIM. Emergency Medical Services shall clear or transport the subject to a medical facility for treatment prior to any detention procedures.

G. Reporting Procedures

1. Whenever an officer intentionally points a 40mm launcher at a subject to gain compliance, it shall be documented in accordance with policy. (See policy 4-2 Use of Force Reporting.)
2. Any discharge of a 40mm launcher at a subject, whether impacted or not, shall be reported to a supervisor and documented in the automated records management system as soon as practical.
3. Any unintentional discharge shall be communicated to a supervisor and documented in the records management system.
4. All discharges of the 40mm launcher, except for training and testing, shall be reviewed by a supervisor and a copy of the incident report forwarded to the department armorer by email.

H. Training

1. All authorized users shall complete an initial and annual refresher training and proficiency conducted by the department Training and Certification Unit.
2. During training sessions, officers should be taught or provided refresher training on deployment strategies that include target zones, distances, risks, and cover tactics.
3. Any authorized user who fails to meet refresher training and proficiency standards shall be required to attend remedial training and subsequent retesting. If an officer fails remedial

training and proficiency, such officer shall have authorization to deploy the 40mm launcher revoked.

4. All members of the department are trained on Integrating Communications, Assessment, and Tactics (ICAT), a training guide for defusing critical incidents, and are expected to utilize the Critical Decision-Making Model, which is the backbone of the entire ICAT program, when applicable.

