



Training Bulletin

Los Angeles Port Police

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USE OF FORCE RELATED TO THE USE OF A LASER

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Bulletin is to notify personnel of the Department Use of Force (UOF) policy as it relates to lasers. The reasonableness of an officer's use of deadly force includes consideration of the officer's tactical conduct and decisions leading up to the use of deadly force.

The use of a laser itself **shall not presumptively constitute a threat that justifies an officer's use of deadly force**. An officer that is having a laser utilized against them should immediately adjust their vision away from the laser, communicate approximate location of laser sighting, and re-deploy to a safe location if necessary. Officers should immediately notify their on-duty supervisor who will properly document and seek medical attention if needed.

The Los Angeles Port Police Department is guided by the overarching principle of reverence for human life in all investigative, enforcement, and other contacts between officers and members of the public. It is the policy of this Department that officers shall use deadly force upon another person only when the officer reasonably believes, based on the totality of circumstances, that such force is necessary for either of the following reasons:

- To protect him/herself or others from what he/she reasonably believes is an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury.
- To apprehend a fleeing person for any felony that threatened or resulted in death or serious bodily injury, if the officer reasonably believes that the person will cause death or serious bodily injury to another unless immediately apprehended.

Where feasible, the officer shall, prior to the use of force, make reasonable efforts to identify themselves as a peace officer and to warn that deadly force may be used, unless the officer has objectively reasonable grounds to believe the person is aware of those facts.

Should personnel be deployed in an environment where laser devices may be used, personnel should wear appropriate protective gear upon deployment. If confronted with a laser, personnel shall utilize Tactical De-escalation and Disengagement techniques.

In a Mobile Field Force configuration when a laser is deployed, officers should consider redeployment, suspect identification, and utilization of less lethal options and/or an arrest circle, when applicable and appropriate.

The Department is currently in the process of procuring laser refracting protective eyewear. Officers should deploy and use department-issued eyewear when encountering situations in which lasers may be or are being used against them.

Should you have any questions, please contact Professional Development & Training Group at (310) 732-4000.

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