

Breaching Shotgun

313.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

To quickly force entry through locked and/or barricaded doors, the Department authorizes the use of the breaching shotgun. The use of the breaching shotgun allows officers to defeat doors that mechanical breaching tools would normally be unable to open. The primary function of the breaching shotgun is for forcing entry. Although, the breaching shotgun is a firearm, it has been modified for breaching purposes. Additionally, the selected ammunition is frangible and designed to defeat door locks and hinges.

313.2 WHEN THE BREACHING SHOTGUN MAY BE USED

When a decision has been made to conduct an emergency entry in an attempt to prevent death or great bodily injury, or in special circumstances when approved by a supervisor, the breaching shotgun may only be used when its use appears reasonable under the circumstances. Special circumstances should be evaluated by the supervisor on a case by case basis.

313.3 REVIEW, INSPECTION AND APPROVAL

Every breaching shotgun and accompanying frangible ammunition will be periodically inspected by the Department Armorer/Rangemaster or designee. The training format should be reviewed on a reoccurring basis by the shotgun breaching instructor(s).

313.4 TRAINING FOR THE BREACHING SHOTGUN

- Only officers trained and having shown adequate proficiency in the use of the breaching shotgun and this agency's Use of Force Policy are authorized to carry the device.
- Training for the breaching shotgun should occur annually.
- All training and proficiency for the breaching shotgun will be documented in the officer's training record.
- Officers failing to demonstrate proficiency with the weapon or knowledge of this agency's Use of Force Policy will be provided remedial training.
- If any officer is unable to satisfactorily complete remedial training, he/she will not be authorized to carry or use the breaching shotgun until such time they are able to demonstrate proficiency.

313.5 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Supervisors should, whenever possible, respond to the scene of any events involving a shotgun breaching incident.

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313.6 TYPE OF AMMUNITION

Department approved frangible rounds will be the only ammunition used with the breaching shotguns.

313.7 DEPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Supervisors and Officers should consider various factors in determining the effectiveness of the breaching shotgun for incidents where it is deployed. These factors include but are not limited to:

- Selection of personnel to deploy the breaching shotgun, such as SWAT team members, versus the need of such personnel for entry purposes.
- The risk of a failed breach and secondary options. The need for manual breaching tools to support the shotgun breach.
- Verbal warning to the occupants behind the door.
- Advisement to other officers that a shotgun breach is about to occur.
- Preparation of an Entry Team to follow the shotgun breach if necessary.
- Protective clothing such as gloves and safety glasses to be used (the safety items are provided in each breaching bag.)

313.8 TARGETED AREAS

The primary area to target for shotgun breaching is the door lock mechanism between the door and frame. The secondary areas to target are the hinges of the doors.

313.9 WEAPON OF OPPORTUNITY

Although the primary function of the breaching shotgun is for forcing entry, this policy does not restrict the use of the breaching shotgun as a lethal weapon of opportunity if the use of this device complies with the Use of Force Policy.

313.10 STORAGE OF BREACHING SHOTGUNS

Breaching shotguns will be kept in both Patrol supervisor vehicles and secured in a gun lock behind the driver's seat. A breaching shotgun kit will be stored in the trunk of the School Resource Officer (SRO) vehicle. The SRO's trunk will be outfitted with a special combination locking device to allow for other responding units to retrieve the breaching kit in case of emergency. The breaching shotguns will be stored separate from the less-lethal soft baton shotguns. It is the responsibility of the assigned operator to visibly check each round to confirm that no other type of ammunition is loaded in the breaching shotgun.

313.11 DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

Any officer deploying and/or discharging the breaching shotgun shall document their actions in a police report. The report shall include the type of incident and the justification for deploying and/or discharging the breaching shotgun. All property damaged by the breaching shotgun shall be photographed and documented. All evidence, to include casings, shall be booked into evidence.

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313.12 REVISIONS

ADOPTED: JUNE 17, 2015