

**La Mesa Police Department
Less Lethal Weapons
4-Hour Course**

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

This course will provide the trainee with an understanding and ability to deploy less lethal impact munitions and Conducted Electrical Weapons (CEW) within department policy and law.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

When responding to incidents, graduates of this course will be able to safely, legally, and effectively deploy less-lethal weapon platforms. Graduates will be able to deploy these use of force options only when necessary and after de-escalation and conflict resolution efforts have been unsuccessful or are not appropriate for the scenario.

STUDENT ASSESSMENT:

Given a practical skills test, the student will be able to safely handle each weapon platform and accurately deploy the weapon.

Given a scenario test, the student will be able to transition to a less lethal weapon option once de-escalation tactics are ineffective or not appropriate and safely deploy the weapon to gain control of the scenario.

COURSE OUTLINE:

- I. INTRODUCTION/ORIENTATION
 - A. Introduction, Registration and Orientation
 - B. Course Objectives/Overview, Exercises, Evaluation/Testing
 - C. Weapons Safety Orientation, Review of Safety Rules
- II. LESS-LETHAL FORCE OVERVIEW
 - A. Intended to incapacitate, not seriously injure/kill
 - B. Shot placement is critical
 - C. NOT to be used in lieu of deadly force when deadly force is justified
 - D. Immediate lethal cover should be present when deploying
 - E. Verbal warning prior to deployment when feasible

III. PEPPERBALL PLATFORM

- A. Nomenclature
- B. Chemical agent considerations
- C. Kinetic impact factors
- D. Appropriate applications
- E. Limitations of weapon platform
- F. Tactical considerations
- G. Post deployment considerations

IV. BEANBAG SHOTGUN PLATFORM

- A. Nomenclature
- B. Kinetic impact factors
- C. Appropriate applications
- D. Limitations of weapon platform
- E. Tactical considerations
- F. Post deployment considerations

V. TASER CEW

- A. Nomenclature/CEW Safety
- B. CEW Safety and Force Implications
- C. Appropriate applications
- D. Limitations of weapon platform
- E. Tactical considerations
- F. Post deployment considerations

VI. CASE LAW REVIEW

- A. Use of Force Case Law
- B. Beanbag Case Law
- C. Taser Case Law

VII. DE-ESCALATION AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION TACTICS

- A. Tactics
- B. Listening Skills
- C. Communication Skills

VIII. DRILLS AND COURSES-OF-FIRE

- A. Range Orientation and Safety Briefing
- B. Pepperball course of fire
 - 1. Weapons safety and manipulation
 - 2. Accurate shot placement
 - 3. Communication (to suspect – lawful verbal commands – and partner officers)
- C. Beanbag course of fire
 - 1. Weapons safety and manipulation
 - 2. Accurate shot placement
 - 3. Communication (to suspect – lawful verbal commands – and partner officers)
- D. Taser course of fire
 - 1. Weapons safety and manipulation
 - 2. Accurate shot placement
 - 3. Communication (to suspect – lawful verbal commands – and partner officers)
- E. Scenarios / Force Options Simulator (Testing portion for this course)
 - 1. De-escalation
 - 2. Communication (suspect, amongst officers)
 - 3. Deploying of less lethal option
 - 4. Transition to deadly force
 - 5. Remediation (if necessary)

IX. CONCLUSION