

Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office
Less-Lethal Shotgun Qualification Expanded
Course Outline
1 Hour

Less Lethal Qualification Course

DATE: 03/11/2026 & 03/26/2026

TIME: 1500-1600

LOCATION: Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office Shooting Range, 9600 Malech Road, San Jose, CA 95138

**INSTRUCTORS: (A-Team) Medina, E. Engelhart, Jorgenson, Reed
(B-Team) Waltrip, Hop, Jordan Malone**

1. Lexipol Policy 302.8 – Kinetic Energy Projectile Guidelines
 - a) No lethal ammunition anywhere
 - b) Circumstances appropriate for deployment include but are not limited to, situations in which:
 - a. The suspect is armed with a weapon and the tactical circumstances allow for the safe application of approved munitions.
 - b. The suspect has made credible threats to **harm himself/herself** or others. (Only others due to recent case law.
 - c. The suspect is engaged in riotous behavior or is throwing rocks, bottles or other dangerous projectiles at people and/or deputies.
 - d. There is probable cause to believe that the suspect has already committed a crime of violence and is refusing to comply with lawful orders.
 - c) Deployment considerations
 - a. Distance and angle to target.
 - b. Type and thickness of subjects clothing
 - c. The location of the subject.
 - d. Whether the subjects actions dictate the need for an immediate response and the use of control devices appears appropriate.
 - d) A verbal warning of the intended use of the device should precede its application, unless it would otherwise endanger the safety of deputies or when it is not practical due to the circumstances.
2. Target zones
 1. Primary (green)
 - a. Upper legs
 2. Secondary (yellow)
 - a. Lower abdomen
 - b. Extremities
 - c. Upper back
3. Non-target (red) zones
 1. Face & head

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2. Neck
 3. Upper abdomen (Large vital organs with lots of blood can be seriously damaged by blunt force injury)
 4. Groin
 5. Spine
 6. Lower back (kidneys can be seriously injured)
4. Less-lethal devices will not be deployed without lethal cover present/immediately available from a deputy other than the less-lethal operator (transition to higher level of force might be immediately necessary)
 5. Formulate a plan for handling incident prior to making suspect contact (if circumstances allow time for predeployment planning) (fail to plan, plan to fail; at the very least, make sure everyone knows everyone's role. If time is available, brief on roles, deployment/contact plan, contingency plan, post-event actions, and have everyone brief back their role.)
 1. Minimally, designate less-lethal operator, lethal cover and suspect control (handcuffing) deputy
 6. Prior to firing less-lethal launcher, the operator will loudly call out the word "Device"
 1. Review this procedure prior to making suspect contact
 - a. Prevent sympathetic fire
 - i. Even more important if other agencies are present
 - b. Load chamber prior to making suspect contact
 - c. If operator attempts to fire device and failure occurs due to empty chamber, resulting delay could negatively alter outcome of incident (assume that the suspect is going to move and you will be in contact before expected)
 - d. If projectile is fired, immediately rack slide to place fresh projectile in chamber
 - e. Be prepared for immediate followup shots (suspect's size, alcohol, drugs, emotional state, accuracy of shot could cause munition to be ineffective)
 - f. Remain prepared to launch projectiles until suspect is secure and possibility of threat is confirmed to no longer exist (make independent decision for each shot)
 - g. Return to patrol safe configuration prior to returning device to patrol car
 7. Actions following less-lethal device firing
 - a. Medical treatment/clearance for suspect (even if no obvious injuries and suspect says he's okay – blunt

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force injuries might not be visible,
drugs/alcohol/adrenaline might mask pain)

- b. Supervisor notification (as soon as practical when Code 4)
 - c. Documentation (report written by every deputy who used force in accordance with policy; consult Lexipol 302.8 for wording re less-lethal device)
 - d. Evidence collection (retain expended projectiles and shell casings unless directed by supervisor that it isn't necessary. If so, document in report.)
2. Qualification course of fire (80%)
- Rounds must hit in an approved target area to be considered a hit.
 - 80% passing (6 out of 8 rounds)
- a. 7 yards
 - i. Load with 4 rounds in magazine and 4 in sidesaddle
 - ii. Fire 2 rounds
 - iii. Fire 1 round
 - b. 15 yards
 - i. Fire 1 round
 - ii. Challenge – Suspect complies – De-escalate
 - iii. Fire 2 rounds
 - c. 20 yards
 - i. Fire 1 round
 - ii. Fire 1 round