

Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office
Pepper Ball Qualification Expanded Course Outline
1 Hour

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

TIME: 1600-1700

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

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

Pepper Ball Qualification

A. Loading

a. Safety on

- I. Verify trigger safety is on.
- II. Verify that the air tank toggle is set to OFF.

b. Gas tank

- I. Visually inspect air tank gauge (3000 PSI) Pepper Ball Qualification

c. Hopper:

- I. Feed the Hopper. Hopper holds up to 180 rounds.

d. Charging handle:

- I. Pull and lock charging handle to the rear.

e. Activate air tank by toggling the tank from OFF to ON.

B. Unloading

- I. Trigger Safety on
- II. Toggle gas tank to OFF (kill air intake)
- III. Safely remove rounds from Hopper (1 round remains in the chamber.)
- IV. Toggle Hopper lever to expose barrel opening and remove the round in the chamber.

C. Target zones

1. Primary (green)
 - a. Upper legs
2. Secondary (yellow)
 - a. Lower abdomen
 - b. Extremities
 - c. Upper back
- II. Non-target (red) zones
 1. Face & head
 2. Neck
 3. Groin
 4. Spine

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- III. 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)
- IV. 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
- V. 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

D. Qualification course of fire

- a. 10 yards
 - I. Fire 3 round
 - II. Challenge – Suspect complies – De-escalate
 - III. Fire 3 rounds
- b. 15 yards (For the first course of fire at the 15 yard line, instructors have students toggle air tank to OFF and send the charging handle home, in order to simulate a malfunction for the next course of fire. Do not rack charging handle to the rear in order to simulate a user created malfunction).
 - I. Fire 4 rounds
 - II. Fire 3 rounds
- c. 20 yards
 - I. Fire 3 rounds
 - II. Fire 2 round
- d. 25 yards
 - I. Fire 2 rounds

1-2 *Range Clean-Up*

- A. Clean up brass, targets, and any other trash.

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- B. Report any injuries to the range staff and Sergeants.
- C. Found Equipment
 - 1. Turned into one of the instructors