

# Expandable Baton

**Index Code: 405**

**Effective Date: 10/01/02 (Revised 1/5/2022)**

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## **I. Purpose**

The purpose of this directive is to establish guidelines for the use of the expandable baton.

the intention to actively resist the deputy's efforts to arrest him/her.

## **II. Policy**

The Office of the Sheriff issues the expandable baton to provide deputies with additional use of force options for gaining compliance of resistant or aggressive individuals in arrest and other enforcement situations. It is the policy of the Office of the Sheriff that deputies may use the expandable baton when warranted, but only in accordance with the guidelines and procedures set forth here and under the use of force policy.

3. Whenever practical and reasonable, deputies must issue a verbal warning prior to using the expandable baton on a person.

4. Deputies may use deadly force to protect themselves from the use or threatened use of an expandable baton, when the deputy reasonably believes that deadly force will be used against them if they become incapacitated.

## **III. Procedures**

### **A. Authorization**

1. Only deputies who have demonstrated proficiency with the use of the expandable baton are authorized to carry and use it. Proficiency must be demonstrated under the guidance of a certified instructor with both initial training and biennial in-service training required and documented.

5. Once a person is handcuffed or otherwise restrained, and they are still combative and/or violent, deputies must first attempt to exercise additional control over the individual by using empty handed or non-striking impact tool techniques, or OC spray, before the use of the baton is justified. (Any deputy who uses a baton on a restrained person must be prepared to justify that use). Once an individual is under control, the use of the baton is no longer justified.

2. Only expandable batons meeting authorized specifications, and issued by the Office, may be carried and used by deputies, both on and off duty.

### **C. Procedures**

1. Whenever possible, deputies should maintain a safe distance from the suspect and display the expandable baton along with a verbal warning.

### **B. Usage**

1. The expandable baton is considered a use of force and will be employed in a manner consistent with the use of force policy. The expandable baton is a force option following Electronic Control Devices on the use of force continuum.

2. When utilizing the expandable baton, deputies must attempt to avoid the vital areas of the human body, and those areas where a strike could bring about permanent injury or death.

2. The expandable baton may be used when verbal dialogue, empty hands techniques, O.C. Spray, and/or electronic control devices have failed to bring about a subject's compliance or those alternatives are not an option due to existing circumstances, and the subject indicates

3. Use of the expandable baton should be avoided, if possible, under conditions where it may strike innocent bystanders.

4. Immediately after utilizing the expandable baton, deputies will be alert to any indications that the individual needs medical care. Upon observing these or other medical problems, or if the suspect requests medical assistance, deputies will immediately summon emergency medical aid.

**E. Reporting Procedures**

1. Use of the expandable baton will be reported to the immediate on duty supervisor as soon as possible.

2. A use of force report will be completed following all uses of the expandable baton, except during testing and training.

**F. Replacement**

1. All expandable batons will be maintained in a clean and operational state. Replacements for damaged or inoperable batons are the responsibility of the affected deputy.

2. Expandable batons will be inspected every six months when regular vehicle/personnel inspections are conducted by supervisors.

**IV. CALEA References:** 1.3.4, 1.3.5 & 1.3.6.

**V. Proponent Unit:** Field Operations Division

**VI. Cancellation:** This directive cancels Index Code 405 dated 1/17/17.

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Sheriff Gary Hofmann