



**Colorado Springs Police Department  
Standard Operating Procedures  
DL-705-03 Use of Force: Specialty Impact Munitions (SIM) and Specialty  
Impact Delivery System**

**Department-Level SOP**

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**Purpose**

It is the policy of the Colorado Springs Police Department that officers use only the force that is reasonably necessary to effectively bring an incident under control. A use of force must be objectively reasonable as defined in General Order 705, Use of Force.

This directive provides guidelines for the proper storage, maintenance, issue, carry, and deployment of Specialty Impact Munitions (SIM) and Specialty Impact Delivery Systems. This directive further defines the appropriate use of this particular use of force tactic.

**Cross Reference**

[GO 705, "Use of Force"](#)

[GO 710, "Reporting Use of Force"](#)

[SOP P1-126, "Field Medical Clearance"](#)

**Definitions**

**Passive Resistance:** Physical actions that do not prevent the officer or marshal's attempt to control, for example, a person who remains in a limp, prone position, or passive demonstrators.

**Active Resistance:** Physically evasive movements to defeat an officer or marshal's attempt to control, including, but not limited to, bracing, tensing, pushing, flailing arms, running away, or verbally signaling an intention to avoid or prevent being taken into or retained in custody. Active Resistance also includes attempting to avoid apprehension and failing to comply with an officer or marshal's order to reveal themselves from concealment or surrender. Walking away may be considered active resistance if the person continues to walk away from an officer or marshal after having been given a lawful order or having been told the person is under arrest. Active Resistance is a higher level of resistance than Passive Resistance.

**Active Aggression:** A threat or overt act of an assault, coupled with the present ability to carry out the threat or assault, which reasonably indicates that an assault or injury to any person is imminent. Threatening body language includes, but is not limited to, blading the body, assuming a boxer stance, circling officer or marshal's position, clenching of the hands from an open to

closed position, forming a fist, etc. Active Aggression is a higher level of resistance than Active Resistance.

**Specialty Impact Munitions (SIM):** The 40mm specialty munitions are rounds designed to deliver less lethal physical force with sufficient energy to inflict blunt trauma, pain compliance, and mental distraction. The rounds are considered extended range impact weapons.

**Specialty Impact Delivery System:** A specialty impact delivery system is a weapon designated to fire Specialty Impact Munitions.

### **Use of Specialty Impact Munitions (SIM) and Specialty Impact Delivery Systems**

The 40mm SIM may be deployed only by a designated 40 mm operator who is currently certified by the department in its use.

Absent exigent circumstances, the deployment of SIM must be in conjunction with a cover officer prepared to use deadly force should the situation warrant its use.

### **AUTHORIZED DEPLOYMENT OF SIM ON A PERSON**

Officers allowed to use SIM by this policy are authorized to use it on a person if:

1. Officers have grounds to arrest or detain the person and the person's actions are at a level of Active Resistance or Active Aggression and/or
2. The officer has a reasonable belief the person poses an imminent danger to themselves or others.

In a tactical situation in which the Tactical Enforcement Unit has responded, a TEU supervisor may determine the use of SIM on a person is the best course of action to resolve a dangerous situation even if the above criteria are not met.

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR DEPLOYMENT OF SIM ON A PERSON**

#### ***WARNING BEFORE USE OF SIM***

Before using SIM, an officer should warn the subject of an impending use of force and give them the chance to comply with verbal orders. This warning is not necessary when delaying the SIM discharge would be unsafe, the element of surprise is necessary to minimize the risk of harm, or is otherwise not feasible.

[REDACTED]

(Redacted )

## **DEPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

Officers will give special attention to the deployment of SIM to ensure the safety of all persons involved.

In evaluating tactical situations, officers and supervisors shall consider whether the circumstances at hand might be better addressed by specially trained and equipped personnel or units, such as the Tactical Enforcement Unit, and seek assistance from such specialized units when appropriate.

Shot placement is critical to the successful outcome of the situation and minimizing the risk of serious injury or death. When making the shot placement decision the need for immediate incapacitation must be weighed with the potential for causing injury. An intentional strike to the head, neck, throat, groin, spine, heart and kidneys with any impact weapon is prohibited except when deadly force is authorized.

Officers must use extreme caution in areas where minimal deployment distances are likely to be encountered (e.g., residences, small enclosures, and other confined areas).

Absent exigency or supervisory approval, officers shall not deploy SIM when the subject is in an elevated position or location where a fall may cause substantial injury or death.

## **POST-DEPLOYMENT ACTIONS**

**Reports:** As with all uses of force, officers will complete a detailed case or incident report of the event, describing the circumstances leading to the deployment of SIM. A Blue Team Use of Force (UoF) report will be completed as required by General Order 710 Reporting Use of Force.

Each use of the SIM on a person is considered to be a separate use of force and this justification must be present and articulated in written reports. These separate uses of force are reported in one Blue Team report. As described in GO 710, photographs must be taken of any persons who were the subject of a use of force.

**Accidental Discharge:** All accidental firings of a SIM that strike a citizen shall be documented on a Use of Force Report.

**Medical Considerations:** Following the use of SIM, officer(s) shall secure the subject and request a medical unit response. The subject must be carefully monitored following the use of SIM for signs of medical distress. If distress is observed, the officer shall request the medical response to be Code 3.

The officer will brief arriving medical personnel of the SIM usage on the subject. In cases where medical personnel determine that transport to a hospital is not necessary, a *Field Medical Clearance (or Refusal of Treatment)* must be obtained from an on-scene paramedic. If the

subject is to be booked into jail, a copy of the Medical Clearance will accompany the arrestee and be provided to booking personnel at the jail.

### **LOGISTICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**Training and Qualifications:** Only those personnel specifically trained in their use will deploy SIM. Prior to the using SIM, each selected officer will attend and successfully complete an approved course of training in the use of SIM. Training will include the following:

- Classroom instruction
- Scenario exercises
- Live fire exercises
- Written test(s)

To maintain certification, designated personnel shall attend annual training on SIM use. Periodic training should include a review of relevant directives, de-escalation techniques, and deployment considerations.

The Training Academy shall maintain documentation of all SIM training.

**Weapons and Munitions Maintenance and Control:** Strict procedures must be followed to ensure that lethal ammunition is not in the weapon or its carry case.

- The 40mm Launcher will remain black in color and will be carried in a carrying case.
- The weapon will be equipped with a sling.
- The weapon and munitions will conform to department-approved models.

40mm operators assigned to the Patrol Bureau cannot take the launcher home at the end of their shift. The launcher must be stored in a division armory.

40mm operators assigned to the Tactical Enforcement and Metro Fugitive units may store their assigned launcher(s) in the unit's respective armory and/or department vehicles equipped with secure lock boxes.

**Inspection of the SIM 40mm Launcher:** When carried by a certified officer or supervisor in a vehicle, SIM 40mm launchers shall be carried in the following condition:

- The 40mm launcher will be carried in the approved carrying case.
- The chamber will be empty.
- The munitions will be stored in the approved carrying case or on the approved sling.
- Electronic sights will be checked for working order and sight mount will be checked for tightness.