



**Colorado Springs Police Department  
Standard Operating Procedures  
DL-705-04 Use of Force: Baton  
Department-Level SOP**

Active Date: **5/2/2018**

Supersedes Date: **4/17/2018**

**Purpose**

It is the policy of the Colorado Springs Police Department that officers and marshals 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 batons. 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.

## **Use of Batons**

The department-issued baton is PR-24XTS or Monadnock Auto-lock Expandable Baton (MEB) equipped with the Power Safety Tip. CSPD may authorize equivalents at the individual's expense, with completion of training specific to that baton.

All sworn personnel, up through the rank of Sergeant and all City Marshals are required to be certified in the use of the baton.

The following Police Department personnel are required to have the baton available while on duty:

- All police officers up through the rank of Sergeant, when performing duty in uniform, including voluntary assignments and extra duty.
- Lieutenants who choose to work extra duty during the extra duty assignment.
- City Marshals.

Personnel working plain-clothes assignments are not required to have the baton available unless they are on duty and in uniform. However, such personnel up through the rank of Sergeant are required to be certified in its use.

### **AUTHORIZED DEPLOYMENT OF A BATON**

As a less lethal technique, batons may be used in escort or controlling techniques and as an impact weapon to strike a person.

Officers and marshals allowed to use a baton by this policy are authorized to use it apply a control hold on a person if:

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

Officers and marshals allowed to use a baton by this policy are authorized to use it on a person as an impact weapon if:

3. Officers or marshals 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

4. The officer or marshal has a reasonable belief the person poses an imminent danger to themselves or others.

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR DEPLOYMENT OF BATON**

### ***WARNING BEFORE USE OF BATON***

Before using a baton, an officer or marshal 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 use of the baton would be unsafe, the element of surprise is necessary to minimize the risk of harm, or is otherwise not feasible.

### **DEPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

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.

### **POST-DEPLOYMENT ACTIONS**

**Reports:** As with all uses of force, officers or marshals will complete a detailed case or incident report of the event, describing the circumstances leading to the deployment of the baton. 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 baton 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.

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

The officer or marshal will brief arriving medical personnel of the baton 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 its use will deploy the baton. Prior to using a baton, officers and marshals will attend and successfully complete an approved course of training in the use of the baton. A minimum of 8 hours of training is required for basic PR-24 certification and advanced MEB certification.

To maintain certification, designated personnel shall attend biennial (i.e., every two years) training on baton use. This training may include practical exercises and written tests. Periodic training should include a review of relevant directives, de-escalation techniques, and deployment considerations.

If an officer or marshal wishes to be certified on the MEB, they will maintain certification on the PR-24 and attend a 4-hour MEB familiarization course. Upon successful completion of the course, the officer or marshal will have the option to carry the MEB or the PR-24. Officers and marshals will recertify with the PR-24 and the MEB at the same time.

The Training Academy shall maintain documentation of all baton training.