

STOCKTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

GENERAL ORDER

SAGE 37MM WEAPON SYSTEM
SUBJECT

DATE: March 1, 2005

NO: Q-1m

FROM: CHIEF ERIC JONES

TO: ALL PERSONNEL

INDEX: SAGE 37MM WEAPON SYSTEM

I. POLICY

It is the policy of the Stockton Police Department to utilize the less lethal weapon systems whenever practical.

II. PROCEDURE

1. Use of the Sage 37mm Weapon System

- a. The SAGE 37mm Weapon System is a less lethal use of force option designed to resolve potentially dangerous situations by striking a subject with one or more three ounce plastic batons temporarily incapacitating a person and reducing their ability to continue aggressive action and/or force their compliance. Use of the SAGE 37mm Weapon System is an alternative in the use of force options and is not intended as a substitute for a firearm. Situations for use may include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Those subject(s) that are armed, noncompliant, and appear violent or threaten significant aggressive action.
- (2) Where such use can be accomplished with a reasonable degree of safety to collateral citizens, officers, and suspect(s).
- (3) When the suspect(s) is not armed, and there is reasonable cause to believe they represent a potentially deadly threat to themselves, the public, or involved police officers, and other use of force options are not appropriate or cannot safely be deployed.
 - (a) Examples: A subject threatening to light something on fire or is within reach of a weapon and takes action to arm themselves.
- (4) To quell civil disturbances, which have become violent and a serious threat of harm to the public exists.

- b. Where subjects are armed or believed to be armed with a firearm, the totality of the circumstances shall be considered before deployment of the SAGE Weapon System.
- c. Low lethality munitions will be used by SWAT Team members and Field Services Sergeants who have been trained in their proper use.
- d. Only munitions approved by the Chief of Police will be used.
- e. The decision to use low lethal munitions can be made by the Incident Commander, SWAT Team Commander, Acting SWAT Commander, Watch Commander, SWAT Sergeant, or Patrol Sergeant.
- f. Use of the SAGE 37mm Weapon System firing a three ounce kinetic energy plastic baton can be lethal. Officers shall consider this fact when aiming and using this weapon.
- g. Any officer armed with the SAGE Weapon System shall have a second officer designated to use more lethal force should the situation become necessary. This officer will be designated by the supervisor or commander authorizing use of the SAGE Weapon System.

2. Medical Treatment
 - a. Any impact from a 37mm plastic baton requires immediate medical examination. Specific attention should be made to identify broken bones, internal bleeding, or organ damage. All other medical procedures for impact/blunt trauma injuries should be followed.
3. Investigation/Notification/Protocol
 - a. Photographs of any person struck with a round from this weapon shall be taken. The flesh area struck will be visible in the photographs.
 - b. In the event low lethality weapons are used, the Watch Commander and a Field Services Captain will be notified immediately. The Field Services Captain will notify:
 - (1) The appropriate Deputy Chief of Field Services
 - (2) The Legal Advisor
 - c. If death or serious injury occurs, Protocol shall be invoked.
4. Training
 - a. All SWAT Team members, and other personnel designated by the Chief of Police, shall be trained in the use of the SAGE Weapon System and munitions.
 - b. Training shall consist of:
 - (1) A minimum of two hours classroom and two hours practical exercise time.
 - (2) Each officer shall read the entire Penn Arms, SAGE 37mm SL-6 Multi-Shot Projectile Launcher Instruction Manual and be thoroughly familiar with this General Order and General Order Q-1.
 - (3) At the completion of the four hour training session, all officers must pass a written exam regarding the proper use of nomenclature of the SAGE Weapon System and first aid for blunt trauma injuries with a score of 90% or higher.
 - (4) The SWAT Commander shall ensure for all SWAT personnel, and the Department Training Coordinators shall ensure for all other authorized personnel, regular training in the use of the SAGE Weapon System not less than once a year. Update training can consist of classroom training only.
 - (5) Training instruction will be the responsibility of the SWAT Commander and/or the Department Range Master.
5. Storage and Maintenance
 - a. SAGE weapons assigned to the SWAT Team will be stored at the discretion of the SWAT Commander.
 - b. SAGE weapons assigned to the Field Services Division will be stored at the discretion of the Field Services Captains.
 - c. All SAGE weapons will be maintained and inspected by the Department Rangemaster.
 - d. The Rangemaster will conduct a yearly check and inspection of each weapon.