



Series 300 Support Services	Effective Date 8/1/2024	Review Date Five Years	Directive Number 304.8
Chapter 304 - Training			
Reviewing Office Office of Field Support			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Directive <input type="checkbox"/> Revised
References			

BolaWrap Device

304.8 - 1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this directive is to provide guidelines for the issuance and deployment of BolaWrap devices. The device is intended to minimize risk of injury to suspects, subjects, and officers.

304.8 - 1.1 Proper Use of Force Decision Making

1. In *Graham v. Connor*, the United States Supreme Court explained that the objectively-reasonable standard is to be applied from the perspective of a reasonable law enforcement officer on the scene and include an allowance for the fact that law enforcement officers are often forced to make split-second decisions about the amount of force necessary in circumstances that are both uncertain and rapidly evolving. Although the test of reasonableness is not capable of precise definition or mechanical application, the following factors must be considered:
 - a. The severity of the crime at issue;
 - b. Whether the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of Department members or others; and
 - c. Whether the suspect is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade the arrest by flight.

2. Notwithstanding any of the provisions listed below, which constitute only guidelines for the purpose of informing a Department member’s decision on whether to utilize the BolaWrap device, the question of whether the member’s use of the device is proper will always depend on the totality of the circumstances surrounding each particular incident.

304.8 - 2 POLICY

1. The BolaWrap device is intended to control a violent or potentially violent individual, while minimizing risk of serious injury. The appropriate use of the device should result in fewer serious injuries to officers and suspects. The BolaWrap is a handheld remote restraint device that discharges an eight foot bola style Kevlar tether to entangle an individual at an optimal range of 10-25 feet. (Refer to Directive 304.2 [Use of Force] and Training Directive 04-03 [Use of Force Continuum]).

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2. Only members who have successfully completed department approved training may be issued and carry the BolaWrap device.
3. Subject to the objectively reasonable standard set forth in *Graham v. Connor* and discussed above, the BolaWrap device may be utilized against persons who are **actively resistant, actively aggressive, or self-destructive.**

304.8 - 3 Definitions

304.8 - 3.1 BolaWrap

The BolaWrap is a hand-held remote restraint device that discharges an eight-foot bola style Kevlar tether to entangle an individual at a range of 10 to 20 feet.

304.8 - 3.2 BolaWrap Cartridge

The black cartridge for the BolaWrap containing an eight-foot Kevlar cord (380 lb. strength) with anchors attached at both ends. A .380 partial charge blank propels the Kevlar cord with anchors at 640 feet per second.

304.8 - 3.3 Green Laser Sight Line

The laser is turned on /off by manipulating the safety switch. The laser is green in color and is 5milliwatts which could cause retina damage if pointed at the eyes. The purpose of the line laser is to ensure that the operator is pointing the device at the correct target area of the body while holding it parallel to the ground.

304.8 - 3.4 Target Area

The primary target area is the lower leg area between the ankles and knees. If the individual has one of both arms to their side, the secondary target area is the abdomen located between the elbows and upper thigh.

304.8- 4 Procedure

304.8 - 4.1 Issuance and Carrying the BolaWrap Device

1. Only a Department-approved BolaWrap device that has been issued by the Department shall be utilized by personnel.
2. All BolaWrap devices shall be clearly and distinctly marked to differentiate them from the duty weapon and any other device.
3. Uniformed officers who have been issued the BolaWrap device shall ensure the device is securely attached on their person or safely secured in their patrol vehicle.
4. Plainclothes officers may secure the device in their assigned or checked out Department vehicle.
5. Officers shall be responsible for ensuring that their issued BolaWrap device is properly maintained and in good working order.
6. Officers should not hold both a firearm and the BolaWrap device at the same time.
7. Officers shall ensure that the BolaWrap devices are secured in a manner that will keep the device inaccessible to others.

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304.8 - 4.2 Verbal and Visual Warnings

A verbal warning of the intended use of the BolaWrap device should precede its application, unless it would otherwise endanger the safety of officers or when it is not practicable due to the circumstances.

1. The purpose of the warning is to:
 - a. Provide the individual with a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply.
 - b. Provide other officers and individuals with a warning that the BolaWrap device may be deployed.

304.8 - 4.3 Application of the BolaWrap Device

1. The BolaWrap device may be used in any of the following circumstances, the circumstances perceived by the officer at the time indicate that such application is reasonably necessary to control a person.
 - a. The subject is violent or is physically resisting.
 - b. The subject has demonstrated by words or action, an intention to be violent or to physically resist, and reasonably appears to present the potential to harm officers, himself/herself or others.
2. When deciding whether to use the BolaWrap device, officers should carefully balance officer safety concerns with factors that include, but are not limited to:
 - a. The circumstances of the crime leading to the arrest or detention.
 - b. The demeanor and behavior of the arrested or detained person.
 - c. The age and health of the person.
 - d. Whether the person is known to be pregnant.
 - e. Whether the person has any other apparent physical disability.

The BolaWrap device shall not be used to psychologically torment, elicit statements or to punish any individual.

304.8 - 4.4 Special Deployment Considerations

1. The use of the BolaWrap device on certain individuals should be avoided unless the totality of the circumstances indicates that other available options would likely be ineffective or would present greater danger to the officer, the subject or others, and the officer reasonably believes that the need to control the individual outweighs the risk of using the device. These individuals include:
 - a. Individuals who are known to be pregnant.
 - b. Elderly individuals.
 - c. Obvious juveniles.
 - d. Individuals detained in a police vehicle.

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- e. Individuals in danger of falling or becoming entangled in machinery or heavy equipment, which could result in death or serious bodily injury.
- f. Individuals near any body of water that may present a drowning risk.
- g. Individuals whose position or activity may result in collateral injury (e.g., running, possible fall from high location, operating vehicles).

304.8 - 4.5 Target Considerations

1. Reasonable efforts should be made to target the lower legs and area of the forearms, and to avoid the head, neck, eyes, and groin. If the dynamics of a situation or officer safety factors do not permit the officer to limit the application of the BolaWrap device to a precise target area, officers should monitor the condition of the subject if it strikes the head, neck, eyes, or groin until the subject is examined by paramedics or other medical personnel.

304.8 - 4.6 Multiple Applications to BolaWrap Device

1. If the first application of the BolaWrap device appears to be ineffective in gaining control of an individual, the officer should consider certain factors before attempting an additional application of the device, including:
 - a. Whether the Kevlar cord or pellets/barbs are making proper contact.
 - b. Whether the individual has the ability and has been given a reasonable opportunity to comply.
 - c. Whether verbal commands, other commands, other options or tactics may be more effective.

304.8 - 4.7 Actions Following Deployment of BolaWrap Device

1. Following the use of the BolaWrap device:
 - a. When safe to do so, personnel shall use a more secure and permanent restraint device such as handcuffs.
 - b. Personnel shall request a supervisor to the scene.
 - c. The supervisor or officer shall determine whether transporting the person to a medical facility is necessary to remove the pellet/bars.
 - d. If the supervisor determines the removal of the Kevlar cord is appropriate at the scene, the supervisor or officer may remove the Kevlar cord using a department issued BolaWrap device cutter.

304.8 - 4.8 Documentation

1. Officers shall document all BolaWrap device discharges in the related arrest/crime report and in a Use of Force Form. Notification shall also be made to a supervisor in compliance with the Use of Force Policy. Unintentional discharges, pointing the device at a person and laser activation will also be documented on the report form.

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304.8 - 4.9 Reports

1. The officer should include the following in the report:
 - a. Identification of the recipient of the BolaWrap deployment.
 - b. Identification of all personnel deploying/firing BolaWrap devices.
 - c. Identification of any/all witnesses.
 - d. Any injuries that may have been sustained during the deployment of the BolaWrap device.
 - e. Medical care provided to the subject.
 - f. Observations of the subject's physical and physiological actions, which led to the use of the BolaWrap device.
 - g. Whether the subject was known or suspected to have been under the influence or effected by drug use at the time of the incident, been intoxicated at the time of the incident or was effected by other medical problems at the time of the incident.

304.8 - 5.0 Medical Treatment

1. Any individual who falls under any of the following categories should be examined by paramedics or other qualified medical personnel as soon as is practicable:
 - a. The person is suspected of being under the influence of controlled substances and/or alcohol.
 - b. The person may be pregnant.
 - c. The person reasonably appears to be in need of medical attention.
 - d. The BolaWrap device pellets/barbs are lodged in a sensitive area (e.g., groin, female breast, eyes, head, face, neck).
 - e. The person requests medical treatment.
2. If any individual refuses medical attention, such a refusal should be witnessed by another officer and/or medical personnel and shall be fully documented in related reports. If a recording is made of the contact or an interview with the individual, any refusal should be included in the recording if possible.

304.8 – 5.1 Supervisor Responsibilities

1. A supervisor shall respond to all incidents where the BolaWrap device was activated and follow normal Use of Force protocol. A supervisor should review each incident where a person has been exposed to an activation of the BolaWrap device. If the person is injured or if the person's skin was penetrated by the BolaWrap device's barbs or pellets, a Category 2 Use of Force shall be completed. Photographs should be taken to document any injury or non-injury, and witnesses shall be interviewed.

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Related Procedures:

- Directive 201.11 – Use of Force Reporting and Investigation
- Directive 202.1 – Arrests
- Directive 304.2 – Use of Force
- Training Directive 04-2 - Use of Force Continuum
- Training Directive 05-4 – Positional Asphyxia
- Training Directive 04-7 – Use of Force Reporting

Form and Reports:

- Use of Force Report (UF-002)
- Supervisory Investigation Report (UF002a) Form (SIR)
- Use of Force/Detainee Injury Investigation Guide
- Investigation Checklist