



SAN ANTONIO POLICE DEPARTMENT
Special Operations Section
Standard Operating Procedure



SWAT Procedure 305.00 <i>Less-Lethal Equipment and Special Devices</i>			
Office with Primary Responsibility:	TSU	Forms Referenced in this Procedure:	None
Office, Section, Unit, or Detail and Office	TSA, TSB	Number of Pages	2

Responsibilities: To identify and establish a recommended means for deploying less-lethal equipment and special devices utilized by the SWAT Detail.

Definitions: **Less-Lethal** – A force applied with the intention to subdue or render a subject non-threatening which, over a given number of occurrences, the statistical probability exists that a death can occur (Sage International). These items include but may not be limited to the following: SAGE launcher, Pepper-ball gun, 37 mm launcher, and the shotgun “bean-bag.”

Special devices include, but are not limited to, the following: Distraction devices, chemical agents, and smoke.

Tasks:

.01 Tactical Commander (Lieutenant or above):

- A. Authorizes the use of all Less-Lethal weapons, as described above, by SWAT Detail personnel.
- B. Seeks authorization from the Incident Commander to use chemical agents or smoke during Critical Incidents. Chemical agents should only be used if exigent circumstances exist, or as a measure to increase officer safety if forced entry has been deemed necessary by the Incident Commander.

.02 SWAT Supervisors:

- A. Ensure an adequate number of SWAT Detail members are certified to use less-lethal and special devices.
- B. Ensure that deployment gear includes less-lethal means to resolve a conflict.
- C. Ensure less-lethal and special devices are only deployed by officers certified to use the item.
- D. Authorize the use of “distraction devices” during warrant execution.



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- E. Seeks authorization from the Tactical Commander to use Less-Lethal weapons or Special devices during Critical Incidents
- F. Ensure any use of less-lethal or special devices is documented in the officer's report.

.03 SWAT Personnel:

- A. Ensure all less-lethal and special devices are in working condition.
- B. If assigned a less-lethal device, ensure personal response gear includes the item.
- C. Seeks authorization from or the Tactical Commander before using a Less-Lethal weapon or Special devices, as described above.
- D. Document any use of the item

.04 Distraction Devices

- A. All devices will be logged upon receipt and kept secure in the SWAT ready room. Only supervisors and certified custodians will be granted access.
- B. Devices will be logged and signed out with officer's name and date received.
- C. In any incident where a device is used, a report will be generated documenting the serial number of the devices used in the details of the report.
- D. Any lost, misplaced, or stolen devices will be reported to a supervisor immediately.

.05 Use of Drones

- A. In the normal course of use, drones should not be considered as a force option. In critical incidents that may require extraordinary counter measures to end the public safety threat, a plan that utilizes a drone must be approved by the chief of police or their designee prior to implementation. A drone shall include an aerial drone, robot, or similar mechanical device.