

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

NOTICE

1.12

October 28, 2020

TO: All Department Personnel

FROM: Chief of Police

SUBJECT: SHIELD CRITERIA FOR USE - ESTABLISHED

Due to the changing nature of crowd dynamics and crowd control practices, the Department is continually evaluating and seeking to utilize equipment that will provide officers with added protection while in crowd control situations. The purpose of this Notice is to approve the use of the shield as protective equipment and provide criteria for the use of the shield in crowd control situations.

The attached guidelines outline use of the shield, criteria for the use of the shield, and deployment considerations. A training video will be released to further demonstrate the shield's use.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Deputy Chief Martin A. Baeza, Commanding Officer, Personnel and Training Bureau, at (213) 486-7090.



MICHEL R. MOORE
Chief of Police

Attachment

DISTRIBUTION "D"

**LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT
SHIELD
CRITERIA FOR USE**

October 2020

PURPOSE

Due to the changing nature of crowd dynamics and crowd control practices, the Department is continually evaluating and seeking to utilize equipment that will provide officers with added protection while in crowd control situations. The shield is a portable device deployable at static locations and limited mobile field force situations. The shield can be used for a violent individual or group to provide added cover from impact weapons including projectiles and to allow additional resources the time to respond and counter the threat. The purpose of this document is to familiarize officers with the following:

- Criteria for the use of the shield and documentation;
- Use and handling of the shield; and
- Deployment considerations.

CRITERIA FOR USE OF THE SHIELD AND DOCUMENTATION

Officers may deploy the shield at a static location or as part of existing crowd control tactics with the approval of the on-scene supervisor or incident commander. The shield may be deployed when any of the following exist:

- a. Individual(s) within a crowd are exhibiting aggressive and violent behavior where projectiles or impact weapons are being used against officers;
- b. In circumstances where there is a reasonable expectation of violence anticipated based on intelligence and crowd indicators;
- c. As part of crowd control tactics when “pushing” a crowd, following the issuance of a dispersal order; or
- d. The use of the shield as a defensive/protective measure while effecting an arrest or other tactical action (i.e., Tangle Team).

Note: The premature deployment of a shield may contribute to an escalation of tension in a demonstration or other crowd setting. Shields should be stored out of sight in proximity of deployed officers until ready to be used. When deployed, the use of the shield shall be documented on the Activity Log of the Incident Command System (ICS) Form 214, or Sergeant’s Daily Report if an ICS 214 is not completed for the incident.

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The shield is 48" tall and 24" wide, made from high impact Plexiglass with a handle and strap. The shield does not provide ballistic protection. It can provide an officer, or a group of officers, added protection from incoming projectiles such as bottles, rocks, and other items being thrown by violent individual(s). The deployment of the shield can also provide officers with added protection as part of other crowd control strategies including actions to arrest or stop the actions of violent individual(s).

Officers deployed with a shield shall wear their ballistic helmet with face shield in the down position.

Tactical Considerations

- Optimal utilization of this device requires two hands.
- Maintain adequate space to prevent the shield from being pulled down, when feasible.

Note: The use of the collapsible baton with one hand remains a force option in concert with the shield.

USE AND HANDLING OF THE SHIELD

Shield Carry Position:

Generally, the shield is carried with the support arm through the strap and support hand on the handle. Strong hand placed above support arm. Support knee forward up against the bottom of the shield, and strong leg back. The shield can also be carried by the support arm allowing for the officer to utilize a collapsible baton if needed to defend themselves or others from assault.

Shield Position within Blocking Force:

Officers utilizing shields are positioned on the front line of a blocking force with additional officers positioned to the rear or in a flank position equipped with less-lethal munitions and/or batons.

Shield Position:

Two recommended positions are:

- Kneeling Position – placing the bottom of the shield on the ground and placing your whole body behind the shield; and
- Raising the shield slightly above your head to deflect projectiles.

Note: The shield is primarily a tool used to provide an officer additional protection from projectiles and impact weapons and is not a replacement for less lethal options to defend officers from violent attacks.

Shield Retention:

If an individual attempts to seize the shield, an officer should pull their support arm (which is through the strap and holding the handle) towards their body, brace their strong hand above their support arm on the shield, and move backwards to allow less-lethal equipped support officers the space to address the threat. The use of less-lethal munitions or other reasonable force options

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should be employed to arrest the individual (if possible) or repel the assault.

Additional Optional Utilization:

The shield can be used with limited mobile field force movements at deployed sites to:

- Provide added protection for officers while moving or redeploying;
- Provide squad level formations with an added tool to “push” unresponsive or resistive crowds following the declaration of an unlawful assembly; and
- Provide for added protection as part of other crowd control tactics (i.e., tangle teams).

Note: When feasible the utilization of the shield should be integrated into all crowd control pre-planning.

DEPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The shield can be deployed with the approval of the on-scene supervisor or incident commander when individual(s) within a crowd become violent or instances in which there is reasonable expectation of a violent response.

Shield equipped officers are utilizing a two-handed tool and should have support of less-lethal equipped officers in their immediate vicinity to respond to the individuals who are throwing projectiles in order to stop the violent actions and effect arrests when possible.

Points to Remember

- Deployment of the shield requires approval of the on-scene supervisor or incident commander.
- Use of the shield shall be documented on ICS 214 Activity Log or Sergeant’s Daily Report.
- Generally, the shield is a two-handed device. However, it can be held entirely by the support arm allowing for the use of a collapsible baton as a force option to be used in concert with the shield.
- Ensure less-lethal equipped officers are deployed with shield officers.
- Premature deployment of shields may contribute to an escalation of tensions in a demonstration or other crowd setting.
- The shield should be pre-staged at critical infrastructure sites if large crowds are anticipated to gather at a location.

The shield is added protective equipment that an officer can use during a crowd control situation to enhance officer safety. Its use does not preclude or replace the use of approved mobile field force tactics.