

# Bowie City Police Department - General Orders



TITLE: EXPANDABLE BATON		NUMBER: 408
EFFECTIVE DATE: 5/15/19		REVIEW DATE:
_ NEW   X_ AMENDS   _ RESCINDS		DATE: 5/9/16

AUTHORITY <b>Chief John K. Nesky</b>	ACCREDITATIONS STANDARDS 4.1.4, 4.1.5, 4.3.2	TOTAL PAGES 2
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## I. PURPOSE

To provide Departmental guidelines to officers in the use and carry of the expandable baton, as well as when medical attention is needed after use of the baton

## II. POLICY

This policy regulates the issuance and use of the expandable baton, a less-than-lethal weapon. It is imperative that the Department's officers are properly trained and qualified in the use of all authorized weapons, and that proper inspections and maintenance of the batons are conducted to ensure that they meet minimum safety requirements. (CALEA 4.1.4)

## III. EXPANDABLE BATON

### A. Training and Inspection: (CALEA 4.3.2)

1. An officer may use the expandable baton only after demonstrating proficiency with it in accordance with the training provided to the officer.
2. An officer will train with the expandable baton biennially and will demonstrate proficiency with the baton. During this training, a certified instructor will inspect each baton for defects which would render the baton unsafe to use.
3. An officer who cannot successfully demonstrate the proper techniques and use will be subject to immediate remedial training before being allowed to carry the baton.

### B. Acceptable Use and Restrictions:

1. The expandable baton may be deployed in circumstances including but not limited to the following:
  - a. A subject who is violently resisting arrest.
  - b. A subject who is actively fighting or injuring another officer or citizen.
  - c. When lesser force would not complete an arrest or stop an active assault.

2. Striking the subject's head, sternum, groin and neck areas should be avoided. Intentionally striking these areas is authorized only if the officer is justified in using deadly force.

3. The expandable baton normally should not be deployed under the following circumstances:

- a. Against a handgun or other firearm.
- b. Against a knife.
- c. Against a person already handcuffed.

**C. Availability of expandable baton:** All uniformed officers holding the rank of Sergeant or below who have demonstrated proficiency shall carry the Department-issued expandable baton at all times while in uniform.

**D. Reporting:** Whenever an officer strikes a subject with the expandable baton in the course of his/her duties, the use shall be documented on an Incident Report and Use of Force Report. The Use of Force Report, photographs, and any other documentation shall be forwarded to the Captain for review.

**E. Medical Attention and Documentation:** (CALEA 4.1.5)

1. After a subject has been struck with an expandable baton, appropriate medical aid should be rendered as quickly as reasonably possible. The subject shall be transported to a medical facility for medical attention if:

- a. The subject has signs of injury that may require medical attention.
- b. The subject complains of shortness of breath or chest pains.
- c. The subject requests medical attention.
- d. Anytime a subject is struck in the head, sternum, groin, or neck.

2. After a subject has been struck with an expandable baton, the Shift Supervisor or his/her designee shall respond to the scene and photograph the subject and the site of the expandable baton strike.

**F. Maintenance:** Officers are expected to properly maintain expandable batons and periodically inspect the expandable baton for damage. Any damage to the baton shall promptly be reported to the member's immediate supervisor and documented on the Uniform Requisition Form. The form and damaged equipment shall be given to the Administrative Sergeant.

**G. Inspection:** The expandable baton is a part of the uniform and is subject to periodic inspection by a supervisor.