

Shatterball Use

609.1 VERSION

Review Date	Effective Date	Approving Authority
02/22/2024	02/22/2024	Kelley Warner, Chief of Police

609.2 POLICY AND PURPOSE

This policy provides guidelines for issuing and using the Shatterball device. This policy also provides basic knowledge, procedures, training, and appropriate applications for the use of a Shatterball device by employees of this agency who are trained and authorized to deploy it in the field as needed.

609.3 ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

All employees are expected to fully comply with the guidelines and timelines set forth in this policy. Responsibility rests with the supervisor to ensure that any violations of policy are investigated and appropriate training, counseling and/or disciplinary action is initiated. This directive is for internal use only, and does not enlarge an employee's civil liability in any way. It should not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violation of this directive, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this department, and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.

609.4 DEFINITIONS

Shatterball – A one-inch spiked (non-sharp) metal ball shaped hand tool designed to breach tempered auto glass windows at low velocity.

Tempered Glass Window - Tempered glass is a type of safety glass processed by treatments to increase its strength compared with normal glass. Tempering puts the outer surfaces into compression and the interior into tension. Such stresses cause broken glass to shatter into small granular chunks instead of splintering into jagged shards as ordinary annealed glass does. The granular chunks are less likely to cause injury. Tempered glass is commonly used in automobile, residential, and commercial building windows.

Laminated Glass Window – A glass window consisting of two or more sheets of glass with plastic sheeting bonded between to resist shattering. Automobile windshields are always made of laminated glass. Some automobile manufacturers use laminated glass in a vehicle's side front windows. Almost all rear automotive windows are tempered glass.

609.5 PROCEDURES

609.5.1 ISSUANCE AND CARRYING SHATTERBALL DEVICE

- (a) Only authorized personnel who have completed a department-approved training shall be issued the Shatterball Device.

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- (b) Officers who are issued the Shatterball Device shall ensure it is secured in a manner that will keep it inaccessible to non-authorized persons.

609.5.2 VERBAL AND VISUAL WARNINGS

- (a) When the deployment of the Shatterball Device is deemed necessary, a verbal warning of "Shatterball, Shatterball" should precede its application, unless it would otherwise endanger the safety of officers or when it is not practicable due to the tactical situation or circumstances. The purpose of the warning is to;
 - 1. Provide the individual with a reasonable opportunity to comply voluntarily.
 - 2. Provide other officers and individuals with a warning that Shatterball Device is being deployed.

609.5.3 AUTHORIZED USE OF SHATTERBALL

- (a) During any emergency rescue response or attempted extrication of a person in a vehicle or structure with a glass window or door.
- (b) During any emergency or high-risk situation in which the removal of a glass window would likely increase the overall safety of anyone involved in the situation; including but not limited to: Officers, suspects, third parties, witnesses, or bystanders.
- (c) To aid in the apprehension or rescue of a person in which a glass window is preventing or reducing the effectiveness and/or safety of the apprehension or rescue. _

609.5.4 RESPONSIBILITIES RELATED TO THE USE OF SHATTERBALL

- (a) Any Officer that uses a Shatterball and damages a window in the course of official duties shall inform their direct supervisor when it is safe and practical within a reasonable timeframe.
- (b) When deploying a Shatterball on a window close to a person's face, the Officer should give the subject a verbal warning to look away from the window before deploying the Shatterball. A warning is not necessary in situations where such a warning could compromise the user's safety or delay an emergency rescue that is time-sensitive.
- (c) It is the responsibility of the issuing agency to ensure that employees who are issued Shatterball for use in the field understand the basic instructions on how to deploy a Shatterball on a window.

609.5.5 DOCUMENTATION

- (a) Any use of the Shatterball Device by a member of this department shall complete an incident report in accordance with the department's policies. The report should include the following;
 - 1. Whether or not a verbal warning was given prior to deployment, if not the reasons why.
 - 2. Any injuries and/or damage sustained from the deployment of the Shatterball Device and photographs of all injuries and damage.
 - 3. Medical care provided to injured parties if received.

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- (b) Supervisors will have the same responsibility outlined in [Harrisonburg Police Department Policy Manual: 300.9 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES](#).
 - 1. The use of the Shatterball Device will require documentation through Blue Team.

609.5.6 TRAINING

- (a) Employees of the agency will only be authorized to carry the Shatterball Device after successfully completing the department-approved training.
 - 1. Personnel certified on the device shall be required to undergo annual proficiency training.
 - (a) De-escalation techniques,
 - (b) A review of policy,