

BolaWrap® 100

352.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for the issuance and use of BolaWrap® 100 devices in order to minimize injury to suspects, subjects, and officers.

352.2 POLICY

The BolaWrap® 100 device is intended to immobilize and control resistive/non-compliant persons and persons with known or suspected mental health issues who present an imminent danger to themselves or others.

352.3 DEFINITIONS

1. BolaWrap® 100 - A hand-held remote restraint device that discharges an eight-foot Kevlar cord to entangle an individual at a range of 10-25 feet. The BolaWrap® 100 is equipped with entangling hooks at each end of the Kevlar cord.
2. Passive Non-compliance – Does not respond to verbal commands but also offers no physical form of resistance.
3. Active Resistance – Physically evasive movements to defeat an officer's attempt at control including bracing, tensing, running away, verbally or physically signaling an intention to avoid or prevent being taken into or retained in custody.
4. Active Aggression/Assault - An active attempt to inflict bodily injury against another person or an officer. An assault against a peace officer is considered an elevated risk because of the possibility that the person committing the assault may get possession of one of the officer's weapons and use it again the officer or another person.

352.4 ISSUANCE AND CARRYING BOLAWRAP® 100

Only a department approved BolaWrap® 100 device shall be utilized by personnel.

A BolaWrap® 100 is a remote restraint device.

All BolaWrap® 100 devices shall be clearly and distinctly marked to differentiate them from the duty weapon and any other device.

Officers shall be responsible for ensuring that their issued BolaWrap® 100 device is properly maintained and in good working order.

Officers shall not hold both a firearm and the BolaWrap® 100 device at the same time.

Deployment of the BolaWrap® 100 shall comply with the Louisville Police Department Use of Force-Response to Resistance Policy.

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The BolaWrap® 100 is not intended to be a transportation restraint device and shall not be used as a substitute for a hobble. Once the subject has been detained, the cord should be cut with an approved device (multi tool/scissors/shears).

Uniformed officers who have been issued a BolaWrap® 100 shall wear the device in an approved holster on their person.

Officers shall ensure that BolaWrap® 100 devices are secured while in their homes, vehicles, or any other area under their control, in a manner that will keep the device inaccessible to others.

The BolaWrap® 100 device has limitations and restrictions requiring considerations before its use. The device should only be used when its operator can safely approach the subject within the operational range of the device. Although the BolaWrap® 100 device is generally effective in controlling individuals, officers should be aware that the device may not achieve the intended result and be prepared with other options.

352.5 VERBAL AND VISUAL WARNINGS

A verbal warning of “Bola, Bola, Bola” should precede a BolaWrap® 100 application, unless it would otherwise endanger the safety of officers or when it is otherwise not practicable due to the totality of the circumstances. 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® 100 device may be deployed.
- c. The fact that a verbal or other warning was given, or the reasons it was not given should be documented by the officer deploying the BolaWrap® 100 device in the related report.
- d. The aiming laser should never be intentionally directed into the eyes of another as it may permanently impair his/her vision.

Prior to deployment, the deploying officer should assemble a sufficient number of officers to assist with taking the suspect into custody.

Under exigent circumstances, nothing in this policy prohibits an officer from deploying the BolaWrap® 100 at a subject without requesting or having the presence of additional officers.

352.6 SPECIAL DEPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The use of the BolaWrap® 100 on the individuals listed below shall be avoided, unless an officer reasonably believes under the totality of the circumstance that another option would be ineffective or would present a greater danger to the officer, the subject, or others.

- a. Individuals who are known to be pregnant
- b. Elderly individuals or obvious juveniles
- c. Individuals who are handcuffed or otherwise restrained
- 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. falls from heights, operating vehicles)

352.7 TARGETING CONSIDERATIONS

Reasonable efforts should be made to target lower extremities (legs) or lower arm (between elbow and wrist). The head, neck, chest and groin shall be avoided. If the dynamics of the situation or officer safety do not permit the officer to limit the application of the BolaWrap® 100 device to a precise target area, officers should monitor the condition of the subject if it strikes the head, neck, chest or groin until the subject is examined by medical personnel.

If the first application of the BolaWrap® 100 appears to be ineffective in gaining control of an individual, the officer should consider factors before additional applications of the device, including:

- a. Whether the Kevlar cord and/or anchor's hooks 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 option or tactics may be more effective.

352.8 APPLICATION OF THE BOLAWRAP® 100

The BolaWrap® 100 device may be used in any of the following circumstances, when the totality of circumstances perceived by the officer at the time indicate that such application is reasonably necessary to control a person who is being taken into custody:

- a. The subject is assaultive, actively resisting, or passive non-compliant.
- b. The subject has demonstrated, by words or actions, an intention to be violent or to physically resist, and reasonably appears to present the potential to harm officers, him/herself or others.

Mere flight from a pursuing officer, is not justification for the use of the BolaWrap® 100 device to apprehend an individual.

Simultaneous applications of the BolaWrap® 100 on a single individual by multiple devices is allowed in authorized target areas.

352.9 ACTIONS FOLLOWING DEPLOYMENTS

Officers shall request a supervisor to the scene.

Officers shall comply with Louisville Police Department Medical Aid and Response Policy.

Only medical personnel may remove hooks that are embedded in a subject's skin.

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If the hooks penetrate only the subject's clothing, then the supervisor or officer may remove the hooks. The supervisor or officer may cut the Kevlar cord with an approved device (multi tool/scissors/shears).

The Kevlar cord shall be cut prior to any transportation.

The expended cartridge, hooks, and Kevlar cord shall be collected and submitted into evidence.

352.10 MEDICAL TREATMENT

Only medical personnel should remove BolaWrap® 100 hooks which penetrate a person's skin. Used BolaWrap® 100 hooks shall be treated as a sharps biohazard, similar to a used hypodermic needle, and handled appropriately. Universal precautions should be taken.

In instances where a person's skin has been penetrated by the BolaWrap® 100 hooks, the person shall be medically assessed prior to booking/release.

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 an audio recording is made of the contact or an interview with the individual, any refusal should be included, if possible.

The transporting officer shall inform any person providing medical care or receiving custody that the individual has been subjected to the application of the BolaWrap® 100.

352.11 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

When possible, supervisors should respond to calls when they reasonably believe there is a likelihood the BolaWrap® 100 may be used. A supervisor shall respond to all incidents where the BolaWrap® 100 was activated.

352.12 DOCUMENTATION

Officers shall document all BolaWrap® 100 discharges in the related narrative report, Response to Resistance form, and the BolaWrap® 100 supplemental report form. Notification shall also be made to a supervisor in compliance with the Use of Force - Response to Resistance Policy. Photographs of the hook site(s) should be taken and witnesses interviewed.

Displaying the BolaWrap® 100 to gain compliance will be documented in the related narrative report and on the Response to Resistance form.

352.13 REPORTS

The officer should include the following in the arrest/crime/incident report:

- a. Identification of all personnel firing BolaWrap® 100
- b. Identification of all witnesses
- c. Medical care provided to the subject

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- d. Observations of the subject's physical and physiological actions
- e. Any known or suspected drug use, intoxication, or other medical problems

Cartridge serial number and reason for the application of force to include injuries.

352.14 OFF DUTY CONSIDERATIONS

Officers working in uniform, in an off duty assignment may carry the BolaWrap® 100. Otherwise, officers are not authorized to carry department-issued BolaWrap® 100 while off duty.

352.15 TRAINING

Personnel who are authorized to carry the BolaWrap® 100 shall be permitted to do so only after successfully completing the initial department-approved training and annual recertification thereafter.

Any personnel who have not carried the BolaWrap® 100 as a part of their assignment for a period of six months or more shall be re-certified by department-approved BolaWrap® 100 instructors prior to again carrying or using the device.

