



DEPARTMENT NOTICE

19-236
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Use of the ERIW – Armed/Unarmed Subjects & Building Searches Tactical Refresher from Training Division, Field Tactics Force Options Unit

The Extended Range Impact Weapon (ERIW) can be an excellent tool when confronting a subject **armed** with a weapon that could cause serious injury or death, provided it is used in conjunction with core tactical principles of “time, distance, and cover.” The ERIW may also be used to subdue an **unarmed** subject posing an immediate threat of serious injury to the officer or another person.

An example of an **armed** subject in which an ERIW deployment would be appropriate:

Officers respond to a call at South Park Avenue & Jack London Alley regarding a subject in a black dress swinging a machete in the park and speaking incoherently. Once on scene, responding officers use their vehicles as tactical tools not only to be used as cover and concealment, but also to contain the subject. The arriving officers then designate a Less Lethal Officer to deploy an ERIW, along with a dedicated Lethal Cover Officer. Having created containment, cover, and barriers to enhance their reaction time, officers then attempt to de-escalate the situation and detain the subject peacefully, while the ERIW Officer and Lethal Cover are prepared to protect others, should the subject become an immediate threat.

An example of an **unarmed** subject in which an ERIW deployment would be appropriate:

Officers respond to a call at South Park Avenue & Jack London Alley regarding an aggressive, muscular 200 pound male with no shirt and black shorts who is muttering incoherently. He is punching and breaking property with his hands. Once on scene, responding officers use their vehicles as tactical tools not only to be used as cover and concealment, but also to contain the subject. The arriving officers designate a Less Lethal Officer to deploy an ERIW, along with a dedicated Lethal Cover Officer. Having created containment, cover, and barriers to enhance their reaction time, Officers then attempt to de-escalate the situation and detain the subject peacefully, while the ERIW Officer and Lethal Cover are prepared to protect others, should the subject become an immediate threat.


Building Searches - ERIW

Officers are at a tactical disadvantage when conducting building searches for suspects that may be lying in wait (e.g., 100A, protective sweep, parole search). It should be presumed that a suspect who has not surrendered, after commands have been issued, is aware that officers are present and will search for them. Due to the myriad of actions a suspect might take, bringing an ERIW in a *slung* position is **tactically advantageous**. If the totality of the circumstances render the ERIW a desirable, viable option - it is readily deployable, with the dedicated Lethal Officer already present during a two-officer entry. This process will minimize force option transition time, while maximizing reaction time. However, officers should refrain from conducting

building searches using an ERIW as a primary weapon, as it creates a severe tactical disadvantage. If a suspect is encountered, the officer must ascertain if force is needed and what force would be reasonable. If an officer should encounter a suspect during the search, and deadly force is reasonably necessary, a transition from the ERIW to a deadly force option could result in a regrettable delay in the officer's reaction time.

This training refresher is in accordance with all current Department Training and General Orders; see DGO 5.01, VI, E, *Use of Force*, for additional ERIW policy.

Members may contact the Field Tactics/Force Options Unit via e-mail at SFPD.FTFO@sfgov.org.


WILLIAM SCOTT
Chief of Police

Per DB 19-156, sworn members are required to electronically acknowledge receipt and review of this Department Notice in HRMS. Any questions regarding this policy should be made to sfpd.writtendirectives@sfgov.org who will provide additional guidance about the directive.