



SACRAMENTO POLICE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF SPECIALIZED SERVICES



580.07
SHOTGUN AND EXPLOSIVE BREACHING
03/19/2026

PURPOSE

The purpose of this order is to establish guidelines for the use of shotgun breaching rounds and explosive breaching devices.

POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Office of Specialized Services to use shotgun and explosive breaching as directed and when necessary to increase the safety of the public and officers.

PROCEDURE

A. DEFINITIONS

1. EMERGENCY RESCUE – A police tactic that provides swift and immediate deployment of law enforcement resources to a developing or ongoing life-threatening situation where delayed deployment of emergency personnel would otherwise result in death or great bodily injury to innocent persons.
2. EXPLOSIVE BREACHER - An Explosive Ordinance Detail (EOD) technician or SWAT Team member trained in the construction, placement, and initiation of explosive breaching devices.
3. EXPLOSIVE BREACHING DEVICE - Explosive materials designed for the purpose of creating an opening through a door, wall, or other barrier.
4. HIGH RISK WARRANT – A search or arrest warrant characterized by hazards and risks to such a degree that service of the warrant exceeds the capabilities of the normal patrol and investigative functions.
5. RAPIDLY EVOLVING SITUATIONS- A situation where speed is crucial to save life due to an active threat. Events such as hostage rescue, officer rescue, or active shooter would be examples of rapidly evolving situations.
6. SHOTGUN BREACHING ROUND - A special munition designed to be fired by a 12-gauge shotgun for the purpose of disabling door locking mechanisms and hinges.

B. DEPLOYMENT

1. Shotgun and explosive breaching shall only be used:
 - a. By those certified and trained in the construction, placement, and initiation of explosive breaching devices.

[REDACTED]
 - e. During authorized training events.
2. The decision to use shotgun or explosive breaching shall be made by the SWAT Commander or designee, with concurrence from the incident commander (IC) – if applicable.
 - a. An Explosive Breacher is authorized to use explosive breaching devices during rapidly evolving situations where exigency and speed is crucial to save life due to an active threat. When feasible, a watch commander shall authorize this use.
3. Scouting and analysis of the barrier to be breached [REDACTED]
4. Recommendations of the breaching technique to be employed shall be the responsibility of the Explosive Breacher. The Explosive Breacher shall consider:

[REDACTED]



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5. The placement and initiation of the selected breaching technique shall be performed by the Explosive Breacher upon direction from the SWAT sergeant or designee.
6. The explosive breaching device will be initiated by the Explosive Breacher upon direction from the SWAT sergeant or designee.

C. SAFETY PROCEDURES

1. All officers in the immediate proximity of breaching operations shall wear protective equipment (e.g., eye/ear/hand protection, and body armor).
2. Prior to breaching, consideration should be given to providing advance notification to perimeter officers.

D. REPORTING

1. Property damage as a result of breaching shall be documented pursuant to General Order 240.03 (Civil Liability).
2. The requirements of General Order 580.03 (Discharge of Firearms) shall not apply when the shotgun is used for breaching or distractions.
3. Report all explosive breaching incidents to the Bomb and Arson Tracking System (BATS).
4. Keep a written record of explosives used with an indication of the date, time, and location used as a record of inventory documenting the use of explosives.

E. TRAINING

1. All Explosive Breachers trained in the use of shotgun breaching shall attend a Manual, Mechanical, Ballistic, Thermal, and Hydraulic Breacher Certification Course (MMBTH) prior to use.
2. All Explosive Breachers trained in the use of explosive breaching shall attend a tactical Explosive Breacher Certification course prior to use.
3. All Explosive Breachers shall review breaching procedures quarterly during regularly scheduled training.
4. All Explosive Breachers will train using shotgun breaching biannually.
5. All Explosive Breachers will train using explosive breaching quarterly.

F. STORAGE AND TRANSPORTATION

1. All explosives and priming systems (blasting caps/shock tube) shall be stored in [REDACTED] in an appropriate manner in accordance with ATF regulations regarding the storage and transportation of explosives.
2. When carrying explosives and priming systems on their person during an operation or during training, SWAT officers shall carry these items separately in appropriate pouches on their tactical vests. There shall be ballistic material between the explosives and/or priming systems and the officer's body. Additionally, the priming system and detonating cord shall be stored on opposite sides of the body in their respective pouches in a manner to prevent heat, shock, and friction.