



Roll Call Training Bulletin

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Katherine Lester, Chief of Police
Volume 25-17

Safety Glass Breaker Tool

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The Sacramento Police Department (SPD) is authorizing the deployment of a Safety Glass Breaker Tool in circumstances which require immediate access to a vehicle, as outlined. Consider tactics and officer safety if you decide to use this tool to break a window. This bulletin provides guidance on the use of the Safety Glass Breaker Tool, which has been tested and approved as an optional glass breaking tool by the Training Division. As part of this bulletin, you are also required to view the associated training video which can be accessed by utilizing the following link: [AOT Window Break Training Video](#)

Overview

The Safety Glass Breaker Tool is an optional piece of equipment for officers during situations when there is a need to break tempered (safety) glass. It is equipped with two functional ends:

- Hardened Metal Point: For breaking tempered glass.
- Seatbelt Cutter: For emergency cutting of seatbelts.

NOTE: The Safety Glass Breaker Tool is not serialized and is available at your respective Command.

Application

This tool is authorized for use in a variety of field situations, including but not limited to:

- Rescue Operations: For example, breaking a vehicle window to rescue a distressed person or provide medical aid.
- To gain access to a subject inside a vehicle when a detention is necessary.

Additional tools such as kinetic projectile-based platforms may be more appropriate for use in similar circumstances involving arrest operations.

Usage Guidelines

To effectively break tempered glass:

- Target only bare glass.
- Use the hardened metal point to strike the glass.
- Hold the tool low on the handle to maximize leverage and speed.
- Use a whipping motion to strike quickly and sharply.



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- A swift, pointed impact is key to shattering tempered glass.

⚠ Tempered glass resists blunt force; a sharp, high-speed impact is a preferred striking method and will generally cause it to shatter properly.

NOTE: In an effort to mitigate potential injury, consider the position of persons inside the vehicle as to where you choose to break the glass window.

Considerations when using alternative methods

Officers are advised of the following limitations with alternative methods:

- A collapsed baton is generally not effective due to the bluntness of its ends.
- An expanded baton, while somewhat more effective, presents some risks, including, but not limited to:
- Overpenetration through the window, potentially causing injury to a subject inside.
- Reduced control and accuracy when trying to strike a small, targeted area.
- Reduced effectiveness rendering the need for multiple strikes and a prolonged period in which to accomplish the glass break.
- Potential damage to the baton.
- Many commercially available "glass breaker" tools on the market have inconsistent performance. Common failures occur with knife-based glass breakers that use a pointed tip not made of hardened materials like titanium or tungsten carbide.

Officers are strongly encouraged to carry this Safety Glass Breaker Tool on their person or have quick access to it while in the field. For further instructions, review the training video available on the Training Video HUB or contact the SPD Training Division.

