



Santa Clara Police

Training Flash



LASERS

“DHS: US agents sustain eye injuries from lasers at protest, may be blinded”

<https://www.police1.com/federal-law-enforcement/articles/dhs-us-agents-sustain-eye-injuries-from-lasers-at-protest-may-be-blinded-vF8xB47hVvFovc5/>



Due to the accessibility of high-powered lasers in the civilian market, use of lasers during civil disorder and unrest in the past several months are becoming more commonplace. Lasers can cause damage to the retina if the eye is directly exposed to the laser. The severity of the damage depends on the color, power, distance and exposure time to the laser.

Tactical Considerations:

If a subject uses a laser device during Mobile Field Force operations, the following should be considered to help determine your response.

- 1) Is the subject aiming the laser indiscriminately in the area, inanimate objects, or at buildings?
- 2) Is the subject aiming the laser at an officers' body (not the face)?
- 3) Is the subject actively aiming and targeting the officer's face/eyes?

Some California Penal Codes which might apply in these situations:

417.25 – Aiming a laser pointer at a person in a threatening manner

417.26(a) – Aiming a laser pointer at a peace officer with intent to cause apprehension or fear of bodily harm

417.26(b) – Aiming a laser pointer at a peace officer with intent to cause apprehension or fear of bodily harm with a second or subsequent violation

243(b) – Battery committed on a peace officer in performance of their duties

243(d) – Battery committed on a peace officer in performance of their duties causing serious bodily injury

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