KINETIC IMPACT PROJECTILES

**KINETIC IMPACT PROJECTILES (KIPs)** are commonly known as rubber and plastic bullets, and are used for crowd-control purposes by law enforcement worldwide. They are fabricated from composite bullets, are coated metal bullets, or are plastic bullets. They are solid, spherical, or slightly softer. These include BEAN BAG ROUNDS, composite bullets, razor wire, and bullet-shaped pellets. Some types of KIPs are able to provide a less lethal and accurate alternative. Some KIPs are known to penetrate the globe (eyeball) as well as cause trauma to nearby structures. KIPs can cause bruising of the lungs or heart, possibly fatal injuries such as bleeding, pneumothorax, and penetration into the chest may cause serious, possibly fatal injuries such as bleeding, pneumothorax, and penetration into the chest. KIPs can also penetrate through the eye socket and cause trauma to the eye from KIPs nearly always cause major trauma. The delicate structures of the eye are particularly vulnerable to traumatic injury. Blunt injuries can cause bleeding in the subcutaneous tissue and rubber bullets for use in demonstrations in Northern Ireland. They are solid, spherical, or slightly softer. They include BEAN BAG ROUNDS, composite bullets, razor wire, and bullet-shaped pellets. Some types of KIPs are known to penetrate the globe (eyeball) as well as cause trauma to nearby structures. KIPs can cause bruising of the lungs or heart, possibly fatal injuries such as bleeding, pneumothorax, and penetration into the chest. KIPs can also penetrate through the eye socket and cause trauma to the eye. The delicate structures of the eye are particularly vulnerable to traumatic injury. Blunt injuries can cause bleeding in the subcutaneous tissue and rubber bullets for use in demonstrations in Northern Ireland.

**HOW THEY WORK**

KIPs, working by transferring kinetic energy from a weapon’s muzzle, can be used to disperse crowds. KIPs are designed to inflict pain and incapacitate an individual without the intention to cause death. They are deployed from a wide range of launchers and guns. The slower speed of KIPs should limit their ability to penetrate the skin or cause blunt injury to the body. The slower speed of KIPs also means safer use. KIPs are less likely to penetrate the skin and hit the body at close range.

**HEALTH EFFECTS**

KIPs can cause blunt or penetrative trauma. Penetrative injuries are those that cause internal trauma. Blunt injuries are those that cause internal damage without breaking the skin. KIPs are solid, spherical, or slightly softer. These include BEAN BAG ROUNDS, composite bullets, razor wire, and bullet-shaped pellets. Some types of KIPs are able to provide a less lethal and accurate alternative. Some KIPs are known to penetrate the globe (eyeball) as well as cause trauma to nearby structures. KIPs can cause bruising of the lungs or heart, possibly fatal injuries such as bleeding, pneumothorax, and penetration into the chest. KIPs can also penetrate through the eye socket and cause trauma to the eye. The delicate structures of the eye are particularly vulnerable to traumatic injury. Blunt injuries can cause bleeding in the subcutaneous tissue and rubber bullets for use in demonstrations in Northern Ireland.

**LITERATURE REVIEW AND RESEARCH**

FINDINGS ON INJURIES FROM A LITERATURE REVIEW AND RESEARCH DESIGN

KIPs can cause bruising and tearing of skin and subcutaneous tissue, as well as lacerations, contusions, and abrasions, depending on the type of KIP used. Some of which may cause muscle or nerve damage as well as bleeding.

**POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS**

- **INDICISMS KIPS THAT FIRE MULTIPLE PROJECTILES, SUCH AS SHOTGUN PELOTS, SHOULD BE PROHIBITED IN THE CONTEXT OF PROTESTS.**
- **KIPS in general are not an appropriate weapon for crowd management and, specifically, for dispersal purposes. Most cannot be used effectively and safely against crowds. At close ranges, levels of lethality and patterns of injury of some KIPs become similar to those of live ammunition. At longer ranges, KIPs are inaccurate and indiscriminate. Some KIPs are lethal in close range and ineffective at longer distances which makes safe use difficult.**
- **Rubber-coated metal bullets are not safe and should be prohibited.**
- **Some types of KIPS are able to provide a less lethal and accurate alternative. Deployment of those should be considered in circumstances where a threat to life or a threat of serious injury exists, and where all other means to protect lives are insuﬃcient.**