

# Staying Safe & Documenting Abandoned or Mis-fired Riot Control Munitions

Citizens in the United States, and elsewhere, may sometimes encounter a weaponized response by riot control police during public demonstrations.

Riot control police in North America are normally equipped only with less-than-lethal munitions. However, less-than-lethal does not mean they cannot cause injury. If police fire less-than-lethal munitions directly into a crowd, serious injuries, or even death, can occur. Persons with disabilities or underlying conditions may be more affected.

These include a variety irritant gas dispensers, stun grenades ('flash bangs') and rubber and combined irritant/kinetic projectiles like 'pepper balls'.



## Follow these rules when encountering a munition or anything strange left over after a police action at a protest site:

- **Never touch the item.**
- **Do not pick up or disturb in any way.**
- **Mark to warn others with items at hand, so others do not step on it or kick it. Keep others away.**
- **Do not stay to document unless safe to do so**
- **Do not turn it over for a 'better' picture or to determine the production numbers.**



Citizen journalists can provide a public service by providing detailed photographs of these items, if done safely!

This documentation is part of an important record of events, and assists news media, human right activists and lawyers to determine the characteristics of the items police are using for possible later legal action, or boycott campaigns against the producers.

To be useful, these photographs should be in focus, detailed, and show the production information and numbers (see accompanying photographs). It is helpful to have a pen or something in your photo to show scale. Photograph meta data should include date, time and location. **Do not move or touch the item to take your photo!**



Share your photo with the hashtag: #usedonprotests