



Santa Clara Police

Training Flash



IMPROVISED WEAPONS DURING CIVIL DISTURBANCES

Coordinated Grant Park Attack Injures 49 Chicago Police Officers



First amendment assemblies and peaceful protests are a protected right; however, they can turn criminal and violent due to coordinated attacks on police, civilians, and property. On July 17th, 2020, Chicago Police dealt with well-coordinated violent mobs at Grant Park. Violent mobs in Chicago, Seattle, Portland, and across the nation have used improvised weapons and tactics to inflict serious injuries to police officers.

(Cups filled with concrete)

Some improvised weapons include, but not limited to:

- Ice cream containers or cups filled with concrete
- Bricks, rocks, or stone pieces
- Fireworks and explosives
- Hazardous or unknown liquids, paint, and bodily fluids
- Umbrellas, banners, and signs with disguised weapons
- Frozen water or juice bottles
- Sharpened or pointed PVC pipes
- Soda cans and canned foods
- Sticks, skateboards, and trash cans
- Laser devices

Some tactics deployed include, but not limited to:

- Umbrellas, banners, or signs to disguise their actions
- Backpacks, coolers, or shopping carts for their weapons
- Hiding behind or blending into peaceful protestors
- Changing or donning off clothes
- Use of drones
- Coordinated signaling



Be extremely cautious when dealing with a violent mob. Even a “mob” can be highly trained and well organized. Everyday objects can easily be used as an improvised weapon and can cause serious bodily injury or death.

For more information on the Grant Park Riot refer to the Chicago Police Department press release: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QtxLhprBpDk&feature=youtu.be>

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