



Nevada Department of Corrections

Public Information Office 775-887-3309
PIO Brooke Keast cell: 775-350-0037

Press Release

For Immediate Release

May 31, 2016

The Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC) Director James Dzurenda, with the full support of Governor Brian Sandoval, announces the removal of 7.5 birdshot from inside all prison facilities within the state of Nevada. Effective immediately, the NDOC will no longer use birdshot in its institutions and will incorporate less lethal options, such as impact weapons and rubber rounds.

“Technological advances over the past thirty years have given us many more options that are better suited to our needs within the facilities.” stated Dzurenda. “It’s time we make the move toward less lethal alternatives.”

The Department has been working toward this conversion for some time. The use of force policy has been reviewed, changed and then further refined. Staff training has increased to include new compliance measures and more effective defensive tactics.

“The goal is to gain compliance and change inmate behavior before physical force needs to be used,” continued Dzurenda. “There will still be fights and issues in prison, it’s the nature of the business, but I feel confident staff will be able to stop those altercations safely, with minimal injury and without the use of birdshot.”

Birdshot was introduced into the Nevada prison system in the early 1980’s as a deterrent to inmate violence and a tool to gain control over inmates when an altercation erupted. With the development of electronic stun weapons, chemical agents such as pepper spray, the deployment of bean bags, rubber pellets and other options, the use of birdshot is utilized in very few corrections institutions in the United States.

The Nevada Department of Corrections is committed to protecting the public, the employees and the offenders. NDOC houses nearly 13,500 persons with felony convictions in 18 facilities statewide. For more information on NDOC visit www.doc.nv.gov.