PhyzJob: Lethal Elastic PE Weapons



1. A dart gun has a spring of k = 1000 N/m. To load the gun, the operator must push a 5 g dart into the barrel, compressing the spring by 3 cm. a. How much elastic potential energy does the compressed spring have?

b. How much work did the operator do to load the gun?

c. What was the force the operator had to exert to load the gun?

d. How high could the dart go when released if fired straight upward (neglect air resistance)?

2. A dart gun similar to the one above uses a 3 g dart and requires that the operator compress the spring 2.5 cm. When the gun is fired from a height of 1 m, it lands 5 m downrange.



a. How long is the dart in the air (kinematics: how long does it take anything to fall 1 m)?

b. If the dart traveled 5 m in the horizontal direction, what was its horizontal speed?

c. What was the *KE* of the dart as it emerged from the barrel?

d. What was the elastic PE of the spring before the trigger was pulled?

e. What is the force constant of the spring?