

## **Use of Force**

### **300.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

This policy recognizes that the use of force by law enforcement requires constant evaluation. Even at its lowest level, the use of force is a serious responsibility. The purpose of this policy is to provide officers of this department with guidelines on the reasonable use of force. While there is no way to specify the exact amount or type of reasonable force to be applied in any situation, each officer is expected to use these guidelines to make such decisions in a professional, impartial and reasonable manner.

#### **300.1.1 PHILOSOPHY**

The use of force by law enforcement personnel is a matter of critical concern both to the public and to the law enforcement community. Officers are involved on a daily basis in numerous and varied human encounters and when warranted, may use force in carrying out their duties.

Officers must have an understanding of, and true appreciation for, the limitations of their authority. This is especially true with respect to officers overcoming resistance while engaged in the performance of their duties.

The Department recognizes and respects the value of all human life and dignity without prejudice to anyone. It is also understood that vesting officers with the authority to use reasonable force and protect the public welfare requires a careful balancing of all human interests.

#### **300.1.2 DUTY TO INTERCEDE**

Any officer present and observing another officer using force that is clearly beyond that which is objectively reasonable under the circumstances shall, when in a position to do so, intercede to prevent the use of such excessive force. Such officers should also promptly report these observations to a supervisor.

### **300.2 POLICY**

It is the policy of this department that officers shall use only that amount of force that reasonably appears necessary, given the facts and circumstances perceived by the officer at the time of the event, to effectively bring an incident under control. "Reasonableness" of the force used must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene at the time of the incident. Any interpretation of reasonableness must allow for the fact that police officers are often forced to make split-second decisions in circumstances that are tense, uncertain and rapidly evolving about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular situation.

Given that no policy can realistically predict every possible situation an officer might encounter in the field, it is recognized that each officer must be entrusted with well-reasoned discretion in determining the appropriate use of force in each incident. While it is the ultimate objective of every law enforcement encounter to minimize injury to everyone involved, nothing in this policy requires an officer to actually sustain physical injury before applying reasonable force.

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#### **300.2.1 USE OF FORCE TO EFFECT AN ARREST**

Any peace officer that has reasonable cause to believe that the person to be arrested has committed a public offense may use reasonable force to effect the arrest, to prevent escape, or to overcome resistance. A peace officer who makes or attempts to make an arrest need not retreat or desist from his/her efforts by reason of resistance or threatened resistance of the person being arrested; nor shall such officer be deemed the aggressor or lose his/her right to self-defense by the use of reasonable force to effect the arrest or to prevent escape or to overcome resistance (Penal Code § 835a).

#### **300.2.2 FACTORS USED TO DETERMINE THE REASONABLENESS OF FORCE**

When determining whether or not to apply any level of force and evaluating whether an officer has used reasonable force, a number of factors should be taken into consideration. These factors include, but are not limited to:

- (a) The conduct of the individual being confronted (as reasonably perceived by the officer at the time).
- (b) Officer/subject factors (age, size, relative strength, skill level, injury/exhaustion and number of officers vs. subjects).
- (c) Influence of drugs/alcohol (mental capacity).
- (d) Proximity of weapons.
- (e) The degree to which the subject has been effectively restrained and his/her ability to resist despite being restrained.
- (f) Time and circumstances permitting, the availability of other options (what resources are reasonably available to the officer under the circumstances).
- (g) Seriousness of the suspected offense or reason for contact with the individual.
- (h) Training and experience of the officer.
- (i) Potential for injury to citizens, officers and suspects.
- (j) Risk of escape.
- (k) Other exigent circumstances.

It is recognized that officers are expected to make split-second decisions and that the amount of an officer's time available to evaluate and respond to changing circumstances may impact his/her decision.

While various degrees of force exist, each officer is expected to use only that degree of force reasonable under the circumstances to successfully accomplish the legitimate law enforcement purpose in accordance with this policy.

It is recognized however, that circumstances may arise in which officers reasonably believe that it would be impractical or ineffective to use any of the standard tools, weapons or methods provided by the Department. Officers may find it more effective or practical to improvise their response to rapidly unfolding conditions they are confronting. In such circumstances, the use of any improvised device or method must nonetheless be objectively reasonable and utilized only to the degree reasonably necessary to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose.

#### **300.2.3 NON-DEADLY FORCE APPLICATIONS**

Any application of force that is not reasonably anticipated and intended to create a substantial likelihood of death or very serious injury shall be considered non-deadly force.

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Each officer is provided with equipment, training and skills to assist in the apprehension and control of suspects as well as protection of officers and the public. Non-deadly force applications may include but are not limited to leg restraints, control devices and TASER described in Policy Manual §§ 306, 308 and 309 respectively.

#### **300.2.4 PAIN COMPLIANCE TECHNIQUES**

Pain compliance techniques may be very effective in controlling a passive or actively resisting individual. Officers may only apply those pain compliance techniques for which the officer has received departmentally approved training and only when the officer reasonably believes that the use of such a technique appears necessary to further a legitimate law enforcement purpose. Officers utilizing any pain compliance technique should consider the totality of the circumstance including, but not limited to:

- (a) The potential for injury to the officer(s) or others if the technique is not used
- (b) The potential risk of serious injury to the individual being controlled
- (c) The degree to which the pain compliance technique may be controlled in application according to the level of resistance
- (d) The nature of the offense involved
- (e) The level of resistance of the individual(s) involved
- (f) The need for prompt resolution of the situation
- (g) If time permits (e.g., passive demonstrators), other reasonable alternatives

The application of any pain compliance technique shall be discontinued once the officer determines that compliance has been achieved.

#### **300.2.5 CAROTID RESTRAINT**

The proper application of the carotid restraint hold by a trained officer may be effective in restraining a violent individual. Only officers who have successfully completed department-approved training on the use of the carotid restraint hold and the department Use of Force Policy are authorized to use the technique. After initial training, officers shall complete training annually on the use of the carotid restraint hold.

The carotid restraint hold may only be used when the officer reasonably believes that the application of the hold appears necessary to prevent serious injury or death to an officer or other person(s).

After any application of any carotid restraint hold, the officer shall ensure the following steps occur:

- (a) Any individual who has had the carotid restraint hold applied, regardless of whether he/she was rendered unconscious, shall be promptly examined by paramedics or other qualified medical personnel.
- (b) The officer shall inform any person receiving custody, or any person placed in a position of providing care, that the individual has been subjected to the carotid restraint hold and whether the subject lost consciousness as a result.
- (c) Any officer applying the carotid restraint shall promptly notify a supervisor of the use or attempted use of such hold.
- (d) The use or attempted use of the carotid restraint shall be thoroughly documented by the officer in the related incident report.

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#### **300.3 DEADLY FORCE APPLICATIONS**

While the use of a firearm is expressly considered deadly force, other force might also be considered deadly force if the officer reasonably anticipates and intends that the force applied will create a substantial likelihood of causing death or very serious injury. Use of deadly force is justified in the following circumstances:

- (a) An officer may use deadly force to protect himself/herself or others from what he/she reasonably believe would be an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury.
- (b) An officer may use deadly force to stop a fleeing suspect when the officer has probable cause to believe that the suspect has committed, or intends to commit, a felony involving the infliction or threatened infliction of serious bodily injury or death, and the officer reasonably believes that there is an imminent or future potential risk of serious bodily injury or death to any other person if the suspect is not immediately apprehended. Under such circumstances, a verbal warning should precede the use of deadly force, where feasible.

#### **300.4 REPORTING THE USE OF FORCE**

Any use of physical force by a member of this department shall be documented promptly, completely, and accurately in an appropriate report depending on the nature of the incident. The use of particular weapons such as chemical agents may require the completion of additional report forms as specified in departmental policy and/or law.

##### **300.4.1 NOTIFICATION TO SUPERVISORS**

Supervisory notification shall be made as soon as practicable following the application of physical force, under any of the following circumstances:

- (a) The application of force appears to have caused physical injury
- (b) The individual has expressed a complaint of pain
- (c) Any application of a control device
- (d) The individual has been rendered unconscious

##### **300.4.2 MEDICAL ATTENTION FOR INJURIES SUSTAINED USING FORCE**

Prior to booking or release, medical assistance shall be obtained for any person who has sustained visible injury, expressed a complaint of injury or continuing pain, or who has been rendered unconscious. Based upon the officer's initial assessment of the nature and extent of the subject's injuries, medical assistance may consist of examination by fire personnel, paramedics, hospital staff or medical staff at the jail. If any such individual refuses medical attention, such a refusal shall be fully documented in related reports and, whenever practical, should be witnessed by another officer and/or medical personnel. If an audio recording is made of the contact or an interview with the individual, any refusal should be included, if possible.

Persons who exhibit extreme agitation, violent irrational behavior accompanied by profuse sweating, extraordinary strength beyond physical characteristics, unusually high tolerance to pain or who require a protracted physical encounter with multiple officers to bring under control may be at an increased risk of sudden death and should be examined by qualified medical personnel as soon as practicable. Any individual exhibiting signs of distress after such an encounter shall be medically cleared prior to booking.

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#### **300.5 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITY**

When a supervisor is able to respond to an incident in which there has been a reported application of force, the supervisor is expected to:

- (a) Obtain the basic facts from the involved officer(s). Absent an allegation of misconduct or excessive force, this will be considered a routine contact in the normal course of duties.
- (b) Ensure that any injured parties are examined and treated.
- (c) Separately obtain a recorded interview with the subject(s) upon whom force was applied. If this interview is conducted without the person having voluntarily waived his/her Miranda rights, the following shall apply:
  - 1. The content of the interview should not be summarized or included in any related criminal charges.
  - 2. The fact that a recorded interview was conducted should be documented in a property or other report.
  - 3. The recording of the interview should be distinctly marked for retention until all potential for civil litigation has expired.
- (d) Once any initial medical assessment or first aid has been completed, ensure that photographs have been taken of any areas involving visible injury or complaint of pain as well as overall photographs of uninjured areas. These photographs should also be retained until all potential civil litigation has expired.
- (e) Identify any witnesses not already included in related reports.
- (f) Review and approve all related reports.

In the event that the supervisor believes that the incident may give rise to potential civil litigation, a separate potential claim form should be completed and routed to appropriate channels.

Should the supervisor determine that any application of force was not within policy, a separate internal administrative investigation shall be initiated.

In the event that a supervisor is unable to respond to the scene of an incident involving the reported application of force, the supervisor is still expected to complete as many of the above items as circumstances permit.

## **Control Devices and Techniques**

### **308.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

To reduce and minimize altercation-related injuries to officers and suspects, the Department authorizes the use of selected control devices. Certain control devices are provided in order to control violent or potentially violent suspects. It is anticipated that the use of these devices will generally result in fewer altercation-related injuries to officers and suspects. The below procedures are for the use and maintenance of control devices (e.g., baton, oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray and tear gas). Only those control devices that have been approved by the Chief of Police or his/her designee are authorized to be carried by members of this department.

#### **308.1.1 WHEN DEVICES MAY BE USED**

When a decision has been made to restrain or arrest a violent or threatening suspect, an approved control device may only be used when its use appears reasonable under the circumstances.

#### **308.1.2 REVIEW, INSPECTION AND APPROVAL**

Every control device will be periodically inspected by the department Armorer or Rangemaster, or the designated instructor for a particular control device.

#### **308.1.3 TRAINING FOR CONTROL DEVICES**

- (a) Only officers trained and having shown adequate proficiency in the use of any control device and this agency's Use of Force policy are authorized to carry the device. Proficiency training must be monitored and documented by a certified weapons or tactics instructor.
- (b) Training for all control devices should occur every two years at a minimum.
- (c) All training and proficiency for control devices will be documented in the officer's training file.
- (d) Officers failing to demonstrate proficiency with the weapon or knowledge of this agency's Use of Force policy will be provided remedial training. If, after two additional attempts, an officer still cannot demonstrate proficiency with a weapon or knowledge of this agency's Use of Force policy, the officer may be subject to discipline.

### **308.2 BATON GUIDELINES**

The baton is authorized for use when, based upon the circumstances perceived by the officer, such force reasonably appears justified and necessary to result in the safe control of the suspect.

The need to immediately incapacitate the suspect must be weighed against the risk of causing serious injury. The head, neck, throat, spine, heart, kidneys and groin should not be intentionally targeted except when the officer reasonably believes the suspect may cause serious bodily injury or death to the officer or others.

### **308.3 TEAR GAS GUIDELINES**

The use of tear gas for crowd control, crowd dispersal or against barricaded suspects shall be based on the circumstances. The Watch Commander, Incident Commander or Crisis

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Response Unit Commander may authorize the delivery and use of tear gas, evaluating all conditions known at the time and determining that such force reasonably appears justified and necessary to result in the safe control of the suspect(s). When practical, fire personnel should be alerted or summoned to the scene to control any fires and to assist in providing medical aid or gas evacuation when the scene is safe. Only officers or supervisors trained in the use of tear gas weapons should discharge such devices at the scene.

#### **308.4 CHEMICAL AGENTS SPRAY GUIDELINES**

Only authorized personnel may possess and maintain department issued oleoresin capsicum spray. Chemical agents are weapons used to minimize the potential for injury to officers, offenders, or other persons. They should be used only in situations where such force reasonably appears justified and necessary.

##### **308.4.1 REQUIRED INSTRUCTION FOR USE**

All personnel authorized to carry oleoresin capsicum spray, shall complete the required course of instruction prior to possessing and using the oleoresin capsicum spray.

##### **308.4.2 CARRYING OF OLEORESIN CAPSICUM SPRAY**

Uniformed field personnel shall carry the oleoresin capsicum spray in its holster on the equipment belt. Plainclothes and non-field personnel may carry the oleoresin capsicum spray as authorized, consistent with the needs of their assignment or at the direction of their supervisor.

Canisters involved in any type of malfunction or damage shall be turned in to the Rangemaster for exchange. Damage to University of California, Irvine Property forms shall also be forwarded to the appropriate supervisor and shall explain the cause of damage.

##### **308.4.3 PEPPERBALL SYSTEMS**

PepperBall® projectiles are plastic spheres that are filled with a derivative of oleoresin capsicum (OC) powder. A compressed gas launcher delivers the projectiles with enough force to burst the projectiles on impact, releasing the OC powder. Although classified as a less-lethal device, the potential exists for the projectiles to inflict injury when they strike the head, neck, spine and groin. Therefore, personnel deploying the PepperBall system shall avoid intentionally striking those body areas unless a life-threatening situation exists. The use of the PepperBall system is subject to the following requirements:

- (a) Officers encountering a situation that requires the use of the PepperBall system shall notify a supervisor as soon as practical. The supervisor shall respond to all PepperBall System deployments where the suspect has been hit. The field sergeant shall make all notifications and reports as required by § 300 Use of Force Policy.
- (b) Only qualified, department-trained personnel shall be allowed to deploy and use the PepperBall system.
- (c) Each deployment of a PepperBall system shall be documented. This includes situations where the launcher was directed toward the suspect, whether or not the launcher was used. Only non-incident deployments are exempt from the evaluation form requirement (e.g., training, accidental discharges, or product demonstrations).

##### **308.4.4 TREATMENT FOR OC SPRAY EXPOSURE**

Persons who have been affected by the use of chemical agents should be promptly provided with the proper solution to cleanse the affected areas. Those persons who

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complain of further severe effects shall be afforded a medical examination by competent medical personnel.

#### **308.4.5 REPORT OF USE**

All uses of chemical agents shall be documented in the related arrest/crime report.

#### **308.5 KINETIC ENERGY PROJECTILES**

This department is committed to reducing the potential for violent confrontations when suspects are encountered. Kinetic energy projectiles, when used properly, are less likely to result in death or serious physical injury.

Kinetic energy projectiles are approved by the Department and are fired from 12 gauge shotguns or 37/40 mm launchers. Certain munitions can be used in an attempt to de-escalate a potentially deadly situation, with a reduced potential for death or serious physical injury.

##### **308.5.1 DEPLOYMENT**

Approved munitions are justified and may be used to compel an individual to cease his or her actions when such munitions present a reasonable option for resolving the situation at hand.

Officers are not required or compelled to use approved munitions in lieu of other reasonable tactics if the involved officer(s) determine that deployment of these munitions cannot be done safely. The safety of hostages, innocent persons, and officers takes priority over the safety of subjects engaged in criminal or suicidal behavior.

##### **308.5.2 EXAMPLES OF CIRCUMSTANCES APPROPRIATE FOR DEPLOYMENT**

Examples include, but are not limited to, the following types of situations where the subject:

- (a) Is armed with a weapon and the tactical circumstances allow for the safe application of approved munitions
- (b) Has made credible threats to harm himself or others
- (c) Is engaged in riotous behavior or is throwing rocks, bottles, or other dangerous projectiles at people and/or officers

##### **308.5.3 DEPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

Before discharging projectiles, the officer should consider the following factors:

- (a) Severity of the crime or incident.
- (b) Subject's capability to pose an imminent threat to the safety of officers or others.
- (c) If the subject is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight.
- (d) The credibility of the subject's threat as evaluated by the officers present, and physical capacity/capability.
- (e) The proximity of weapons available to the subject.
- (f) The officer's versus the subject's physical factors (e.g., age, size relative strength, skill level, injury/exhaustion, the number of officer(s) versus subject(s)).
- (g) The availability of other force options and their possible effectiveness.
- (h) Distance and angle to target.



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- (i) Type of munitions employed.
- (j) Type and thickness of subject's clothing.
- (k) The subject's actions dictate the need for an immediate response and the use of control devices appears appropriate.

#### **308.5.4 DEPLOYMENT DISTANCES**

Officers should keep in mind the manufacturer's recommendations regarding deployment when using control devices, but are not solely restricted to use according to these manufacturer recommendations. Each tactical situation must be evaluated on the totality of circumstances at the time of deployment.

#### **308.5.5 SHOT PLACEMENT**

The need to immediately incapacitate the subject must be weighed against the risk of causing serious injury or death. The head and neck should not be intentionally targeted when deadly force is not reasonably justified.

Officers should generally follow the manufacturer's recommendations regarding minimum deployment distances and target areas however any target area or distance may be considered when it reasonably appears necessary to accomplish immediate incapacitation in order to prevent serious injury or death and other reasonable methods have failed or reasonably appear ineffective.

#### **308.5.6 APPROVED MUNITIONS**

Only department approved kinetic energy munitions shall be carried and deployed.

#### **308.5.7 USE OF KINETIC ENERGY PROJECTILES BY SUPERVISORS**

A specially marked shotgun, designated for the use of 12-gauge projectiles, will normally be carried in the trunk of each supervisor unit.

Supervisors will inspect this shotgun at the beginning of each shift to ensure that it is in proper working order and loaded with approved projectiles only.

#### **308.5.8 USE OF KINETIC ENERGY PROJECTILES BY SWAT**

Officers assigned to the Crisis Response Unit, who have completed a departmental training course may carry and employ 12 gauge or 37/40 mm projectiles while on duty or while performing Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) missions.

#### **308.5.9 TRAINING REQUIRED FOR USE**

Personnel who have successfully completed an approved departmental training course shall be authorized to use kinetic energy projectiles. Officers deploying kinetic energy projectiles will complete an annual recertification course.

### **308.6 RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **308.6.1 WATCH COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Watch Commander shall monitor the use of control devices in the same manner as all other use of force incidents.

- (a) The Watch Commander may authorize the use of a control device by selected personnel or members of specialized units provided the person(s) authorized

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has/have the required training. The request for a control device should be made through the Watch Commander.

- (b) The Watch Commander shall review each use of control devices by any personnel within his or her command.
- (c) The Watch Commander shall ensure training on the use of control devices is provided as needed.

#### **308.6.2 RANGEMASTER RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Rangemaster shall control the inventory and shall issue all control devices. All damaged, inoperative and/or expended control devices shall be returned to the Rangemaster for disposition, repair or replacement.

#### **308.6.3 MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITY**

All normal maintenance, charging or cleaning shall remain the responsibility of personnel using the various devices.

#### **308.7 REPORTING USE OF CONTROL DEVICES AND TECHNIQUES**

Any application of a control device and/or technique listed within this section shall be documented pursuant to Policy Manual § 300.4 and 300.5.

## **TASER® Guidelines**

### **309.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

When properly applied in accordance with this policy, the TASER® device is considered a non-deadly control device that is intended to control a violent or potentially violent individual, while minimizing the risk of serious injury. It is anticipated that the appropriate use of such a device will result in fewer serious injuries to officers and suspects.

### **309.2 POLICY**

Personnel who have completed department-approved training may be issued a TASER for use during the current assignment. Personnel leaving a particular assignment may be expected to return it to the department's inventory.

Officers shall only use the TASER and cartridges that have been issued by the Department. The device may be carried either as part of a uniformed officer's equipment in an approved holster or secured in the driver's compartment of the officer's vehicle so that it is readily accessible at all times.

- (a) The TASER shall be carried as part of a uniformed officer's equipment. The TASER shall be carried on the side opposite the duty weapon. Approval to carry the TASER on their strong side will require the Chief of Police approval and a weak-hand draw.
- (b) All TASERs shall be clearly and distinctly marked to differentiate them from the duty weapon and any other device.
- (c) Officers shall be responsible for ensuring that their issued TASER is properly maintained and in good working order at all times.
- (d) Officers should never hold both a firearm and the TASER at the same time unless lethal force is justified.

### **309.3 VERBAL AND VISUAL WARNINGS**

A verbal warning of the intended use of the TASER should precede its application, unless it would otherwise endanger the safety of officers or when it is not practicable due to the circumstances. The purpose of the warning is for the following:

- (a) Provide the individual with a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply.
- (b) Provide other officers and individuals with a warning that a TASER may be deployed.

If, after a verbal warning, an individual is unwilling to voluntarily comply with an officer's lawful orders and it appears both reasonable and practical under the circumstances, the officer may, but is not required to, display the electrical arc (provided there is not a cartridge loaded into the TASER) or the laser in a further attempt to gain compliance prior to the application of the TASER. The aiming laser should never be intentionally directed into the eyes of another as it may permanently impair his/her vision.

The fact that a verbal and/or other warning was given or the reasons it was not given shall be documented by the officer deploying the TASER in the related report.

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#### **309.4 USE OF THE TASER**

As with any law enforcement equipment, the TASER has limitations and restrictions requiring consideration before its use. The TASER should only be used when its operator can safely approach the subject within the operational range of the TASER. Although the TASER is generally effective in controlling most individuals, officers should be alert to the potential for failure and be prepared with other options.

##### **309.4.1 FACTORS TO DETERMINE REASONABLENESS OF FORCE**

The application of the TASER is likely to cause intense, but momentary, pain. As such, officers should carefully consider and balance the totality of circumstances available prior to using the TASER including, but not limited to, the following factors:

- (a) The conduct of the individual being confronted (as reasonably perceived by the officer at the time).
- (b) Officer/subject factors (i.e., age, size, relative strength, skill level, injury/exhaustion, number of officers vs. subjects).
- (c) Influence of drugs/alcohol (mental capacity).
- (d) Proximity of weapons.
- (e) The degree to which the subject has been effectively restrained and his/her ability to resist despite being restrained.
- (f) Time and circumstances permitting, the availability of other options (what resources are reasonably available to the officer under the circumstances).
- (g) Seriousness of the suspected offense or the reason for contact with the individual.
- (h) Training and experience of the officer.
- (i) Potential for injury to citizens, officers and suspects.
- (j) Risk of escape.
- (k) Other exigent circumstances.

##### **309.4.2 APPLICATION OF THE TASER**

Authorized personnel may use the TASER when circumstances known to the officer at the time indicate that such application is reasonable to control a person in any of the following circumstances:

- (a) The subject is violent or physically resisting.
- (b) A subject who by words or action has demonstrated an intention to be violent or to physically resist and who reasonably appears to present the potential to harm officers, him/herself or others.
  - 1. When practicable, the officer should give a verbal warning of the intended use of the TASER followed by a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply.
  - 2. The officer must be able to articulate a reasonable belief that other available options appeared ineffective, impractical or would have presented a greater danger to the officer, the subject or others.
- (c) Absent meeting the conditions set forth in (a) or (b) above, or a reasonable belief that an individual has committed or threatened to commit a serious offense, mere flight from a pursuing officer shall not serve as good cause for the use of the TASER to apprehend an individual.

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#### **309.4.3 SPECIAL DEPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

The use of the TASER should generally be avoided in the following situations unless the totality of the circumstances indicate that other available options reasonably appear ineffective, impractical, or would present a greater danger to the officer, the subject or others, and the officer reasonably believes that the need to control the individual outweighs the risk of using the TASER:

- (a) Pregnant females.
- (b) Elderly individuals or obvious juveniles.
- (c) Individuals who are handcuffed or otherwise restrained.
- (d) Individuals who have been recently sprayed with a flammable chemical agent or who are otherwise in close proximity to any flammable material.
- (e) Individuals whose position or activity may result in collateral injury (e.g., falls from height, operating vehicles).

Because the application of the TASER in the drive-stun mode (i.e., direct contact without darts) relies primarily on pain compliance and requires close proximity to the subject, additional caution should be exercised. The application in drive-stun mode should be limited to brief applications in which pain compliance would reasonably appear necessary to achieve control.

The TASER shall not be used to torture, psychologically torment, elicit statements or to punish any individual.

#### **309.4.4 TARGETING CONSIDERATIONS**

While manufacturers generally recommend that reasonable efforts should be made to target lower center mass and to avoid intentionally targeting the head, neck, chest and groin, it is recognized that the dynamics of each situation and officer safety may not permit the officer to limit the application of the TASER darts to a precise target area. As such, officers should take prompt and ongoing care to monitor the condition of the subject if one or more darts strikes the head, neck, chest or groin until he/she is released to the care of paramedics or other medical personnel.

#### **309.4.5 MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS OF THE TASER**

If the first application of the TASER appears to be ineffective in gaining control of an individual and if circumstances allow, the officer should consider the following before additional applications of the TASER:

- (a) Whether the probes or darts are making proper contact.
- (b) Whether the application of the TASER is interfering with the ability of the individual to comply.
- (c) Whether verbal commands, other options or tactics may be more effective.

This, however, shall not preclude any officer from deploying multiple, reasonable applications of the TASER on an individual.

#### **309.4.6 REPORT OF USE**

All TASER discharges shall be documented in the related arrest/crime report, the TASER report form and notification made to a supervisor in compliance with Policy § 300.4.1. Accidental discharges of a TASER cartridge will also be documented on the TASER report

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form. Any report documenting the discharge of a TASER cartridge will include the cartridge serial number and an explanation of the circumstances surrounding the discharge.

The onboard TASER memory will be downloaded through the data port by a supervisor or Rangemaster and saved with the related arrest/crime report. Photographs of probe sites should be taken, Anti-Felon Identification (AFID) tags should be collected and the expended cartridge along with both probes and wire should be submitted by the officer collecting the cartridge into evidence for future reference. The cartridge serial number should be noted and documented on the evidence paperwork. The evidence packaging should be marked "Biohazard" if the probes penetrated the subject's skin.

### **309.5 MEDICAL TREATMENT**

Absent extenuating circumstances or unavailability, only qualified personnel, including certified paramedics, should carefully remove TASER darts from a person's body. Used TASER darts shall be considered a sharp biohazard, similar to a used hypodermic needle. Universal precautions should be taken accordingly.

All persons who have been struck by TASER darts or who have been subjected to the electric discharge of the device shall be medically assessed prior to booking. Additionally, any such individual who falls under any of the following categories should, as soon as practicable, be examined by paramedics or other qualified medical personnel:

- (a) The person is suspected of being under the influence of controlled substances and/or alcohol.
- (b) The person may be pregnant.
- (c) The person reasonably appears to be in need of medical attention.
- (d) The TASER darts are lodged in a sensitive area (e.g., groin, female breast, near the eyes).
- (e) The person requests medical treatment.

Persons who exhibit extreme agitation, violent irrational behavior accompanied by profuse sweating, extraordinary strength beyond their physical characteristics and imperviousness to pain (sometimes called "excited delirium") or who require a protracted physical encounter with multiple officers to be brought under control, may be at an increased risk of sudden death and should be examined by qualified medical personnel as soon as practicable. Any individual exhibiting signs of distress after such an encounter shall be medically cleared prior to booking.

If any individual refuses medical attention, such a refusal should be witnessed by another officer and/or medical personnel and shall be fully documented in related reports.

If an audio recording is made of the contact or an interview with the individual, any refusal should be included, if possible.

The transporting officer shall inform any person receiving custody or any person placed in a position of providing care that the individual has been subjected to the application of the TASER.

### **309.6 TRAINING**

In addition to the initial department approved training required to carry and use a TASER, any personnel who have not carried a TASER as a part of their assignment for a period of six months or more shall be recertified by a department approved TASER instructor prior

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to again carrying or using the device. A reassessment of an officer's knowledge and/or practical skill may be required at any time if deemed appropriate by the Training Manager.

The Training Manager should ensure that all training includes the following:

- (a) A review of this policy.
- (b) A review of the Use of Force Policy § 300.
- (c) Target area considerations, to include techniques or options to reduce the intentional application of probes near the head, neck, chest and groin.
- (d) De-escalation techniques.

## **Rapid Response And Deployment Policy**

### **424.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

Violence in schools, workplaces and other locations by any individual or group of individuals presents a difficult situation for law enforcement. The purpose of this policy is to identify guidelines and factors that will assist responding officers as they make decisions in these rapidly unfolding and tense situations.

### **424.2 POLICY**

The policy of this department in dealing with the crisis situation shall be:

- (a) To obtain and maintain complete operative control of the incident.
- (b) To explore every reasonably available source of intelligence regarding the circumstances, location, and suspect(s) in the incident.
- (c) To attempt, by every means available, to attain any tactical advantage over the responsible individual(s).
- (d) To attempt, whenever feasible, a negotiated surrender of the suspect(s) and release of the hostages through the expertise of the members of this department and others.
- (e) When an emergency situation exists, neutralize the threat as rapidly as reasonably possible to minimize injury and loss of life.

Nothing in this policy shall preclude the use of necessary force, deadly or otherwise, by members of this department in protecting themselves or others from death or serious injury.

### **424.3 PROCEDURE**

If violent acts by the suspect continue, and lives are in imminent danger, a decision to advance on the suspect may be made by the officers at the scene. This decision should include the following considerations:

- (a) If the officer is alone, can he/she wait for two or more officers to assist? It is highly recommended that any advance on a suspect be made in teams of two or more
- (b) Develop and implement immediate and planned tactics and communicate this plan to others in the field and your supervisor
- (c) Think about deploying rifles, shotguns, shields, control devices and any other appropriate tools that will provide you tactical advantage

#### **424.3.1 DECISION TO ADVANCE ON SUSPECT**

The decision to advance on the suspect(s) is a decision that the on-scene first responders must make. The multitude of variables in such a circumstance requires a rapid assessment of the situation, a decision as to the best tactics to implement and the timely action necessary to resolve the incident. The following are some examples:

- (a) Barricaded suspect wait for additional assistance - probable SWAT response unless timely resolved
- (b) Barricaded suspect with hostages and no harm done to the hostages - wait for additional assistance or SWAT response



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- (c) Suspect actively shooting hostages or others in the area - take immediate action, if possible, to neutralize the threat presented by the suspect while calling for assistance