

General Order 515.00

Reviewed: 02/15

515.00 USE OF FORCE¹

515.01 Definitions:

- Deadly Force: Refer to GO 517.00
- Less-Lethal Force: Any use of force other than that which is considered deadly force. Under normal circumstances this includes any approved physical effort, use of chemical agents, Taser, baton, and less-lethal weapon systems used to control or restrain another, or to overcome the resistance of another.
- Objectively Reasonable: In determining the necessity for force used to accomplish lawful objectives and the appropriate level of force, officers shall evaluate each situation in light of the known circumstances, including, but not limited to, the level of threat or resistance presented by the subject, the danger to the community, and the seriousness of the crime.

515.02 Procedures:

- Use of Deadly Force: Refer to GO 517.00
- Deadly Force Restriction: Refer to GO 517.00
 - Officers will not fire warning shots.
- Use of Less-Lethal Force:
 - Officers and civilian employees shall consider the totality of circumstances involved in a given situation in determining what kind of force option to apply. Such circumstances and considerations may include the following:
 - Number of offender(s) v. officer(s).
 - Relative age, size and physical condition of offender(s) v. officer(s).
 - Location where the confrontation is occurring (Example: application of pepper spray in a crowded public place generally not advisable).
 - Nature of the offense involved.

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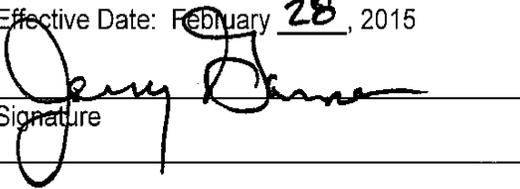
- Use of Police Service Dog (PSD) Team
 - The responsibility for determining the reasonableness of a PSD Team deployment rests with the handler. Prior to deploying the PSD Team, the canine officer shall consider the totality of the circumstances and information available at the time of deployment. Additionally, the deployment must be objectively reasonable within the guidelines set forth in *Graham vs. Connor*, specifically:
 - Whether the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of law enforcement officers or others,
 - And whether the suspect is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight,
 - Severity of the crime.
 - Officers may use only that level of force to accomplish lawful objectives that are objectively reasonable to bring an incident under control.
 - Officers are authorized to use department approved, less-lethal force techniques and issued equipment to;
 - Protect the officer or others from physical harm;
 - Restrain or subdue a resistant individual;
 - Bring an unlawful situation safely and effectively under control; and/or
 - During incidents involving subjects engaging in passive resistance to lawful authority, only physical strength and skill via department approved control holds will be used.
- Techniques/Tools:
 - Under normal circumstances, only the techniques/tools listed below may be used by an employee to apply force.
 - Verbal commands requiring the subject to comply with the officer's direction.
 - Physical strength and skill via department approved control holds or applications of force via the use of hands.

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- Approved chemical agents, Taser, batons, less-lethal weapons and munitions.
- Approved service sidearm, shoulder weapon and approved ammunition.
- The Taser, an electronic control device, should be seen as occupying the same level as pepper spray on the department's list of less-lethal force options. This weapon could be considered as appropriate in the following sample situations:
 - A subject armed with a club confronts officers and indicates by words and/or actions his willingness to attack with the weapon.
 - A subject produces a knife or other edged weapon and threatens to harm himself with it but does not directly threaten officers.
 - An individual who possesses the obvious ability to carry out his threats tells officer(s) attempting to arrest him that he will not go into custody and begins to make threatening moves towards the officer(s).
- The use of a Taser generally would not be appropriate against an apparently unarmed individual who presents verbal noncompliance or verbal threats to officers without further actions.
- **The use of a Taser is appropriate for gaining control of, or defending against, aggressive or vicious animals.**
- Training and approval to carry weapons:
 - Employees will only apply use of force alternatives approved by the department. Prior to deploying any use of force alternative, each employee will receive training, be tested and/or qualify with each system.
 - Employee shall only carry authorized less-lethal weapons, firearms and ammunition in the line of duty or in his/her capacity as a police officer. No employee shall modify or alter any authorized less-lethal or firearm.
- Use of force de-escalation:

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- During arrest or conflict situations, officers will remain alert to the possibility of de-escalation of force and will invoke such procedures when appropriate.
- Notifications:
 - When a suspect is injured through the use of lethal weapons, less-lethal weapons, or physical force, officers will render appropriate aid and summon medical assistance.
 - The Chief of Police will receive timely notification when any of the below listed events take place. The incident will be followed by an administrative review of the incident:
 1. Whenever an officer takes action which results in or is alleged to have resulted in injury or death to another person,
 2. The officer applies force through the use of less-lethal or lethal weapons, or
 3. An officer strikes or slaps the head of another person, utilizing personal weapons².
- Annual Reviews of Use of Force:
 - The sergeant assigned to Professional standards will maintain the files concerning each use of force review. An annual review and report concerning use of force incidents within the department will be completed by the Professional Standards Sergeant.

GENERAL ORDER 220.00 OPERATIONAL PLANNING	Reviewed: 02/15
Authorized by Jerry Garner; Police Chief	
Effective Date: February <u>28</u> , 2015	
 Signature	Date: <u>2/28/15</u>

¹ Cross reference – GO 516.00 Less Lethal Force, GO 517.00 Deadly Force, 518.00 USE OF FORCE – SPECIAL TACTICS AND CIRCUMSTANCES Patrol Manual – Canine Unit

² Personal weapons include but are not limited to head, fists, forearms, elbows, knees, or feet.