

GREELEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

General Order 803.00

Reviewed: 02/23

Uniform & Equipment: Utility Knife Policy

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the selection, maintenance, carry, safe handling, and proper use of the police utility knife.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of this agency to provide guidelines on the selection of departmentally approved police duty knives, knives an officer may carry, and how and when knives may be carried and used in order to increase officer safety, affect positive public perception, and further reduce department liability.

IV. PROCEDURES

A. Authorized Use

1. This department recognizes the need for its officers to be properly equipped to handle a wide variety of duty responsibilities. Officers may carry police utility knives as authorized by this policy and consistent with their duty assignment.
2. The police utility knife is intended solely for the purpose of carrying out the general duties and designated specialized assignments of police operations; its use as a defensive or offensive weapon is authorized only in exigent circumstances.

B. Authorized Blades and Carry Requirements

1. Officers serving in specialized assignments, such as special weapons and tactics, ordnance disposal, and canine units, may carry a utility knife of such quality and design to withstand the rigors and job responsibilities of their assignment as determined by their commanding officer or unit supervisor.
2. Police utility knives shall be secured in either a scabbard (for fixed blades) or folded and secured by a fastening device so as to ensure officer safety, knife retention, and concealment. The blade and securing device shall be carried in the least obtrusive manner possible, and consistent with the officer's duty assignment or tactical deployment.

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3. Folding blades: Folding blade utility knives shall conform with agency-defined quality standards to meet the demands of work assignments as defined by departmental policy and the officer's commanding officer. The cutting edge of such knives shall not exceed four and one-half inches in length as measured from blade tip to handle, unless an authorized agency commander has approved a waiver to carry an alternate blade configuration.
4. Fixed blades: Specialty teams and other officers specifically trained and authorized may carry an approved fixed blade on either load-bearing equipment in a secured manner or in any other manner consistent with job assignments and officer safety and deemed appropriate by supervisory or command personnel. The cutting edge of such instruments may not exceed eight inches in length measured from tip to handle and must be secured in either a scabbard or other fastening device to ensure officer safety, retention, and concealment of the blade from public display.

C. Compliance and Safe Handling

1. Safe handling: Officers shall handle the police utility knife in an appropriate and safe manner so as to ensure the safety of themselves, their fellow officers, and the general public. Officers shall not exhibit or handle the knife in a careless or alarming manner.

D. Prohibited Uses

1. Authorized users shall not:
 - a. Display a knife in any offensive or threatening manner without legitimate operational justification.
 - b. Carry a knife in any manner other than clipped in a pocket or waistband, inside the pants or vest, in a department approved sheath, or in another manner approved by authorized command personnel consistent with duty requirements.
 - c. Display a blade in any event other than an authorized deployment situation.
2. Uses as a Weapon
 - a. The police utility knife is not intended for use as a weapon and officers are discouraged from using it in this capacity. However, it may be used in defensive capacities under exigent circumstances. Under such circumstances it shall be deemed a use of deadly force and is governed by this department's policies on use of force to include, but not be limited to, summoning a supervisor and reporting it as a use of force.

SEE CHIEF'S SIGNATURE ON NEXT PAGE

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UNIFORM & EQUIPMENT: UTILITY KNIFE POLICY

Authorized by Adam Turk, Chief of Police

Effective Date: February 22, 2023

DocuSigned by:
Adam Turk
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Date: 2/23/2023

Signature

**SEE APPENDIX A: GENERAL ORDER 803 ON NEXT
PAGE**

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Appendix A: General Order 803

A knife approved for duty as authorized by G.O. 803 must have the listed characteristics as outlined in this appendix. Brand names of knives are not exclusive to the names listed below. Any knife that has the listed characteristics is approved for carry by police officers as long as the characteristics required are present.

Brands Gerber, Benchmade, Cold Steel, Spyderco, CRKT ,bladetech, 5.11, SOG, Hide Away knives, KBar

Folding knives must have the following characteristics:

- The knife must have a locking main blade
- The knife must be capable of one handed opening and closing of the main blade. The knife must be able to be opened and closed with either hand. (demonstrated by officer)
- The knife must have some kind of retention pocket clip etc.
- The knife must pass the below retention test

Fixed blade knives must the following characteristics:

- Blade length cannot be longer than 4.5 inches as described in General Order 803
- The knife must be secured in a sheath that passes the below retention test
- The knife handle or hilt must be dark blue or black to blend in with the uniform
- The knife and sheath must be mounted in such a way that it is partially concealed from view (please see pictures below as examples)



Retention test:

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- *Folding blade knives* - The folding knife may be clipped in a pocket, to the vest or any other location as long as it passes the retention test. The officer will don his entire uniform and clip the knife in its desired location. The officer will then run in place, jump, and then sit down in a chair and get up out of a chair. If the knife falls out of the desired location it fails the retention test.
- *Fixed blade* - Fixed blade knife sheaths may be attached to the duty belt (behind something, magazine pouch etc.), inner belt, pants, vest, ankle etc. same test is applied. If the knife is to be attached to the duty belt, inner belt or pants, the duty belt, inner belt or pants will be inverted (with the knife and sheath attached) and shaken several times to insure that the knife will not fall out of the sheath. If the knife falls out or comes loose it fails the retention test. Next the officer will don the entire uniform with the knife in the desired location. The officer will then run in place, jump, and then sit down in a chair and get up out of the chair. If the knife falls out of the desired location the knife fails the retention test.

Waiver: Knives outside these guidelines, designed for specific unit purposes, must be approved by the unit commander or his designee (SWAT, Bomb etc.)