

**General Order 515.00**

**Reviewed: 03/19**

**515.00 USE OF FORCE<sup>1</sup>**

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
- Use of Less-Lethal Force: Refer to GO 516.00

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.
- Officers may use only that level of force to accomplish lawful objectives that are objectively reasonable to bring an incident under control.

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- 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.
    - Approved chemical agents, Taser, batons, less-lethal weapons and munitions.
    - Approved service sidearm, shoulder weapon and approved ammunition.
- 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.
  - Employees 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 weapons<sup>2</sup>.
- 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.

<b>General Order 515.00</b>	<b><u>USE OF FORCE</u></b>	<b>Reviewed: 03/19</b>
<b>Authorized by Mark Jones, Police Chief</b>		
<b>Effective Date: March <u>25</u>, 2019</b>		
	<b>Date:</b>	<b><u>March 25, 2019</u></b>
<b>Signature</b>		

<sup>1</sup> 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

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