

## GREELEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

**General Order 515.00****Reviewed: 03/23****515.00 USE OF FORCE**515.01 Definitions:

- Use of Force by Peace Officers – C.R.S. 18-1-707
  - Peace officers, in carrying out their duties, shall apply nonviolent means, when possible, before resorting to the use of physical force.
  - A peace officer may use physical force only if nonviolent means would be ineffective in effecting an arrest, preventing an escape, or preventing an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death to the peace officer or another person.
  
- 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.
  
- Chokehold: A method by which a person applies sufficient pressure to another person to make breathing difficult or impossible and includes, but is not limited to, any pressure to the neck, throat, or windpipe that may prevent or hinder breathing or reduce intake of air. Additionally, chokehold also means applying pressure to a person's neck, commonly referred to as a vascular neck restraint, to stop the flow of blood to the brain via the carotid arteries.

## 515.02 Procedures:

- Use of Deadly Force: Refer to GO 517.00
  
- Use of Less-Lethal Force: Refer to GO 516.00

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- Police reports related to the use of force shall document:
  - the type of force used;
  - the severity and nature of injury to any party, including peace officers;
  - If the peace officer was on-duty at the time of the incident;
  - If any peace officer un-holstered a firearm during the incident.
  - If any peace officer discharged a firearm during the incident.
  - The names of all peace officers who were present at the scene; those officers shall be identified whether or not the peace officer was involved in the use of force;
    - Any peace officer present at the scene, not directly involved in the use of force may be identified by the officer's badge number.
- Peace officers:
  - shall not use deadly force to apprehend a person who is suspected of only a minor or nonviolent offense;
  - shall use only the degree of force consistent with the minimization of injury to others;
  - shall ensure that assistance and medical aid are rendered to any injured or affected persons as soon as practicable;
  - supervisors shall ensure that any identified relatives or next of kin of persons who have sustained serious bodily injury or death are notified as soon as practicable, but in the event a supervisor is unable to notify in a timely fashion, peace officers shall so notify.
- Chokeholds Prohibited: Peace officers are prohibited from using a chokehold upon another person, except when legally justified.
- 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) as compared to officer(s).
  - Location where the confrontation is occurring
  - 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.

If nonviolent means would be otherwise ineffective, officers are authorized to use department approved, less-lethal force techniques and issued equipment to:

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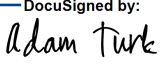
- Protect the officer or others from physical harm;
- Restrain or subdue a resistant individual;
- Bring an unlawful situation safely and effectively under control
- During incidents involving subjects engaging in passive resistance to lawful authority, only physical strength and skill via department approved control holds will be used.
- Techniques/Tools:
  - If physical force is authorized, 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.
  - A written Use of Force test will be administered to officers annually. A score of 100% will be required to pass. This test will be administered during a scheduled platoon training and documentation of all test records will be maintained in the officer's training file.
- 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.
- Duty to Report/ Duty to Intervene:
  - A peace officer shall intervene to prevent or stop another peace officer from using physical force that exceeds the degree of force permitted during an arrest of any person, placing any person under detention, taking any person into custody, booking any person or in the process of crowd control or riot control. The officer will immediately intervene without regard for rank or chain of command. The officer will assume control of the scene, carrying out duties outlined in this order, including providing medical attention to any injured person and immediately notify a supervisor of the incident. The notified supervisor cannot be the person for whom the officer had to intervene to stop the excessive use of force. The officer will remain at the scene until relieved by the supervisor. The intervening officer will promptly tender a written report to the supervisor of the date, time and location of the incident, the identity of all parties involved in the incident and a description of the intervention actions taken as required by departmental policy but in no event more than ten days after the incident. This written report will be appended to all other reports of the incident.
- 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>1</sup>.
    4. Any incident in which the officer appears to have violated departmental policy outlined in this general order.

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- 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: 03/23</b>
<b>Authorized by Adam Turk, Chief of Police</b>		
<b>Effective Date: March <u>23</u>, 2023</b>		
<small>DocuSigned by:</small>  <small>E1F3B9936247460...</small>	<b>Date:</b>	<b><u>March 23, 2023</u></b>
<b>Signature</b>		

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<sup>1</sup> Personal weapons include but are not limited to head, fists, forearms, elbows, knees, or feet.