

## GREELEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

**General Order 517.00****Reviewed: 03/23****517.00 DEADLY FORCE**


- Definitions:
  - “Deadly Force” as used in this directive is defined as that force which is likely to cause death or life-threatening, serious physical injury or which creates some specified degree of risk that a reasonable and prudent person would consider likely to cause death or life threatening, serious physical injury.
  - “Serious physical injury” or “serious bodily injury” as used in this directive is defined as a bodily injury that creates a substantial risk of death; causes serious, permanent disfigurement; or results in long-term loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ.
  - “Reasonable belief” or “objectively reasonable belief” as used in this directive is defined as a situation in which the facts or circumstances the officer knows, or should know, are such as to cause an ordinary and prudent person to act or think in a similar way under similar circumstances.
- Use of Deadly Force Philosophy: The Greeley Police Department recognizes and respects the value and sanctity of each human life. In vesting police officers with lawful authority to use deadly force to protect themselves or others from death or serious physical injury, a careful balancing of all human interests is required. Where members of the public are victims of violent crimes, or police officers are confronted with the use of deadly force by others, it will be necessary for police officers to be properly equipped and trained for the protection of society and themselves, and authorized to use necessary force, including deadly force, to effect lawful objectives. Police officers are trained to use deadly force to stop or incapacitate a suspect who presents an imminent threat of death or serious physical injury to the officer or other persons, and where other alternatives have been exhausted, are deemed ineffective, or are impractical based on the totality of circumstances. Police officers are authorized to carry and use firearms in the course of their duties only after successful completion of training and qualification with authorized firearms, and the successful completion of a written exam on the use of force. The use of deadly force by an officer must be based on an objectively reasonable belief that a lesser degree of force is inadequate an objectively reasonable belief that the officer or another person is in imminent danger of being killed or receiving serious bodily injury.

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- Use of Deadly Force Procedures:
  - An officer is authorized to use deadly force only when the officer has a reasonable belief that such action is necessary in defense of human life, including the officer's own life, or in defense of any person in immediate danger of serious physical injury. An officer must possess an objectively reasonable belief that a lesser degree of force is inadequate, and the police officer has objectively reasonable grounds to believe, and does believe, that the officer or another person is in imminent danger of being killed or of receiving serious bodily injury.
  - Officers shall not use deadly force to apprehend a person who is suspected of only a minor or nonviolent offense.
  - An officer is authorized to use deadly force against a subject to make an arrest only when all other means of apprehension are unreasonable given the circumstances and where the following conditions are present:
    - The officer has a reasonable belief that the suspect has committed a felony involving conduct including the use or threatened use of a deadly weapon or deadly physical force,
  - The officer has a reasonable belief that unless apprehended the suspect poses an immediate danger of death or serious physical injury to the officer or others
    - The force employed does not create a substantial risk of injury to others,
  - The officer shall identify himself or herself as a peace officer and give a clear verbal warning of his or her intent to use firearms or other deadly physical force, with sufficient time for the warning to be observed, unless doing so would unduly place the officer or others at risk of injury or would create a risk of death or injury to other persons.
  - An officer is authorized to use deadly force against a juvenile suspect whose conduct meets the criteria stated above.
  - Police officers are authorized to use only the force necessary to achieve lawful objectives.
  - Police officers may use deadly force only as authorized in this written directive in the protection of the officer or others from death or serious physical injury.
  - Police officers shall not fire warning shots.

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- If the suspect is injured through the use of a lethal weapon, officers will render appropriate medical aid.
  
- Inasmuch as shots fired at a moving vehicle are seldom effective, officers should move out of the path of an approaching vehicle instead of discharging a firearm at the vehicle or its occupants. Police officers shall not discharge a firearm at a vehicle unless a person in the vehicle is immediately threatening the officer or another person with deadly force with means other than the vehicle itself. However, this policy recognizes that exceptions may be necessary due to the particulars of a given situation. For example:
  - The legal requirements for using deadly force against a fleeing felon have been met and the suspect is utilizing a vehicle to facilitate his escape.
  - The vehicle is not being used solely as a means of escape but rather is being used primarily and intentionally by a suspect as a deadly weapon, such as in an instance where the vehicle is being used to attack a crowd of people.
  - Police pursuits and roadblocks are dangerous and may result in deadly force being utilized to stop an offender. Officers will adhere to General Order 551 for authorization and while engaging in a pursuit or roadblock.

<b>General Order 517.00</b>	<b><u>DEADLY 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>		
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<b>Signature</b>		