

	Greenville, SC Police Department <b>GENERAL ORDER</b>		
	<b>Subject</b> Use of Force by Police Officers	<b>Number</b> 200A19	<b>Type</b> Operational
<b>Effective Date</b> 2/22/2025	<b>Rescinds</b> 200A18	<b>Pages</b> 1 of 22	<b>Re-evaluation</b> Annual-January
CALEA: 4.1.1; 4.1.2; 4.1.3; 4.1.4; 4.1.5; 4.1.6; 4.1.7; 4.2.1; 4.2.2; 4.2.3; 4.2.4; 4.3.3; 4.3.4; 11.3.4; 1.2.10 General Orders: 215, 265,			<b>Notes</b> Updated to remove any reference to other than Taser 10. Section 5.1 updated wording.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.0	PURPOSE.....	2
2.0	POLICY.....	2
	CORE PRINCIPLE #1.....	3
	CORE PRINCIPLE #2.....	3
	CORE PRINCIPLE #3.....	3
	CORE PRINCIPLE #4.....	3
	CORE PRINCIPLE #5.....	3
	CORE PRINCIPLE #6.....	3
3.0	DUTY TO INTERVENE.....	4
4.0	DEFINITIONS.....	5
5.0	TRAINING.....	6
6.0	FORCE CONTINUUM.....	7
7.0	RESPONDING TO RESISTANCE OR THREATS.....	10
7.2	MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROVISION.....	18
8.0	REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND REVIEW.....	19
8.3	NOTIFICATIONS REGARDING USES OF FORCE.....	19
8.4	INTERNAL AFFAIRS.....	20

8.6	USE OF FORCE DATA COLLECTION & ANALYSIS.....	20
8.7	PUBLIC SAFETY CITIZEN REVIEW BOARD.....	21

## 1.0 PURPOSE

The Greenville Police Department values the sanctity of life and is committed to protecting and preserving the lives of everyone while inspiring mutual respect and public trust.

The primary purpose of this General Order is for officers to first and foremost prioritize the sanctity of life when making decisions regarding the use of force. It is the obligation of the department to train and educate sworn officers who are vested with the authority and the responsibility to protect the public, fellow officers and themselves, while safely apprehending alleged suspects who have violated the law. The authority and responsibilities of officers are governed by the laws of the state of South Carolina and the United States. However, without altering the legal standards for liability under applicable law in any way, the Greenville Police Department considers these as minimum standards and strives to exceed these requirements through additional training, expectations and execution of the department's policies, values and principles.

When making an arrest or securing a public safety concern, officers have a responsibility to avoid unnecessary uses of force and use only the force necessary to accomplishing legitimate law enforcement objectives. Whenever feasible, officers should attempt to de-escalate confrontations with the goal of resolving encounters without use of force. It is expected that most situations can be resolved either without force, or with a reasonable amount of force. When use of force is necessary to achieve lawful goals, officers will use that force with restraint consistent with the Code of Ethics and the Oath of Honor of the Greenville Police Department.

The following policy provides guidelines for the use of force for officers and the duty of all sworn officers and departmental leadership to ensure that these guidelines are consistently applied. Because an unlimited variety of circumstances could arise, no written policy can offer definitive direction for every situation in which a use of force might be appropriate. Rather, the goal of this policy is to set forth specific guidelines and support for the exercise of sound judgment, and reasonable, prudent decision-making.

## 2.0 POLICY

This General Order applies to all officer uses of force, not just the use of lethal force. The Greenville Police Department emphasizes necessity, de-escalation, and proportionality when using force. Any force applied by an officer shall be objectively reasonable and necessary to accomplish a lawful objective. Through



case law, objective reasonableness is evaluated from the perspective of a reasonable officer possessing the same information and faced with the same circumstances. *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386 (U.S. 1989). The test of reasonableness requires close attention to the totality of the facts and circumstances of each case including the severity of the crime at issue, whether the subject poses an immediate danger to the safety of the officer or other people, and whether the subject is actively resisting arrest or fleeing. Objective reasonableness is not analyzed through hindsight, and will take into account, as appropriate, the fact that officers must make instantaneous decisions regarding the application and level of force to use in tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving situations.

Officers should continually evaluate the conflict situation and adjust any control techniques to effectively respond to increasing or diminishing levels of resistance or threat with necessity, de-escalation and proportionality of force to the threat in mind.

The Greenville Police Department has adopted the following core principles on use of force:

- Core Principle #1: Officers may use force only to accomplish specific law enforcement objectives.
- Core Principle #2: Whenever feasible, officers should attempt to de-escalate confrontations with the goal of resolving encounters without force. Officers may only use force that is objectively reasonable, and necessary, when de-escalation is ineffective or immediate intervention is required to accomplish legitimate law enforcement objectives.
- Core Principle #3: Officers must use only the amount of force that is proportionate to the circumstances.
- Core Principle #4: Lethal force is only authorized when other reasonable, available options have been ineffective, or can reasonably be expected to be ineffective given the circumstances, and when serious bodily injury or death is expected if immediate action is not taken.
- Core Principle #5: Officers must promptly provide or request medical aid.
- Core Principle #6: Employees have a duty to stop and report uses of force by their fellow officers that violate any applicable law and/or this directive.



The following prohibitions to uses of force are outlined in this General Order:

- No choke holds or neck restraints can be used unless in a lethal force situation.
- No officer shall intentionally strike a subject in the head with any object unless in a lethal force situation. (This does not prohibit the use of personal weapons such as an officer's hand, fist, forearm, elbow, head, shoulder, leg, knee or foot).
- It will be the normal practice and expectation that officers will not use force on a suspect who is handcuffed. If a subject continues to physically resist after being handcuffed, officers may use force proportional to the resistance, with consideration of the reduced risk posed by the subject as a result of them being restrained.
- Use of force shall not be utilized in response to a person who only verbally confronts officers and is not involved in criminal conduct.
- Use of force is prohibited to subdue a person who is not suspected of any criminal conduct, unless necessary to protect the person, an officers or another person's safety.
- An officer is prohibited from using lethal force:
  - Solely to prevent property damage or loss;
  - Solely to prevent the destruction of evidence;
  - Solely to disable moving vehicles; or
  - Against a person who poses a threat only to themselves or property and not others.

The GPD shall make use of force data available to the public by publishing data at least annually on its website and other appropriate outlets. GPD shall also annually provide information on specific use of force incidents or general use of force data to the Public Safety Citizens Review Board.

### 3.0 DUTY TO INTERVENE

- 3.1 Any officer who is present in a situation, and who reasonably believes another officer is using force in violation of the law or Departmental policy, has a duty to intervene to stop the unlawful or inappropriate use of force.
- 3.2 Any on-duty or off-duty officer who witnesses or learns of an instance of excessive, unlawful or inappropriate use of force by another officer of any agency, has an obligation to report that situation to a supervisor or Professional Standards Commander as soon as practicable for further investigation.



- 3.3 Failure to intervene in or to report uses of force in violation of the law or departmental policy will result in discipline up to termination.

#### 4.0 DEFINITIONS

**De-Escalation-** Taking action to stabilize the situation and reduce the immediacy of the threat so that more time, options, and resources are available to resolve the situation. The goal of de-escalation is to gain the voluntary compliance of subjects, when feasible and reduce or eliminate the necessity to use physical force.

**De-Escalation Techniques-** Actions used by officers that seek to minimize the likelihood of the need to use force during an incident, and increase the likelihood of gaining voluntary compliance from the subject.

**Hog-Tying:** When a subject's hands and feet are secured together. Hog-Tying is strictly prohibited.

**Immediate Danger:** An immediate and direct threat by a subject toward an officer or another person.

**Neck Restraints:** A technique in which an officer uses their arms, hands, or other body parts to control a subject by applying pressure to the subject's neck **and** restricts the ability of the subject to breathe or restricts oxygenated blood from reaching the subject's brain. Neck restraints are prohibited except for instances in which deadly force against the subject is authorized.

**Professional Presence:** A level of control displaying visual symbols of lawful authority (e.g., badge, ID, uniform, or marked police vehicle) as well as exercising a professional police manner to address any level of resistance or threat.

**Reasonable Belief:** The facts or circumstances the officer knows, or would reasonably be expected to know, are such as to cause an ordinary and prudent person with similar training and experience to act or think in a similar way under the same circumstances.

**Serious Physical Injury:** A physical injury that creates a substantial risk of death, causes serious and potentially permanent disfigurement, or results in long-term loss or impairment of the functioning of any bodily member or organ.

**Use of Force:** Force means the application of any physical control technique by an officer in performance of official duties.



- **Less-lethal Force:** Use of physical control techniques or of less-lethal weapons in a manner reasonably expected to minimize serious physical injury and/or death. The department trains and makes use of (or provides for the use of) Oleoresin Capsicum spray, TASERs, KEWs, Pursuit Intervention and Termination Tactics, and the baton as less-lethal force options for its officers.
- **Lethal Force:** (also referred to as “deadly force”) Action(s) which would reasonably be expected to cause serious physical injury and/or death. Discharging a firearm is always considered a use of lethal force. Any action, either armed or unarmed, which could reasonably be considered to cause serious physical injury and/or death is considered a use of lethal force.

**Verbal Dialogue and Commands:** A level of control using clear, calm and, at times, firm communication that is critical to mitigating any potential use of force situation. This level of control includes any verbal requests, directions, or commands from the officer to a subject. Verbal interaction may be exercised to address any level of resistance or threat.

## 5.0 TRAINING

- 5.1 All sworn officers shall receive use of force training at least annually and shall demonstrate competency with its provisions. All sworn officers shall participate in use of force scenario-based training, which may include the use of a digital training simulator, training at least twice a year, and additional training will be provided if a need is detected through the department’s early warning system and random reviews of body worn cameras.
- 5.2 All sworn officers and GPD staff will undergo annual training on recognizing and mitigating bias as well as effective community policing strategies.
- 5.3 The Training Section shall be responsible for maintaining a current use of force training curriculum and records of all training and competency testing for all sworn employees.
- 5.4 Any officer determined to have discharged a weapon resulting from accident or negligence will be required to undergo remedial firearms and safety training.
- 5.5 Officers are trained in de-escalation techniques consistent with General Order 265- Responding to Persons with Mental Illness, and other related training as may be appropriate and available from time to time.



- 5.6 GPD will train sworn officers in Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) and strives to ensure that at least 3 of these specially trained officers are available during each shift to assist fellow officers in responding to situations involving individuals displaying mental health issues.

## 6.0 FORCE CONTINUUM

The Force Continuum is a proportionality continuum (Figure 1), which serves as a guideline for officers in making critical use of force decisions. The Continuum illustrates officer options at each level of resistance or threat. Note that professional presence and verbal interaction are options at all levels of resistance.

Both State and Federal laws require that all force be reasonable and necessary to fulfill lawful objectives. In *Graham v. Connor*, the United States Supreme Court stated, "the test of reasonableness under the Fourth Amendment is not capable of precise definition or mechanical application, however, its proper application requires careful attention to the facts and circumstances of each particular case including the severity of the crime at issue, whether the subject poses an Immediate Danger to the safety of officers or other persons, and whether he/she is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight." In addition, an officer should consider his or her physical or tactical abilities to overcome the resistance or direct threat presented, and the risk of injury to others in the immediate area. It should additionally be noted that all of the *Graham* factors may not be applicable to a given use of force situation.

The Force Continuum is not designed to guide use of force escalation or de-escalation in a linear fashion. Situational assessments must occur continually throughout a conflict situation and officers must adjust any control techniques to effectively respond to increasing or diminishing levels of resistance or threat. Therefore, the escalation and de-escalation by the officer or the subject may not be sequential as depicted in the Force Continuum.

### Force Continuum

Levels of Resistance or Threat	Verbal & Nonverbal Cooperative	Verbal & Nonverbal Noncompliance	Passive Resistance	Defensive Resistance	Active Resistance	Active Aggression	Aggravated Active Aggression
Levels of Control	Professional Police Presence						
	Verbal Dialogue and Direction						
			Soft Empty Hand Control				
				Hard Empty Hand Control			
					OC Spray/Chemical Agents		
					Conducted Electrical Weapon		
					Pursuit Intervention & Termination Tactics		
						Impact Weapons	
							Lethal Force

Figure 1. Force Continuum





### Levels of Resistance or Threat

Resistance or threat is manifested by a subject who attempts to evade an officer's control efforts and/or presents a level of physical danger to the officer or another person. Levels of resistance or threat are broadly categorized in six (6) areas:

- **Non-Verbal and Verbal Non-Compliance:** The subject expresses his/her intentions not to comply through verbal and/or non-verbal means. Statements by a subject ranging from pleading to clear non-compliance may be encountered. This also includes physical gestures, stances, and mannerisms.
- **Passive Resistance:** The subject does not cooperate with an officer's commands and does not take action to prevent being taken into custody. Passive resistance most often manifests itself in peaceful protest of authority, where people refuse to move or leave, and must be picked up and carried away.
- **Defensive Resistance:** Physical actions to prevent being taken into custody that do not pose an immediate risk of injury to the officer, subject or another person. Actions such as holding onto an object or another person or protestor, pulling arms or hands away from a grip of an officer represent resistance that is defensive in nature.
- **Active Resistance:** Physical actions to prevent being taken into custody, which present a reasonable and immediate risk of causing injury to the officer, subject or another person. This includes thrashing and other arm or leg movements, fleeing where a tackle would be necessary, and other physical actions that appear defensive in nature, but carry a reasonable potential of causing immediate injury to the officer, subject or another person. This also includes actions, or anticipated actions of the suspect which would justify Blocking in Place or Less Lethal Forcible Stopping under General Order 215 Vehicle Pursuits.
- **Active Aggression:** Actions by a subject that are aggressive toward the officer or another person and would cause a reasonable officer to believe that there is an immediate and direct threat to the safety of officers or another person. Active aggression may manifest itself through squaring-off with raised fists, kicking or thrashing with the ability of striking an officer or another person, aggressively pursuing or closing in on another person with an apparent intent to harm, and/or





other assaultive behavior that is not likely to cause serious physical injury or death.

- **Aggravated Active Aggression:** Actions which may or may not involve a weapon, which are likely to result in death or serious physical injury to an officer or another person.

### Levels of Control

**Professional Presence:** Displaying visual symbols of lawful authority (e.g., badge, ID, uniform, or marked police vehicle) as well as exercising a professional police manner to address any level of resistance or threat.

**Verbal Dialogue and Commands:** Clear, calm and, at times, firm communication is critical to mitigating any potential use of force situation. This level of control includes any verbal requests or directives from the officer to a subject. Verbal interaction may be exercised to address any level of resistance or threat and may be used alone or in conjunction with other force options.

**Soft Empty Hand Control:** Techniques that do not involve physical strikes of any kind and are designed to respond primarily to passive and defensive resistance from subjects. Such control techniques include guiding a subject's movements through escort holds, transport holds, joint locks, and pressure points. Soft empty hand control also applies to physically guiding subjects that are not resisting arrest to the ground without injury.

**Hard Empty Hand Control:** Techniques to include forcibly redirecting to the ground (takedowns), and strikes with the hand, fist, forearm, elbow, head, shoulder, leg, knee or foot. Hard empty-hand control techniques are designed to effectively respond to subjects who are engaging in defensive resistance or some higher level of aggression to an officer's attempts to lawfully control or secure them.

- *Control strikes* are used to get a subject under control and include strikes targeted to pressure point areas such as the common peroneal (side of the leg), radial nerve (top of the forearm), or brachial plexus origin (side of neck).
- *Defensive strikes* are used by an officer to protect him or herself from attack and may include physical strikes to other areas of the body including the abdomen or head.
- *Takedowns* are maneuvers used by an officer to limit and better control subject body and limb mobility to secure a resisting subject more safely by forcibly redirecting to the ground.



**Chemical Irritants:** Chemical irritants used by the Greenville Police Department are approved for use in situations where a reasonable officer believes there is an immediate and/or direct threat to the safety of officers or another person, or where a person's resistance level presents a reasonable potential of causing injury to an officer, the subject or another person.

Deployment of the MK-9 OC Fogger or CS gas by dispensing the chemical agent on the ground as irritant to disperse aggressive and non-compliant crowds outdoors, and when not directed at a particular person or person, is not considered a use of force for investigation and reporting purposes. The conditions and reasons for the use of a MK-9 OC Fogger or CS gas shall be documented by the on-scene supervisor in an after-action report distributed to the chain of command.

**TASER Energy Weapon:** The TASER may be used in situations where a subject presents a risk of immediate danger to the officer or another person(s), and, whenever practical, be accompanied by loud verbal pronouncement of its use to alert officers and persons nearby.

**Pursuit Intervention and Termination Tactics:** PIT and Blocking in Place as defined in General Order 215 Vehicle Pursuit.

**Impact Weapon:** Less-lethal impact weapon strikes are to be targeted specifically towards major muscle groups only. The common peroneal nerve on the side of the leg, forearm, and calves are primary locations for impact weapon strikes. Impact weapon strikes to the head, neck or clavicle areas are considered lethal force, due to the elevated risk of serious bodily injury or death which may result from such strikes.

**Lethal Force:** Lethal force is any manner of force that is reasonably likely to cause death or serious bodily harm, and may only be used against subjects who are engaged in Aggravated Active Aggression upon an officer or another person. This includes, but is not limited to, the use of a firearm, striking the head, neck or clavicle (collarbone) area with an impact weapon, the choking of a suspect, or any pursuit intervention tactic that is likely to result in great bodily injury or death.

## 7.0 RESPONDING TO RESISTANCE OR THREATS

- 7.1 Officers will at all times endeavor to overcome a subject's resistance to their lawful authority without the use of force. De-escalation techniques such as appropriately applied and managed professional police presence and demeanor, with clear, calm, controlled communication may defuse



potentially volatile situations. When these approaches are ineffective or their use is insufficient for a circumstance, an officer may need to respond with physical force. ***In such circumstances, an officer shall use only that force which is reasonably necessary to overcome the level of resistance to control a subject, or to stop a direct threat of harm posed by a subject.*** Officers will not leave a handcuffed person in a prone position for sustained periods and will use the recovery position when necessary. Officers shall take reasonable measures to protect uninvolved individuals from the effects of using force. Officer response options include:

#### 7.1.1 Officer Presence and Verbal Dialogue and Commands

Officer Presence incorporates more than just an officer in uniform on a scene, as a uniform alone may agitate rather than calm a situation. Presence speaks also to the manner in which an officer:

- Manages communications and tone of voice.
- Manages the actions and activities of other people or officers on-scene.
- Works to stabilize or keep order in a clear, calm and controlled manner.
- In accordance with General Order 102, Rules of Conduct 6.1.2, in performing their duties, employees will not express any prejudice concerning race, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation/identity or other personal characteristics.

As a result, Officer Presence and Verbal Dialogue and Commands may be effective in establishing lawful control at any level throughout the continuum of resistance.

#### 7.1.2 Physical Control

Physical control techniques encompass those actions an officer may employ that are purely physical in nature and do not include the use of less-lethal or lethal weapons.

7.1.2.1 *Soft Empty-Hand Control Techniques* do not involve physical strikes of any kind and are designed to respond primarily to passive and defensive resistance from subjects. Such control techniques include guiding a subject's movements through escort holds, transport holds, joint locks, and pressure points. Soft empty hand control also applies to physically guiding subjects that are not resisting arrest to the ground without injury.



7.1.2.2 *Hard Empty-Hand Control Techniques* include forcibly redirecting to the ground (takedowns), and strikes with the hand, fist, forearm, elbow, head, shoulder, leg, knee or foot. Hard empty-hand control techniques are designed to effectively respond to subjects who are engaging in defensive resistance or some higher level of aggression to an officer's attempts to lawfully control or secure them.

### 7.1.3 **Less-Lethal Weapons**

7.1.3.1 *Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Spray* is designed to enable control over subjects engaging in Active Resistance or above. Once OC Spray is dispensed and lawful control over a subject is established, officers will initiate first aid measures by rinsing a subject's eyes with water, if available. Officers will also initiate basic first aid treatment and immediately request emergency medical services assistance when:

- If a subject exhibits symptoms of respiratory distress, anaphylactic or other shock, or medical distress in any form; or,
- If a subject is visibly injured, complains of injury or requests medical assistance.

7.1.3.1.1 While OC Spray can provide control with minimal risk of injury, it can be exacerbated by environment and other conditions on scene. The environmental conditions can result in other officers or persons being temporarily incapacitated by the spray. For this reason, officers must evaluate the conditions under which they dispense OC Spray, to prevent further loss of control from its use.

7.1.3.1.2 Whenever practical, officers will announce the pending use of OC Spray to alert bystanders and attending officers to prepare for its use.

7.1.3.1.3 Use of OC Spray is prohibited in the following circumstances:

- On a handcuffed prisoner, unless physical control techniques are demonstrably



insufficient at lawfully controlling subject resistance or aggression.

- On a person in control of a motor vehicle.
- Medical and detention facilities.

#### 7.1.3.2 TASER Energy Weapon

TASERs are designed to enable control over subjects engaging in Active Resistance or above. Conditions upon the use of a TASER are as follows:

- 7.1.3.2.1 Whenever practical, an officer intending to use his or her TASER will announce its use in advance and will announce its discontinued use.
- 7.1.3.2.2 Officers should aim for preferred target zones except for exigent circumstances.
- 7.1.3.2.3 The intentional use of two (2) or more TASERS simultaneously on the same person is prohibited.
- 7.1.3.2.4 After each application (or cycle) of the TASER, the officer will evaluate the level of continued resistance. An application of a Taser is when enough cartridges have made contact with the subject to achieve at least limited neuromuscular effect. This will require at least two initial trigger pulls of the Taser 10 as it fires single-probe cartridges. If continued resistance does not rise to the level of Active Resistance, use of the TASER will be discontinued, and physical control techniques will be applied.
- 7.1.3.2.5 If, after the initial application of a TASER, a subject's level of resistance poses immediate risks of injury to an officer applying physical control techniques (e.g., swinging/flailing arms, kicking, controlling a weapon), the officer may initiate an additional application of the TASER by firing an additional probe or re-energizing already connected probes.
- 7.1.3.2.6 If, after the second application of a TASER, subject's level of resistance continues to pose immediate risks of injury to an officer applying



physical control techniques, the officer may consider a third application of the TASER. However, the officer should attempt to expand the area of neuro-muscular effect by deploying a probe(s) to another area of the body. If, after the third cycle of the TASER, the subject cannot be controlled by physical control techniques without reasonable risk of injury to the officer, the officer should consider utilizing a different weapon or technique to gain control.

7.1.3.2.7 Immediately upon use of a TASER and subsequent control of a subject, officers will obtain medical assistance and/or administer first aid if a subject is visibly injured, complains of injury, or requests medical attention. In cases in which a subject is exposed to more than three or more cycles or applications exceeding 15 seconds total, EMS will be requested to evaluate the subject's condition and determine if the subject should be transported to the hospital. Even if the subject is not visibly injured, officers should be aware that TASER use may exacerbate existing medical conditions. Officers may refer to General Order 265- Responding to Persons with Mental Illness.

7.1.3.2.8 A TASER shall not be used against more than one person simultaneously unless exigent circumstances arise that deem the use reasonable under such circumstances, such as the simultaneous imminent threat of multiple actively aggressive persons. Officers must take reasonable steps to avoid utilizing a TASER on a second person after the TASER has been deployed on a first person and that person is complying with the probes still intact. If it is used against more than 1 person simultaneously, the officer(s) will have to justify each use on each person. Unjustified use can be considered excessive force and will be investigated as such.

7.1.3.2.9 Use of TASERs shall be discontinued or are prohibited under the following circumstances,



unless subject actions present a risk of great bodily injury or death to themselves or others:

- In locations with environmental hazards which pose a risk of great bodily harm or death should the subject fall, such as elevated positions, in or adjacent to busy roadways, areas with sharp glass, metals or other materials on the ground;
- In close proximity to flammable gases or liquids;
- When the subject is known to be or appears pregnant, elderly, or under the age of 13;
- When the subject exhibits signs of respiratory or medical distress.
- On a subject riding a bicycle in motion;
- A subject in physical control of a motor vehicle in motion or one that could be in motion (e.g., subject has vehicle in gear and the brakes applied)
- On a subject with a known heart problem, obvious debilitating illness, or known neuromuscular disorders.
- On an unarmed, mentally unstable or mentally ill person to prevent them from harming themselves. The officer must attempt to de-escalate the situation and adjust the application of force downward.
- On a non-violent fleeing subject in which the only offense is a civil violation;
- A handcuffed individual, unless physical control techniques are demonstrably insufficient at lawfully controlling subject aggression; or,
- Discharging the TASER intentionally at the eyes, groin or face.

7.1.3.2.10 Officers shall remove TASER probes from a subject's skin as soon as practical to prevent further injury and:

- Shall use latex gloves and other personal protection equipment appropriate for personal protection;





- Will collect and impound the TASER cartridge in property and evidence, in accordance with training.
- Will request EMS or trained medical professionals to remove probes that have struck a subject's head, throat, groin, or other sensitive areas.

7.1.3.2.11 **Warning Alert:** Officers are permitted to display a warning alert in an effort to gain compliance from a subject who is exhibiting Active Resistance or higher or who a reasonable officer believes is preparing to engage in Active Resistance or a higher level of resistance.

7.1.3.3 **Pursuit Intervention and Termination Tactics:** as defined in General Order 215 Vehicle Pursuit

#### 7.1.3.4 **Impact Weapons**

- 7.1.3.4.1 Impact weapons are authorized to control subjects who are demonstrating Active Aggressive or Aggravated Active Aggression toward the officer or another person, and who present an immediate and direct threat to the safety of officers or another person, unless brought under control.
- 7.1.3.4.2 The impact weapon issued to all sworn officers is the baton.
- 7.1.3.4.3 Officers, when necessary, may use any item as an impact weapon in accordance with this policy.
- 7.1.3.4.4 Kinetic Energy Weapons (KEWs). Selected personnel may be trained in the use of KEWs, which include bean-bag shotgun cartridges and OC, Pepperball guns. These weapons will be used in accordance with training protocols.
- 7.1.3.4.5 Impact or kinetic energy weapon strikes to the head are considered the use of lethal force, and



may **only** be utilized in a manner consistent with lethal force section of this policy.

- 7.1.3.4.6 As immediately as practicable, after the use of any impact weapon and subsequent control of a subject, officers will obtain medical assistance and/or administer basic first aid if a subject is visibly injured, complains of injury, or requests medical attention.

#### 7.1.4 Lethal Force

An officer is permitted to use lethal or deadly - force when it is objectively reasonable under the totality of the circumstances as the officer finds them at the time of the use of force. Use of lethal force is **only** justified in **one or both** of the following circumstances:

- To protect the officer and others from what is reasonably believed to be an active and imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury.
- To prevent the escape of a fleeing subject **only** when the officer has probable cause to believe that the person has committed, or intends to commit a felony, **and** the officer reasonably believes that there is an active and imminent risk of serious bodily injury or death to the officer or another if the subject is not immediately apprehended.

Discharging a firearm at or in the direction of another person constitutes lethal force.

7.1.4.1 Where practical prior to discharging a firearm, officers shall identify themselves as law enforcement officers and state their intent to shoot.

7.1.4.2 The following three elements must be present before the use of lethal force is justified and authorized:

- **Ability**: The subject must have the means to inflict death or serious physical injury to another. The means to inflict death or serious physical injury include possession of a lethal or dangerous weapon or instrument, or possession of the physical ability to



overpower and inflict death or serious physical injury by means of personal weapons (e.g., hands, feet, etc.).

- **Opportunity:** The assailant must be close enough to use any weapon(s), instrument(s), or physical ability which would inflict death or serious physical injury to the officer or another person.
- **Jeopardy:** Use of lethal force is justified and authorized when ability and opportunity are present at the same time and the serious and real intent to cause death or serious physical injury is an imminent threat. If either ability or opportunity is not present, the use of lethal force is not justified or authorized.

7.1.4.3 In situations involving lethal force resulting in injury, and upon subsequent control of the subject, officers will request medical assistance as immediately as practicable. Where possible under the circumstances, officers will administer basic first aid until properly relieved by medical personnel.

**Before an officer may use lethal force against a person in a moving vehicle, there must exist an imminent danger of death or serious bodily harm to the officer or another person.**

When an officer finds themselves in the path of a vehicle, prior to using lethal force in defense of themselves alone, the officer should try to remove themselves from the path of the vehicle, if possible.

7.1.4.4 Lethal force is not authorized in the following situations or circumstances:

- Discharging a firearm when there is no reasonable probability of striking the intended subject.
- When there is substantial risk to the safety of innocent bystanders or officers, unless failure to take lethal force action would be reasonably likely to result in continued acts of Aggravated Active Aggression resulting in death or serious bodily injury to others.
- Against subjects who are not presenting an imminent threat to human life or serious bodily harm unless immediately apprehended – whether or not they are fleeing from police.
- Warning shots are prohibited in any situation.



7.1.4.5 The presentation or pointing of a firearm by an officer constitutes a *show of force* rather than a use of force. Officers are required to describe such situations in their statements associated with any incident report. Officers involved in a controlled tactical operation (e.g., SWAT activation/SWAT high-risk warrant service with supervisor present) are exempt from these reporting requirements, as there is a separate reporting requirement of the supervisor.

#### 7.1.5 Ingesting Drugs or Contraband

Officers will not forcibly remove contraband from a suspect's mouth. In such circumstances, officers should transport the subject to a medical facility or request medical personnel respond to the scene to treat the subject.

#### 7.1.6 Using Force Against Animals

7.1.6.1 In the course of performing their duties, officers may encounter aggressive animals. Where such animals pose an immediate threat to the safety of officers or members of the public through an attack, officers may use any of their less-lethal or lethal weapons to prevent or end an attack. If choosing a lethal force option, officers must ensure that their use of the weapon will not endanger bystanders or other officers.

7.1.6.2 In the absence of an Animal Control Officer, officers may use lethal force to euthanize an animal that is seriously injured when the officer reasonably believes that lethal force can be used without harm to the officer or others. Officers will contact their supervisor for approval of euthanasia action.

### 7.2 Medical Assistance Provisions

7.2.1 Once a subject is under control, if they exhibit signs of respiratory or medical distress, officers shall make every effort to immediately reposition the subject onto his/her side or back, and will immediately request Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to respond for examination and any necessary treatment.

7.2.2 Any time a subject exhibits a serious injury or medical distress, such as a loss of consciousness, severe bleeding, or any other



potentially serious trauma, Emergency Medical Service (EMS) will be requested as soon as practicable to respond to the scene.

- 7.2.3 If a subject receives a minor injury, the subject may be transported by an officer to Prisma Hospital Emergency Room, the intake nurse of the Greenville County Detention Center, or a local emergency room if out of jurisdiction.
- 7.2.4 EMS will be requested to respond if any doubt exists as to the severity of the injury or medical condition. If a subject complains of an injury which is not visible, officers will arrange for treatment either by EMS or through other medical service providers.

## 8.0 REPORTING AND ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT

- 8.1 A supervisor investigation is not required for pointing or presenting a firearm, displaying a less-lethal control device or soft-empty hand control techniques, unless a subject is injured or complains of injury associated with an encounter with officers or the actions of officers. However, these actions must be documented by the officer in an Incident or Supplemental Report.
- 8.2 When an officer uses force, which would require a supervisory investigation or when a member of the public complains of injury from a use of force, requires a thorough and impartial supervisory investigation and chain of command review to determine compliance with law and Departmental policy. Supervisors will make every effort to identify and secure related police or independent video, witnesses and their statements. If a TASER is deployed, the data utilization must be downloaded from all involved officers on scene when a use of force incident occurs.
- 8.3 Situations requiring an investigation by a field supervisor and review by an employee's chain of command include:
  - 8.3.1 Use of Hard Empty-Hand Control, OC Spray, TASER, and/or Impact Weapons, regardless of whether a subject was injured.
  - 8.3.2 Any time an in-custody subject appears to be injured or complains of an injury associated with an encounter with officers or the actions of officers.
  - 8.3.3 Uses of less-lethal or lethal force against an aggressive animal or to euthanize a seriously injured animal.
  - 8.3.4 Any discharge of firearms that does not occur within a controlled training environment.



- 8.3.5 Supervisors will notify the Professional Standards Commander to convey known facts related to an unintentional firearms discharge incident. Unintentional Discharges will require a Professional Standards investigation to determine if the discharge was negligent. The notification will occur as soon as possible.
- The use of lethal force toward an animal will require a Critical Incident Notification to be completed.
- 8.4 Except as provided in Section 8.3, all incidents where an officer uses lethal force, whether reported by a member of the Department or public, will be thoroughly and impartially investigated through two separate processes that include a Professional Standards investigation and an investigation by the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED). These incidents may also be reviewed by the Public Safety Citizen Review Board in its discretion whether a citizen complaint is filed or not.
- 8.4.1 As soon as practicable during a lethal force incident, supervisors will notify, or cause to be notified, the chain of command through the Chief of Police.
- 8.4.2 The Professional Standards Commander will be notified. In circumstances of lethal force, the notification will be required while the scene is active.
- 8.4.3 Officers under investigation for a lethal or serious injury force incident will be temporarily reassigned to administrative duties until a review of the investigation by the Chief of Police is complete and a decision regarding restoration to full duties can be made.
- 8.5 The GPD shall collect and analyze use of force data and distribute these reports to the public through its website, a dashboard, or other mechanisms. GPD believes in transparency in order to ensure that law enforcement practices are fair, non-discriminatory, and involve the reasonable amount of force necessary to accomplish lawful objectives and goals.
- 8.6 An annual use of force report and analysis shall also be issued that includes use of force practices, incidents, policies, training, etc. Examples of some analytical categories may include:
- 8.6.1 Use of force by type.
  - 8.6.2 Use of force by division.
  - 8.6.3 Date and time of incidents.
  - 8.6.4 Use of force by patrol zone.



- 8.6.5 Types of encounters resulting in use of force or patterns related to race, age and gender of subjects involved.
  - 8.6.6 Trends or patterns resulting in injury to any person including employees; and
  - 8.6.7 Impact of findings on policies, practices, equipment and training.
- 8.7 The Public Safety Citizen Review Board may review data available and work with the GPD in identifying any broad patterns or trends that may require further policy revisions, additional training, enhanced equipment/technology, and any pattern or practice of behavior by particular officers that may require intervention, remediation and or re-training.

DocuSigned by:

*J. H. Thompson*

EDD8600A05F84FA...

J. H. Thompson, Chief of Police

2/22/2025

Date

DS  
*my*