

DEPARTMENTAL GENERAL ORDER 26-029

ST. LOUIS COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

March 18, 2026

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USE OF FORCE

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to establish policy and procedures for the use of **de-escalation**, nondeadly **force**, and deadly force **by commissioned officers** of this Department.

II. POLICY

The Department recognizes and respects the value and uniqueness of each human life. **By** vesting **commissioned officers** with the lawful authority to use force to protect the public welfare, a careful balance of all human interests is required.

Officers are confronted with situations where control must be exercised to effect arrests and to protect public safety. Control may be achieved verbally through instruction, advice, warnings, and persuasion, or **using** physical force. **Whenever practical, officers should use de-escalation tactics and techniques designed to gain voluntary compliance from a subject before using force.**

Officers shall use only the force that **is objectively reasonable** to effectively bring an incident under control while protecting the lives and safety of the officer or another. Verbal or physical abuse is forbidden.

III. GENERAL

**A.** This Order only forms the basis for Departmental administrative review and possible corrective action **or discipline** concerning conduct allegedly performed without regard for these guidelines and policy, although that conduct may conform to all legal norms of care and safety.

**B.** This Order is for Department use only and does not apply **to** any criminal or civil proceedings. This Order should not be construed **to create** a higher legal standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense with respect to third party claims.

IV. DEFINITIONS

**A. Active Resistance – Physical acts for the purpose of preventing arrest, including but not limited to, pulling away, holding onto fixed objects, running away, and/or tensing muscles.**

**B. Aggravated Active Resistance – A subset of active resistance consisting of physical acts that are intended to or likely to cause harm to an officer or another person, or overt acts of assault. The totality of the circumstances, including the**

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risk of injury, the threat to the subject or others, and the severity of the crime should be considered when discerning the level of resistance.

- C. **Administrative Routing System (ARS)** – The Department's software system that is used to route information to supervisors, other units, or other Department personnel, as needed.
- D. **Chokehold/Neck Hold** – Any hold or contact with the neck that may inhibit breathing by compressing the airway in the neck and/or impede blood flow by compressing the blood vessels in the neck (e.g., vascular neck restraint). Chokehold/Neck Holds are only authorized when the use of deadly force is authorized.
- E. **Continuous Assessment** – Ongoing review of a situation to evaluate the appropriate response based on the totality of the circumstances at the time the officer decides to initiate or continue a course of action.
- F. **Control** – The degree of verbal direction or force required by an officer to gain compliance of an unwilling subject.
- G. **Deadly Force Assault** – Behavior by a subject that is likely to cause death or serious physical injury to an officer, another person, or to the subject initiating the assault.
- H. **Deadly Force** – Any force used against an officer and/or another person that may result in serious physical injury or the loss of human life. Note: Force that is not reasonably likely to cause death or serious physical injury, but unexpectedly results in death or serious physical injury, is not considered deadly force.
- I. **De-escalation** – Tactics and techniques, either verbal or non-verbal, exercised by officers during an encounter to reduce the threat of physical injury to officers and/or others. These tactics should be used when safe and without compromising law enforcement priorities with the goal being to gain voluntary compliance.
- J. **Emotionally Disturbed Person (EDP)** – For the purposes of this policy, EDP refers to a person who, by reason of a mental health crisis, exhibits behavior(s) that causes significant impairment and distress to the individual in a mental health crisis or are likely to cause injury to the individual in a mental health crisis or others.
- K. **Employee** – All commissioned and professional staff members, chaplains, and any other individual operationally attached to the Department, to include contractors and task force members. This definition is used solely for the convenience of reading this policy and is not meant to establish an employment relationship with any individual(s) where such a relationship does not otherwise exist.
- L. **Exigent Circumstances** – Circumstances that cause a reasonable officer to believe that a particular action is necessary to prevent physical harm to a subject, the destruction of relevant evidence, the escape of a suspect, or another consequence that frustrates legitimate law enforcement efforts.
- M. **Hard Empty Hand Control** – Any control technique employed using the officer's empty hands (e.g. knee strike, angle kick, palm heel strike, straight punch, distraction techniques, elbow strike).
- N. **Imminent** – Likely to occur at any moment.

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- O. **Less Lethal Option** – Use of a device that, when properly administered according to training, is designed to temporarily incapacitate a subject and is not reasonably likely to produce death or serious injury. (e.g., Oleoresin Capsicum, impact munitions, TEW, bean bag rounds, baton).
- P. **Lethal Weapon** – Any weapon that, when used by an officer as intended and according to training, is likely to cause death.
- Q. **Objective Reasonableness** –The determination of a reasonable officer that a use of force is necessary and proportionate based upon the totality of all relevant circumstances known to the officer.
- R. **Officer** – As used in this General Order, the term “officer” includes only commissioned employees of this Department, regardless of rank, and commissioned employees of another agency who are operationally attached to this Department.
- S. **Officer Presence** - The identification of an officer’s authority, either by uniformed presence or verbal identification.
- T. **Passive Resistance** – A subject’s nonviolent refusal to comply with an officer’s verbal or physical direction without engaging in active resistance (e.g., dead weight, failure to react to verbal commands).
- U. **Probable Cause** – A legal standard that requires officers to have a reasonable belief that a crime has been committed, is in the process of being committed, or that evidence of a crime exists at a specific location. Probable cause is required to obtain a warrant, conduct a search, or make an arrest. Officers, when possible, shall advise a subject they are under arrest before using force to affect the arrest.
- V. **Psychological Intimidation** – Non-verbal cues indicating a subject's intent or physical readiness to engage in active resistance (e.g., a blank stare, clenching of a fist(s), tightening of jaw muscles, etc.).
- W. **Reasonable Belief** – A belief that a use of force is necessary and proportionate based on a totality of all relevant facts and circumstances known to the officer.
- X. **Serious Physical Injury** – An injury that creates a substantial risk of death or that causes severe disfigurement or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any body part.
- Y. **Soft Empty Hand Control** – Control techniques that use physical grips, holds, or pressure to restrain or escort a subject. Techniques include, but are not limited to, pain compliance techniques and joint locks.
- Z. **Subject** – an individual on whom force is used to achieve compliance with an officer’s direction.
- AA. **Tactical Patience** – The manipulation of the concepts of time, distance, and cover with the goal of creating opportunities for the implementation of de-escalation strategies, with the welfare of officers and members of the public in mind.
- BB. **TASER Energy Weapon (TEW)** – A less lethal handheld device that uses electricity to temporarily incapacitate a subject by affecting both the sensory nervous system and motor nervous system resulting in neuromuscular incapacitation (NMI).

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- CC. **Totality of Circumstances** – All relevant facts and events leading up to a use of force and known to an officer, including the severity of the crime, immediate threat posed, and level of resistance, as well the subject's conduct, the conduct of the officer, and the conduct of those other than the officer and subject.
- DD. **Verbal Direction** – Commands used by an officer to detain or arrest a subject, or to direct a subject to stop engaging in unlawful or dangerous behavior.
- EE. **Verbal Noncompliance** – A verbal response indicating a subject's unwillingness to comply with an officer's commands of detainment, arrest, or to stop unlawful or dangerous behavior.

V. **RESISTANCE CONTROL GUIDELINES**

A. This Department subscribes to, and trains its officers in, the concept of controlling resistive behavior with techniques that employ reasonable force relative to the **subject's resistance**. As the level of resistance increases, so **should** the level of response.

B. **Three-Prong Graham Test**

1. Officers shall determine whether a use of force is reasonable with consideration of the three questions outlined by the United States Supreme Court in *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386 (1989), as supplemented or modified by subsequent case law.
  - a. The severity of the offense(s); and
  - b. Whether the suspect poses an immediate threat to the officer(s) or others; and
  - c. Whether the suspect is actively resisting or attempting to evade arrest by flight.
2. The *Graham* test's proper application requires careful attention to the facts and circumstances of each unique incident from the perspective of a reasonable officer at the time force is used, rather than with 20/20 vision of hindsight.
3. When evaluating the justification for an officer's actions, supervisors and commanders should consider the *Graham* test, and the variables described herein, based on all relevant facts and events known to the officer.
4. While the Response to Resistance Model, described in section VII., is intended as a guide to assist officers in making an appropriate response to resistance decision, it shall never supersede the law including *Graham v. Connor* and its progeny, nor should it be used in isolation without considering the mitigating and/or aggravating factors described in section V. D. below.

C. **Medical Emergencies**

In situations where no crime has been committed and a subject experiencing a medical emergency or mental health crisis who poses a threat to their own safety or places others in immediate physical danger, officers may consider the following three questions to determine if the use of force is appropriate to place the subject into protective custody.

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1. Is the subject experiencing a medical emergency that renders them incapable of making a rational decision under circumstances that pose an immediate threat of serious harm to themselves or others?
  2. Is some degree of force reasonably necessary to resolve the threat?
  3. Is the force being used more than reasonably necessary under the circumstances (i.e. is it excessive)?
- D. Many variables may exist pertaining to use of force, making it difficult to establish "absolutes". When determining the appropriate level of force, variables to be considered include, but are not limited to:
1. Type of crime committed or attempted.
  2. Relative size/stature of the officer(s) and subject(s).
  3. Exigent circumstances.
  4. Number of officers present.
  5. Number of individuals present.
  6. Availability of backup.
  7. Reaction time.
  8. Relative strength of the officer(s) and subject(s).
  9. Immediacy of danger.
  10. Subject's access to weapons.
  11. Subject being under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.
  12. Exceptional abilities/skills (e.g. martial arts).
  13. Injury to or exhaustion of the officer(s).
  14. Injury to or exhaustion of the subject(s).
  15. Weather or terrain conditions.
  16. Distance from the subject(s).
  17. Special knowledge related to the subject (e.g. knowledge gained from previous encounters with the subject or awareness of the subject's prior history of violence).

**VI. DE-ESCALATION**

- A. The effective use of tactical patience, whenever it is safe to do so, increases the odds of gaining the advantage necessary to effectively engage in de-escalation techniques in an attempt to gain voluntary compliance from a subject.

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- B. Using tactical patience when it is safe to do so provides officers with the time necessary to pause, consider the totality of the facts and circumstances, and focus on achieving the best available outcome. The following principles assist in achieving better outcomes through tactical patience:
1. Officers should maintain distance and cover. Distance and cover are essential in permitting officers to perceive and assess a situation as clearly as possible; and
  2. Officers should avoid placing themselves at a disadvantage, which could limit their ability to accurately assess the situation; thus, reducing the likelihood of being in a situation where the use of force is the only option for addressing a subject's behavior(s).
  3. In situations where there is no indication of an active assault taking place, officers should consider the benefits of waiting for their assist officer(s) to arrive before making contact with any individual(s) involved.
  4. Officers should work in concert with each other and with dispatchers to create a coordinated approach to resolving incidents based on all information available and known to the officers at the time. Officers should attempt to evaluate, without bias, possible factors which may be contributing to the situation (i.e. mental illness, substance abuse, or other precipitating factors).
  5. De-escalation consists of tactics and techniques intended to prevent escalation of conflicts and/or potentially violent incidents. Subjects may become committed to behaviors that tend to escalate conflict; therefore, de-escalation measures should be taken with the intent of achieving voluntary compliance, which is the desired outcome of all police-citizen encounters.
  6. Based on the assessment of the situation made by officers on the scene, officers should consider using additional resources if available to de-escalate the situation. These resources may include, but are not limited to, additional officers, supervisors, Crisis Intervention Team members or Crisis Intervention Team trained officers, and mental health professionals.
  7. When the officer reasonably believes that a subject is compliant, all applications of force shall cease.

**VII. RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE MODEL**

This Department subscribes to, and trains its officers in, the concept of controlling **resistance** with techniques that employ reasonable force relative to the **subject's** actions. As the level of resistance increases, so may appropriate levels of response. **This model is not a linear model; officers are not required to progress through each level of response in ascending order. Officers shall determine the appropriate level or response based on the totality of the circumstances.**

Levels of resistance from a subject	Response options permitted if reasonable under the circumstances
Psychological Intimidation	<b>Verbal Direction</b>
Verbal Non-compliance (Oral refusal to comply)	<b>Handcuffing, detention,</b> or any level of response previously listed

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Passive Resistance (Ignoring officer's commands but taking no further action to resist)	Soft Empty Hand Control or any level of response previously listed
<b>Active Resistance</b>	Oleoresin Capsicum Aerosols, Hard Empty Hand Control or any level of response previously listed
<b>Aggravated Active Resistance</b>	<b>Impact weapons, chemical agents, TEW,</b> or any level of response previously listed
<b>Deadly Force Assault</b> ( <b>Subject's</b> behavior likely to cause death or serious physical injury)	Deadly Force, or any level of response previously listed

**VIII. MEDICAL CARE AFTER FORCE**

- A. Officers have a duty to provide necessary medical care within the scope of their training and ability. When tactically safe to do so, officers will immediately request the response of emergency medical personnel after a force incident when injuries to an individual are present, likely, or the individual requests treatment.**
- B. Anytime force is used, officers shall assess the individual for signs of injury and ask if an injury occurred.**
- C. Officers shall not refuse medical treatment to the individual solely because injuries are not obvious.**

**IX. USE OF NONDEADLY FORCE - REGULATIONS**

- A. When tactically practical, officers should assess the situation and attempt to de-escalate before using nondeadly force. When the use of nondeadly force is necessary, officers shall use methods or techniques that are appropriate based on the totality of circumstances to resolve the situation.**

**B. Parameters for Use of Nondeadly Force**

Officers are authorized to use nondeadly force, including the use of Department-approved less lethal weapons for resolution of incidents, as follows:

- 1. To protect themselves or another from physical harm; or
- 2. To restrain or subdue a resistant **subject**; or
- 3. To bring an unlawful situation under control safely and effectively.

**C. TEW Regulations**

- 1. **Officers may deploy a TEW only when objectively reasonable under the totality of the circumstances, consistent with the Fourth Amendment and applicable state law. Review M 003, "Department Authorized Weapons Manual," for additional information. Deployment may be appropriate in circumstances including:**
  - a. **A subject is exhibiting aggravated active resistance; or**
  - b. **Lesser force options are ineffective or inappropriate under the totality of circumstances; or**

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- c. Deployment is reasonably likely to gain control of the subject while minimizing the risk of injury.
2. Unless extenuating circumstances (i.e. subject committed a dangerous felony) exist, the TEW should not be used on subjects who are only verbally non-compliant or are fleeing without presenting a threat of harm.
3. Officers should issue a clear verbal warning before TEW deployment when feasible and tactically appropriate.
4. **TEW Targeting Guidelines**
  - a. In situations where deadly force is not justified, Officers should direct the TEW to the below anatomical zones:
    - 1) Front: Lower center mass, below the chest (avoiding head, throat, chest and genitals)
    - 2) Back: Below the neck.
  - b. Unless deadly force is justified, Officers shall avoid intentional targeting of the face, eyes, throat, chest, or genitals.
5. **Deployment Restrictions**
  - a. The TEW should not be used:
    - 1) From or into a moving vehicle.
    - 2) On handcuffed subjects unless actively resisting in a manner that cannot be reasonably controlled otherwise.
    - 3) On subjects in elevated positions, operating vehicles, near flammable or explosive environments, or in water where incapacitation may create an undue risk of death or serious injury.
  - b. Officers shall avoid multiple or prolonged cycles unless necessary to counter an immediate threat. Each TEW trigger pull or cycle must be objectively justified under the totality of the circumstances.
  - c. In determining whether a TEW cycle is justified, officers shall consider the heightened effect of TEW deployments on sensitive populations including, but not limited to, elderly, pregnant, small children, visibly frail or underweight individuals.
6. **Post-Deployment Responsibilities**
  - a. Officers shall:
    - 1) Immediately handcuff and secure the subject when safe to do so.
    - 2) Summon medical assistance and monitor the subject's condition throughout custody.

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- 3) **Remove probes or ensure medical personnel remove them. Medical personnel shall remove probes from the genitals, face, or throat. Officers shall not remove probes from the genitals, face, or throat.**
- b. **Supervisors shall be notified promptly and respond to the scene as soon as practical.**
7. **Each TEW deployment shall be fully documented in the officer's investigative report and the supervisor's use of force report to include the following documentation:**
  - a. **TEW serial number and cartridge information; and**
  - b. **Subject's behavior and resistance level; and**
  - c. **Warnings given; and**
  - d. **If warnings were not given, the reason warnings were not safe or feasible; and**
  - e. **Number and duration of cycle(s) delivered, and their effectiveness; and**
  - f. **Probe placement and any injuries; and**
  - g. **Medical care provided; and**
  - h. **Witnesses, video evidence, and any other relevant circumstances.**

X. USE OF DEADLY FORCE - REGULATIONS

- A. **If de-escalation and nondeadly force options have been exhausted or would not be feasible, and no other reasonable alternative exists, officers may use deadly force to:**
  1. **Protect themselves or others from what is reasonably believed to be an imminent threat of death or serious physical injury; or**
  2. **Effect the capture or prevent the escape of a subject, but only when officer has probable cause to believe that all of the following factors are present:**
    - a. **The subject poses a serious, immediate threat; and**
    - b. **The subject committed or attempted to commit a felony; and**
    - c. **The crime involved the use or threatened use of deadly force; and**
    - d. **There is a substantial risk that allowing the fleeing subject to escape will cause death or serious physical injury to someone if apprehension is delayed; and**
    - e. **A lesser level of force is realistically unavailable.**
- B. **If feasible, a verbal warning shall be given prior to the use of deadly force.**

XI. USE OF FORCE CRITICAL INCIDENT REPORTING

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- A. A **use of force** critical incident has occurred when: **an officer discharges their firearm at another individual, intentionally strikes an individual with a vehicle, or inflicts serious physical injury upon another individual.**
- B. When an officer has been shot, or an officer has inflicted a **serious physical injury** upon another **individual, or an officer discharges their firearm with no known injury or injury unknown**, the Bureau of Communications shall be notified immediately either by the officer involved in the incident or the first police officer on the scene.
- C. **Once the scene is safe and as soon as practical, officers** at the scene of such an incident are responsible for ensuring that medical care, **consistent with their training, is rendered to anyone who has visible injuries, complains of being injured, or requests medical attention. Officers are also responsible for requesting medical aid, when necessary.**
- D. The Bureau of Communications shall make the required notifications, including the summoning of emergency medical aid as required. **The Bureau of Communications shall also notify the on-duty watch commander, Bureau of Crimes Against Persons, Crime Scene Unit, the Camera Systems Section, and the Public Information Office, all of whom must immediately respond to the scene. The Bureau of Professional Standards shall also be notified. The Bureau of Professional Standards will determine whether to respond to the scene on a case-by-case basis.**
- E. The watch commander shall:
  - 1. Respond to the scene and be responsible for the command and protection of the scene until the arrival of the Crimes Against Persons investigator(s); and
  - 2. Assist, as necessary, in the investigation of the incident and arrange to have a police officer assigned to the Division of Patrol prepare the original report, **if requested by the Division of Criminal Investigation.**
- F. When an officer has **inflicted a serious physical injury** upon any **individual, discharged their firearm at any individual**, or when an officer has been shot or is the victim of first-degree assault, the Bureau of Crimes Against Persons shall investigate the circumstances of the incident.
- G. If an officer has **discharged their firearm at an individual or inflicted a serious physical injury**, then:
  - 1. The on-duty supervisor, **Bureau of Crimes Against Persons**, shall evaluate the use of deadly force and **make a recommendation as to whether the use of force was** in accordance with this Order; **and**
  - 2. At the conclusion of the investigation, the on-duty supervisor, **Bureau of Crimes Against Persons**, shall prepare a **Supervisor's Use of Force report in the ARS**, forwarding it through the chain of command to the **Bureau of Professional Standards, who will then forward it to the Chief of Police.** This report shall accompany a copy of the original report and **provide support for the analysis** of the use of deadly force in accordance with this Order.
- H. Upon notification **that an officer has discharged their firearm**, or at the request of the officer's commanding officer, the Bureau of Professional Standards will open a **Use of Force** Administrative Review.
- I. A copy of the completed investigative report shall be forwarded by the Division of Criminal Investigation to the **Bureau of Professional Standards through the Department's ARS. The Bureau of Professional Standards will then forward it to the** Chief of Police.

**XII. DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS AGAINST ANIMALS**

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- A. Officers may discharge a firearm to destroy a non-domesticated injured animal. In addition, officers may discharge a firearm to destroy any animal that is actively attacking any individual or another domestic animal. Officers shall do the following for these incidents:**
1. Activate their body camera to record the entire incident;
  2. **Clear the area of spectators if possible;**
  3. **If possible, notify the Bureau of Communications before discharge;**
  4. **Notify a supervisor that an animal has been destroyed; and**
  5. **Destroying a non-domesticated or a domesticated animal is considered a weapon discharge and shall be tracked using the Department's ARS.**
- B. If feasible, before using deadly force to stop an attacking animal, officers may consider using other nondeadly options such as batons, Oleoresin Capsicum Aerosol, and TEW. These uses shall also be tracked using the Department's ARS.**

**XIII. PROHIBITED FIREARM DISCHARGE**

Firearms Shall Not be Discharged Under the Following Circumstances:

1. As a warning shot.
2. At or from a moving vehicle, unless the occupant(s) of the vehicle represents a direct and immediate threat to the life or safety of the officer or **another individual**, and then only as a last resort.

Officers shall avoid tactics that could place them in a position where a vehicle could be used as a weapon against them (i.e. reaching into the vehicle to turn the car off and secure the keys, approaching the vehicle from the front, etc.). When confronted with an oncoming vehicle, officers shall make every attempt to move out of its path.

**XIV. NONDEADLY USE OF FORCE REPORTING PROCEDURES**

- A.** In situations where nondeadly force is used, the precinct watch commander/supervisor and/or bureau commander/supervisor must respond to the scene. **If the commander/supervisor is unable to immediately respond, they shall contact the nearest precinct watch commander/supervisor to request they respond to the scene.** When an officer or suspect has sustained a serious injury, the responding commander/supervisor must ensure that appropriate notifications are made.
1. **Officers** at the scene are responsible for ensuring that medical care **consistent with their training and referrals to medical treatment personnel are provided** to anyone in need of such treatment. A fit for confinement will be obtained any time an impact weapon or impact munitions (e.g., Baton, bean bag/sock round, etc.) are used on a **subject**.
  2. The commander/supervisor on the scene is responsible for ensuring:
    - a. A thorough investigation is conducted, and a complete area canvass is immediately undertaken to locate, identify and interview all witnesses to the incident; and

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- b. **Any available video surveillance from outside sources (i.e. doorbell security video, home video surveillance, business video surveillance, cell phone video, etc.) shall be collected and forwarded to the Bureau of Professional Standards; and**
  - c. Anyone arrested **because of** the incident is escorted in an ambulance or transported in a police vehicle by an officer not **physically involved** in the **use of force.**; **and**
  - d. A complete and accurate police report as described in Section **XIV.,E.,1-10** is prepared and warrant application, if necessary, occurs; **and**
  - e. **If felony resisting arrest charges are sought**, the suspect shall be placed on a 24-hour hold and warrant application shall be made within that period. **If the suspect is hospitalized, warrant application shall be made within 24 hours.**
3. The investigating supervisor **must not have been** involved in the use of force. **The investigating supervisor** shall complete a Supervisor's Use of Force **Report in the Department's ARS** when nondeadly force is used. However, any statements by witnesses or suspects shall be documented in the original or supplemental police report as required in Section **XIV.,F.,1-10**. The commander/supervisor is not required to complete a supplemental police report unless the statements given to the supervisor contradict those given to the reporting officer.
  4. **Initial entry of the Supervisor's Use of Force Report shall be made within three working days of the incident.** The Supervisor's Use of Force **Report**, the police report, and any supplemental reports shall be forwarded through the chain of command to the Bureau of Professional Standards **within 30 days of the incident via the Department's ARS.**

**B. Required Investigative Report Components**

Whenever an officer uses or attempts to use force that varies from the standard handcuffing process the police report and supplemental report, if any, shall contain the following information:

1. **The original nature of the call and remarks from the dispatcher; and**
2. The number and names of officers involved in the incident, their method of arrival (marked police unit vs. unmarked vehicle) and whether the officers were in uniform or plain clothes apparel; **and**
3. **The status of body and in-car camera recordings from the incident. The report shall state which officers had body cameras and/or in-car cameras activated; and**
4. A description of the scene upon arrival; **and**
5. The **subject's** reaction to the officer(s) **and to de-escalation techniques, including:**
  - a. Verbal response(s); **and**
  - b. Body language; **and**
  - c. Physical actions.

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6. **Other information regarding the subject's condition (i.e., influence of drugs or alcohol, mental illness, emotional, etc.); and**
7. The officer's action:
  - a. Type of control methods used or attempted, **their effectiveness; and**
  - b. The duration of the **subject's** resistance; **and**
  - c. Method(s) of restraint (i.e., handcuffs, leg irons, **spit sock**, etc.); **and**
  - d. **Assessment of the subject's medical condition and overall well-being once in custody; and**
  - e. **Medical treatment provided, if applicable.**
8. Name of transporting officer, method of transport (i.e., patrol vehicle, cage car, conveyance van), transport destination, **beginning and ending patrol vehicle mileage, beginning and ending time of transport** and the **subject's** demeanor and actions during transport.

If a **subject is** transported by ambulance to an area hospital, an officer not directly involved in the incident **shall, at the discretion of a supervisor, either follow the ambulance in a patrol vehicle or ride in the ambulance. In either case, the officer shall document** the beginning and ending time of transport **to account for the duration of custody. Patrol vehicle mileage is not required in these circumstances.** Ambulance and paramedic information **shall** be included in the report.

9. Name of supervisor who interviewed witness(es), if applicable, and name(s) of any witness(es) and their statement(s).

Use of Force CARE reports will only be approved by a commissioned supervisor.

**XV. DUTY TO INTERVENE**

**All employees have a responsibility to use the appropriate level of force for each situation. Any employee who is aware of an officer that has used or attempted to use force when a subject is voluntarily compliant with an officer's direction shall notify the precinct watch commander or appropriate bureau commander immediately upon becoming aware of the use of force or attempt. Review GO 031, "Duty to Intervene," for additional information.**

**XVI. USE OF FORCE WHILE OFF-DUTY OR OUTSIDE ST. LOUIS COUNTY**

- A. **Police officers** shall follow the guidelines established in the [Department General Order 056, Off Duty Police Actions](#), when determining the appropriate response to a situation while off-duty.
- B. **If it is safe to do so, police officers should identify themselves as law enforcement officers.**
- C. **Police officers** that use force in a law enforcement capacity while off-duty or outside of St. Louis County shall immediately request the appropriate law enforcement agency to respond to the scene and comply with all legal requirements of the venue. The **police officer** shall ensure that appropriate medical care is rendered to anyone in need of such treatment.

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- D. The **police officer** shall notify the Bureau of Communications of the incident as soon as possible.
1. When the incident occurs within St. Louis County, procedures outlined previously in this Order shall be followed. **When the incident occurs** within an incorporated area **of St. Louis County**, the **officer** shall cooperate with the local authorities **in preparing their report**.
  2. When the incident occurs within an adjoining Missouri county or the City of St. Louis and the **officer** is on-duty, the Bureau of Communications shall make notification to the **officer's** bureau/watch commander who shall respond to the scene and cooperate with the local authorities in the investigation. The commander shall prepare a Supervisor's Use of Force Review and attach a copy of the investigating agency's report, **routed through the Department ARS**.
  3. **In all other use of force incidents outside St. Louis County, the Bureau of Communications shall make notification to the on-call representative of the Bureau of Professional Standards, who shall determine if a response to the scene is necessary.**
    - a. **The Bureau of Professional Standards shall prepare a Supervisor's Use of Force Review and contact the investigating agency to determine if the incident was justified.**
    - b. **A copy of the investigating agency's report shall be attached to the Supervisor's Use of Force Review and submitted to the officer's commanding officer for review.**

**XVII. SUPERVISION AND REVIEW**

**A. Command and Supervisory Responsibility**

Department commanders and supervisors have a responsibility to closely monitor the day-to-day performance of employees under their supervision. Command and supervisory personnel **shall monitor circumstances affecting employee compliance with this Order** and **should** make recommendations for specific remedial action **including** training and counseling when appropriate. Commanders and supervisors are accountable for the compliance of their subordinates with the provisions of this Order.

**B. Bureau of Professional Standards Responsibility**

1. In addition to investigating alleged acts of misconduct, the Bureau of Professional Standards will also have the responsibility of administering **the Guidance Program as mandated in Manual 010 Complaints, Investigations, and Corrective Actions or its successor**, to prevent similar complaints from occurring in the future.
2. The Bureau of Professional Standards shall conduct a documented annual analysis and publish a quarterly summary report of incidents involving the use of force by Department employees and the circumstances surrounding these incidents. The Bureau of Professional Standards shall retain the Supervisor's Use of Force Review **by use of the Department's ARS**.
3. **Annually, the Bureau of Professional Standards shall conduct a documented analysis and publish a review of all assaults on law**

***Departmental General Order 26-029, "Use of Force"***

enforcement officers to determine trends or patterns, with recommendations to enhance officer safety, revise policy, or address training issues. A copy of this report will be provided to the County and Municipal Police Academy. The published review shall be made available to the public and shall not disclose details of any individual personnel action/discipline related to an assault.

**Attachment:**

Adopted by Command Staff

By Order of:

COLONEL KENNETH GREGORY  
Chief of Police

KG;jl

Approved at the regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners dated March 18, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
COMMISSIONER  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
COMMISSIONER  
Secretary

Distribution

All Department Personnel

CALEA Reference

1.2.2, **1.2.10**, 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, 4.2.5, 4.3.4, **22.1.2**, **22.1.5**, **22.1.7**, 22.2.1, 22.2.4, **26.3.7**, 35.1.9, 41.2.4, 70.3.1, 81.2.4