



TRUMBULL POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY

	POLICY TITLE		POLICY NUMBER
	Use Of Force		7.4.5
	EFFECTIVE DATE	REVISION DATE(S)	
February 6, 2015	3/3/2017, 01/22/2019, 10/15/2019, 06/18/2020		
APPROVAL AUTHORITY SIGNATURE:			

I. PURPOSE:

- A. The purpose of this directive is to set forth the policies and procedures of the Trumbull Police Department regarding the use of force, the use of less-lethal force tools and the protocols that must be followed whenever an officer uses force in the performance of his or her duties. The nature of officers' work requires them to make fine judgments, often in dangerous and confusing circumstances, usually by relying on their internalized values, knowledge and skills rather than on direct oversight.
- B. The use of force has a profound impact on the persons who are subject to it, on the officers who deploy such force and on the families and communities of all. How the Department uses force affects how the community views the police and impacts the legitimacy of the Department in the eyes of the community.

II. POLICY:

- A. This policy provides the definitions for and expands upon the principles, language found in Trumbull Police Department Policies:
 - “Use of Force Reporting and Investigation”;
 - “Use of Deadly Force”;
 - “Qualifications and Carrying of Weapons”;
 - “Handcuffing”
- B. It is the policy of the Trumbull Police Department to value and preserve human life. Officers shall use only the force that is objectively reasonable to effectively bring an unlawful situation under control, while protecting the safety of the officer and others. Officers shall use force only when no reasonably effective alternative appears to exist and shall use only the level of force which a reasonably prudent officer would use under the same or similar circumstances.
- C. An officer shall use de-escalation techniques and other alternatives to force consistent with his or her training when possible and appropriate before resorting to force and to reduce the need for force. Whenever possible and when such delay will not compromise the safety of the officer or another and will not result in the destruction of evidence, escape of a suspect, or commission of a crime, an officer shall allow an individual time and opportunity to submit to verbal commands before force is used.
- D. Officers will be trained to consider the possibility that a subject may be noncompliant due to a medical or mental condition, physical or hearing impairment, language barrier, drug interaction, or emotional crisis.

- E. The decision to use force “requires careful attention to the facts and circumstances of each particular case, including the severity of the crime at issue, whether the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of the officer or others and whether he is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight.”
- F. In addition, “the ‘reasonableness’ of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight...the question is whether the officers’ actions are ‘objectively reasonable’ in light of the facts and circumstances confronting them.”
- G. Force shall never be used as punishment, regardless of the alleged offense. Officers who use more force than objectively reasonable to gain control of a subject or to prevent harm to another person shall be subject to severe discipline or discharge from the Department.
- H. All officers shall receive training, at least annually, on this use of force policy and related legal updates. In addition, training shall be provided on a regular and periodic basis and designed to provide techniques for the use of and reinforce the importance of de-escalation; simulate actual shooting situations and conditions; and enhance officers’ discretion and judgment in using less-lethal and deadly force in accordance with this policy. All use-of-force training shall be documented.

III. DEFINITIONS:

Acting Aggressively: The subject displays the intent to harm the officer, themselves or another person and prevent an officer from placing the subject in custody and taking control. Verbal statements alone do not constitute acting aggressively. The aggression may manifest itself through mere subtle body language to the subject taking a fighting stance, actual attack by punching, kicking, striking, attacks with weapons or other actions, which present an imminent threat of physical harm to the officer or another. This definition intersperses with Assaultive Aggressive Resistance in this policy.

Choke Holds and Neck Restraint: A physical maneuver that restricts an individual’s ability to breathe and/or causes constriction of the vascular (arteries & veins) structures of the neck, for the purposes of incapacitation. This includes but is not limited to; (1) Arm bar hold, (2) Carotid artery hold, (3) Lateral vascular neck restraints, (4) Neck restraint or hold with a knee or other object.

Critical Firearms Discharge: A discharge of a firearm by a Trumbull Officer, including accidental discharges, and discharges at persons where no one is struck (except for range training discharges and discharges for dispatch of animals).

Conducted Electric Weapon: The CEW is a less lethal weapon designed to disrupt a subject’s central nervous system by deploying battery-powered electrical energy sufficient to cause uncontrolled muscle contractions and override voluntary motor responses.

De Minimis Force: Physical interaction that does not cause pain or injury and is meant to separate, guide, and/or control a subject including compliant handcuffing.

Deadly Force: *See Lethal Force*

De-Escalation: The use of verbal and physical cues, such as words and gestures, by a responding officer to reduce the potential for a subject to resist police authority. De-escalation may include the use of such techniques as command presence, advisements, warnings, verbal persuasion, and tactical repositioning.

Excited Delirium Syndrome: A life-threatening medical emergency, disguised as a police problem. See Trumbull Police Policy *Excited Delirium Syndrome Response*.

Firearm: A pistol, revolver, shotgun, carbine or machine gun, as well as any instrument capable of discharging a bullet or shot.

Hard Hand Control: Impact oriented techniques that include knee strikes, elbow strikes, punches and kicks. Control strikes are used to subdue a subject and include strikes to pressure points such as the common peroneal nerve (side of the leg) or radial nerve (top of the forearm).

Less-Lethal Force: Any use of force other than that which is considered deadly force that involves physical effort to control, restrain, or overcome the resistance of another.

Less-Lethal Weapon: Any apprehension or restraint tool that, when used as designed and intended, is less likely to cause death or serious injury than a conventional lethal weapon (e.g., firearm). Nonetheless, use of a less-lethal weapon may result in death or serious injury.

Lethal Force: Refers to any use of force likely to cause death or serious physical injury.

Objectively Reasonable: The legal standard used to determine the lawfulness of a use of force is the Fourth Amendment to the US Constitution. The U.S. Supreme Court established this standard in its ruling in *Graham v. Connor (1989)*.

Physical Injury: Refers to any impairment of physical condition or pain.

Proportionate: The level of force applied must reflect the totality of circumstances surrounding the situation, including the presence of imminent danger to officers or others. Proportionate force does not require officers to use the same type or amount of force as the subject. The more immediate the threat and the more likely that the threat will result in death or serious physical injury, the greater the level of force that may be objectively reasonable and necessary to counter it.

Resisting Arrest/Interfering with Police: Refers to the act of a person who knowingly prevents or attempts to prevent a police officer, acting under the color of his or her official authority, from effectuating an arrest. To resist arrest includes such things as using or threatening to use physical force or violence against a law enforcement officer, or the use of any other means to create a substantial risk of physical injury to a police officer.

Serious Physical Injury: Refers to physical injury that creates substantial risk of death or causes serious disfigurement or serious impairment of health or loss or impairment of function of any bodily organ.

Soft Hand Control: The use of physical strength and skill in defensive tactics to control subjects that are reluctant to be taken into custody and offer some degree of physical resistance. Such techniques are not impact-oriented and include pain compliance pressure points, takedowns, joint locks, and simply grabbing a subject. Touching or escort holds may be appropriate for use against levels of passive physical resistance.

Taser Deployment: Does not include the mere removal of the Taser from the holster, but does include any use of a Taser against any person, including the illumination of the laser sight onto an individual.

Use of Force: Any physical coercion used to effect, influence, or persuade an individual to comply with an order from an officer, which rises above De Minimis force as defined above, against a person, including actively pointing a firearm or the illuminated laser of a Taser at a person.

IV. PROCEDURES:

A. Use of Force Principles:

1. Officers shall use advisements, warnings, and verbal persuasion, when possible and safe to do so, before resorting to force.
2. Officers will allow individuals the opportunity to submit to arrest before force is used whenever possible.
3. Officers will use de-escalation techniques whenever possible and appropriate, before resorting to force and to reduce the need for force. De-escalation techniques may include verbal persuasion, warnings and tactical de-escalation techniques, such as slowing down the pace of an incident, waiting out subjects, creating distance (and thus the reactionary gap) between the Officer and the threat and requesting additional resources (e.g., specialized CIT Officers or Negotiators).
4. Officers should take reasonable care that their actions do not precipitate an unnecessary, unreasonable, or disproportionate use of force, by placing themselves or others in jeopardy or by not following policy or training. Officers should continually assess the situation and changing circumstances and modulate the use of force appropriately.
5. All uses of physical force shall be discontinued when resistance ceases or when the incident is under control.
6. Control is reached when a person either complies with an officer's directions or is restrained or apprehended and no longer presents a threat to the officer or others. Since officers will encounter a wide range of behaviors, they must be prepared to utilize a range of force options to maintain and/or reestablish control by overcoming resistance to the officers' lawful authority while minimizing injuries, bearing in mind that the use of force must be reasonably necessary under the circumstances.
7. Once the scene is safe and as soon as practical, officers shall provide appropriate medical care consistent with his/her training to any individual who has visible injuries, complains of being injured, or requests medical attention. This may include providing first aid, requesting EMS, and/or arranging for transportation to an emergency medical facility.
8. Physical force shall not be used against individuals in restraints, except as objectively reasonable to prevent their escape or prevent imminent bodily injury to the individual, the officer, or another person. In these situations, only the minimal amount of force necessary to control the situation shall be used.
9. Positional Asphyxia is a condition, which has been linked to in-custody death. During force encounters, officers should attempt to use less-lethal tools and manpower to restrain an un-armed combative subject's extremities in lieu of pinning the subject face down by the torso which can restrict breathing. Once a subject is handcuffed or restrained, the subject will not be placed or left face down (prone) and adequate breathing and consciousness will be assessed.
10. Duty to intervene and report:
 - a. An officer has a duty to intervene to prevent or stop the use of unreasonable, excessive or illegal use of force by another.
 - b. Any officer who directly observes a use of force that is unreasonable, excessive or otherwise in violation of this policy and/or a violation of state or federal statute (illegal) shall contact a supervisor as soon as practicable.

- c. An officer who has knowledge of excessive, unreasonable or illegal use of force used against a person shall notify a supervisor and submit a written incident report to a supervisor in a timely fashion.
 - d. Retaliation or harassment of any officer who intervenes in, who reports or cooperates with any internal investigation regarding unreasonable, excessive or illegal force is strictly prohibited and may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.
11. The Trumbull Police Department explicitly prohibits choke holds or neck restraints as defined in Section III of this policy or strikes to a subject's head with a hard object except where lethal force is authorized.
 12. Pointing a firearm at a person shall be reported in the same manner as a use of force, and shall be done only as objectively reasonable to accomplish a lawful police objective.
 13. All uses of force shall be reported, documented and investigated pursuant to Trumbull Police Department policies.

B. Categories of Resistance:

1. It is important for officers to bear in mind that there are many reasons a suspect may be resisting arrest or be non-compliant. The person in question may not be capable of understanding the gravity of the situation. Officers must consider several factors when dealing with a non-compliant subject. A subject may be non-compliant due to a medical condition, mental, physical, or hearing impairment, language barrier, drug interaction or emotional crisis and have no criminal intent. This may not make the subject any less dangerous but it may require a change in tactics that will be more effective while maintaining officer safety.
 - a. Compliant - Subject offers no resistance, submits to commands.
 - b. Passive Resistance - The subject is not complying with an officer's commands and is uncooperative, but is taking only minimal physical action to prevent an officer from placing the subject in custody and taking control. Examples include: standing stationary and not moving upon lawful direction, falling limply and refusing to use their own power to move (becoming "dead weight"), holding onto a fixed object, or locking arms to another during a protest or demonstration.
 - c. Active Resistance - The subject's verbal or physical actions are intended to prevent an officer from placing the subject in custody and taking control, but are not directed at harming the officer. Examples include: walking or running away, breaking the officer's grip.
 - d. Assaultive Aggressive Resistance (Physical Injury) - A subject whose resistance causes or has the potential to cause, physical injury to the officer, others, or self. This includes a subject's attempts to make physical contact in an attempt to control or assault the officer and prevent an officer from placing the subject in custody and taking control. The aggression may manifest itself through a subject taking a fighting stance, punching, kicking, striking, attacks with weapons or other actions which present an imminent threat of physical harm to the officer or another.
 - e. Assaultive Aggressive Resistance (Serious Physical Injury/Death) - A subject whose resistance causes, or has the potential to cause, serious physical injury or death to the officer, others, or self. These actions may include a use or threatening display of firearm, use of blunt or bladed weapon, and extreme physical force.

C. Levels of Control:

1. When a use of force is needed, officers will assess each incident to determine, based on policy, training and experience, which use of force option is believed to be appropriate for the situation and bring it under control in a safe and prudent manner. Officers must use the amount of force that is objectively reasonable to overcome resistance in order to take lawful police action. The level of control must be proportionate to the circumstances and the level of resistance encountered by the officers.

Level - 1 Force: The level of control necessary to interact with a subject that is displaying Passive or Non-Assaultive Active Resistance. This level of force is not intended to cause injury and has a low-probability of causing injury. Examples are handcuffing a non-compliant passively resisting arrestee or pointing a firearm at a suspect during a high-risk vehicle stop. This level of force includes:

- Soft empty hand controls
- A weaponless defense technique is applied to a vulnerable area, excluding strikes (e.g., hair grab, pressure to mastoid or jaw line; and shoulder muscle grab)
- A weaponless defense technique control hold is applied: (1) Escort (elbow); (2) Twist lock; (3) Arm-bar; or (4) Bent-wrist
- Pointing a firearm at a suspect
- Laser pointing a Taser at suspect

Level - 2 Force: The level of force necessary to compel compliance by a subject displaying Aggressive Resistance, which is neither likely nor intended to cause death. This level of force includes:

- Hard Empty Hand Control (Takedown with injury, Strikes, Kicks)
- Baton/Impact Weapons (Jabs, Strikes)
- Any strike to the head (except for an intentional strike with an impact weapon)
- Any Level 1 resulting in suspect injury
- OC Spray
- Taser
- K-9 (with bites)

Level - 3 Force: Actions taken when an Officer has a reasonable belief that the subject of such force poses an imminent danger of serious physical injury or death to the officer or to another person. This level of force includes:

- Any use of force resulting in death
- Any critical firearm discharge regardless of injury
- Any force which creates a substantial risk of causing death
- Any intentional impact weapon strike to the head
- Any Level 1 or 2 resulting in serious physical injury to suspect

D. Less-Lethal Weapons:

1. The Trumbull Police Department utilizes less-lethal force weapons in addition to empty-handed defensive tactics. These weapons are to only be carried and used by Officers trained in

accordance with acceptable Connecticut Police Officers Standards and Training Council.

Authorized less-lethal weapons are:

- Oleoresin Capsicum Cone Spray
 - Police Canines
 - Conducted Electrical Weapons (Taser Models X26 and X26P)
 - Impact Baton
- a. All department members are required to carry at least one less-lethal tool when on duty or at a detail. Device-specific guidelines are contained in the following subsections.
 - b. Authorized Officers are responsible for the general care and safeguarding of the less-lethal devices issued to them, and may be subject to disciplinary action for any loss or damage resulting from negligence by the officer. Inspection, inventory controls and accountability for all equipment and devices will be maintained by the quartermaster and shift supervisors. Any department issued device damaged during an incident or lost, the officer shall complete a report to their Supervisor detailing the circumstances.
 - c. Under no circumstances shall an officer of this Department carry any weapon on duty that has not been authorized by this Department.

E. Use of Specific Less-Lethal Force Tools:

Oleoresin Capsicum (O.C.) Spray:

1. Oleoresin Capsicum (O.C.) is cayenne (red) pepper in a mixture of a resin and oil combined with an aerosol propellant. It is classified as an inflammatory agent with low toxicity and minimal acute or chronic health hazards. It is not classified as a hazardous chemical.
2. Effects of O.C. vary in the way the product has been manufactured and delivered. However, as a general rule a one to two-second burst to the face upon contact will affect three major areas: 1) the eyes, 2) the respiratory system, and 3) the skin and the upper and/or lower body. All effects are temporary and will usually completely disappear within 30 to 45 minutes.
3. Officers shall only carry and use department-issued O.C. Spray and shall inspect the unit for defects and expiration regularly. Report and turn in O.C. Spray not operable or expired to quartermaster.
4. Use of Aerosol Chemical Devices Containing Oleoresin Capsicum (O.C.):
 - O.C. Spray is an intermediate use of force (Level2) and may be utilized as a compliance tool on a subject offering, at a minimum, aggressive resistance and when it is necessary to defend against an unarmed aggressor or to apprehend or restrain a subject to overcome active resistance before resorting to hands on defense.
 - Whenever possible, if spray is necessary, either officer yells "O.C.!" or "Spray!" before spraying.
 - Use will be in accordance with policy after training on its proper use by a certified instructor.
 - O.C. can be used against dangerous animals.
 - OC Spray issued by Trumbull Police Department is Non-Flammable.
5. Deployment of O.C. Spray:
 - Ready the O.C. canister for use.

- Restate lawful order or notice of arrest and warn subject of intent to use O.C.
- O.C. must be sprayed with the canister in an upright position. Use caution in windy conditions.
- Spray directly into face aiming at the eyes and brow with a one-second burst.
- Immediately create a safe distance between yourself and the subject by employing lateral movement, if possible. Spray and evade.
- Avoid spraying other Officers.
- Under most conditions, O.C. spray will create a pause in aggressive behavior, allowing for handcuffing.
- One officer should be the handcuffing officer; a second officer should act as the covering officer.
- If resistance is expected, the covering Officer should have his or her O.C. canister in a ready position, and be positioned at an angle from the suspect.
- O.C. may not work against every subject. Subjects with reduced sensitivity to pain may have little or slow reaction to the deployment of O.C. spray.
- Officers must justify each separate application of O.C. spray, after the initial application of O.C. spray. Each subsequent spray must also be articulated by the Officer as justified.

6. Post O.C. Deployment:

- Decontamination should take place as soon as possible when safe and feasible but no more than 20 minutes after deployment.
- Place subject in an area of fresh air and wash affected areas with running water, use paper towels to pat dry (do not rub the skin or allow the subject to rub his or her skin).
- Provide medical care if requested or necessary according to the Officer's judgment or the Supervisor's judgment if on scene by that time. The sprayed subject may be treated at the scene by EMS prior to transportation in a cruiser.
- A sprayed person should be instructed NOT to rub their eyes, as this will only exacerbate the burning-like symptoms.
- Remove contact lenses or contaminated clothing.

Impact Weapon (Baton):

1. The Collapsible Baton is carried by Trumbull Police Department Officers as governed by their individual training received on each type of baton. The baton is to be used for defensive and control purposes only. Baton is an intermediate (Level 2) use of force to be used by officers to defend themselves or other persons from at minimum assaultive aggressive resistance.
2. A Department issued flashlight is not an authorized impact weapon unless the following criteria are strictly met: Officer is already holding the light, is facing imminent injurious assault and cannot safely transition to any other less-lethal weapon. The light may then be utilized as an impact weapon in accordance with this policy.
3. When the Baton is carried by uniformed officers it will be on the officer's weak side (opposite the gun side) of the equipment belt.
4. Officers of this Department will only carry Department-issued Baton and the weapon shall not be altered in any way.
5. The Baton should not be raised above the head to deliver a baton strike.

6. There are three categories of target areas on the body for strikes relative to force exerted by the subject. The officers' use of force should take into consideration escalating and de-escalating options based on the threat assessment, officer/subject factors and the probability of severe injury.
 - a. The primary target areas on the body: when the subject is actively resisting an officer are the upper arm, forearm, buttocks, inside of the wrist, thigh, calf, abdomen, shin, back of the hand, and instep. EXCEPT FOR THE HEAD, NECK, SPINE, AND SOLAR PLEXUS, the whole body is a primary target area for the application of control device blocking and restraint skills.
 - b. The secondary target areas are for confrontations where the subject is assaulting an officer or another person, or when force applied to a primary target area fails to overcome resistance or does not correspond with the threat level. Secondary target areas consist of the collarbone, groin, knee joint, elbow joint, rib cage and upper abdomen.
 - c. The third and final target areas are designed for confrontations where the subject is attempting to cause serious physical injury to an officer or another; or situations where force to lower level areas fail to overcome the resistance and end the confrontation. These target areas are the head, neck, solar plexus, kidney, sternum, spine and tailbone. Physical force directed to these areas pose a greater risk of injury to the subject and in certain cases may result in unconsciousness, serious physical injury, or death.
7. Post-Baton Strike (Deployment):
 - a. Officers shall render medical treatment after subject is handcuffed and controlled including first aid and shall summon EMS to the scene for treatment and/or transport if indicated.

Conducted Electrical Weapon (TASER):

General Guidelines:

1. The TASER Model X26 and X26P Conducted Electrical Weapons (CEW) utilized by the Trumbull Police Department are manufactured by TASER International, Inc. When properly used, the TASER generates an electrical current that dominates the existing neuromuscular and sensory nervous system. Subjects become physically incapacitated and unable to control muscle movement, allowing officers to gain control.
2. The CEW herein referred to as a TASER, is an intermediate (Level 2) use of force and may be used when probable cause for arrest or detention are present and the subject is actively or aggressively resisting or such force is necessary to protect the officer, the subject, or another party from immediate physical harm.
3. A TASER shall be issued to and handled or deployed only by officers who have completed the Department's TASER Training Program or a TASER Training Program from TASER International. All TASER certified Officers shall carry the TASER when on duty.
4. The TASER has a red dot laser and a built in flashlight that activates as soon as the unit is turned on. Officers shall activate Body-Worn cameras when a TASER is unholstered.
5. All TASER discharges (i.e. accidental) except for training shall be reported to the officer's Supervisor.
6. All TASERS and associated equipment shall be properly secured when not in use in a secure storage location. Any TASER issued from the armory will only be taken after proper supervisory

authorization (i.e. daily line-up or special duty). Whether issued permanently or taken out, Serial number of TASER will be reported to and recorded by a Department Supervisor on the Daily Line-Up Form. If taken, TASER will be returned to armory prior to going off-duty.

- a. Upon acquiring a TASER, Officer shall perform readiness tests per manufacturer's training and instructions, including:
 - 1) Turn unit on (arm) by safety switch, check battery level readout; replace when the battery percentage reaches 20%.
 - 2) If error code in readout or any defect or damage is noted, place TASER out of service.
 - 3) Assure there is at least one spare cartridge attached or in holster, check that both cartridge's blast doors are intact. Always point the TASER in a safe direction and never cover blast doors with your hand/fingers when handling, removing or attaching cartridges.
 - 4) Remove cartridge, Point the TASER in a safe direction and conduct spark test.
 - 5) Turn unit off (safety on) replace cartridge and holster the TASER.
7. Only properly functioning TASERS shall be issued for field use. A TASER found to be malfunctioning or damaged will be turned over to Officer's Supervisor and a replacement issued. Supervisor will secure defective TASER in Sergeant's evidence closet and forward an E-mail to department TASER Instructor(s) for repair.
8. The TASER shall be carried in an approved holster on the side of the body opposite the service handgun if it is to be worn in a waist holster or a thigh holster. Officers not assigned to uniformed patrol may be authorized to utilize other Department-approved holsters and carry the device consistent with Department training and the requirement as set out in this paragraph.
9. Officers shall carry with the TASER (attached or in holster), a minimum of one spare cartridge as a backup in case of cartridge failure, the need for redeployment, or in case the first cartridge's leads break during engagement.
10. The spare cartridges shall be stored with TASER in HQ and carried in a manner consistent with training and the cartridges replaced consistent with the manufacturer's expiration requirements.

TASER Deployment:

1. Unless doing so would place any person at risk, officers shall issue a verbal warning to the subject that the TASER will be used prior to discharging a TASER on the subject.
2. When aiming the TASER at a subject and deploying a cartridge from the TASER, frontal shots are strongly discouraged except in situations of self-defense or defense of another. The TASER should never be aimed at an individual's head, neck, eyes, throat, chest/breast, or genitals. The preferred target area is the back of the individual actively resisting arrest.
3. Depressing the trigger on the TASER will propel two darts from the attached cartridge tethered by two wires 25 feet in length. Once the TASER is fired, it will automatically cycle for five seconds if the trigger is released. The X26 TASER will continue to cycle if the trigger remains depressed, The X26P TASER will not. The officer can turn it off before the five-second cycle stops by the safety (on/off) switch. However, it is recommended that officers permit the TASER to cycle for the full five seconds to maximize effectiveness.
4. It is necessary for both darts in a cartridge to hit some part of the suspect's clothing or body for total incapacitation. If only one dart penetrates the subject, the TASER is ineffective. Should this occur and the subject continues to act aggressively, place the TASER with cartridge still attached, against the subject's body to complete the circuit, causing complete incapacitation.

5. Verbal commands should be used constantly before, during and after the deployment of the TASER to warn the subject to cease his/her aggressive demeanor or action.
6. The subject should be secured as soon as practical, ideally while incapacitated by the TASER (during the cycle) to minimize the number of deployment cycles. When present cover Officers should be assigned and prepared to handcuff the subject while energized. The officer shall energize the subject the least number of times and no longer than necessary to accomplish the legitimate operational objective.
7. In determining the need for additional energy cycles, officers should be aware that an energized subject may not be able to respond to commands during or immediately following exposure. Officers may assess the effectiveness of each application and determine whether further applications are warranted or a different tactic should be employed. Each application of the TASER should be independently justifiable. Officers should only deploy the TASER to the extent necessary to gain control of the subject.
8. Except where Lethal Force is authorized, officers will NOT use a TASER:
 - a. When a deployment may cause serious physical injury or death from situational hazards, including falling from height, losing control of a moving vehicle, or becoming ignited from the presence of potentially explosive or flammable materials or substances or;
 - b. The subject is visibly pregnant, apparently elderly, a child, visibly frail, has obviously low body mass, or is in apparent medical crisis.
9. Officers will not use a TASER on fleeing persons who do not pose a threat of physical harm to officers, other civilians, or themselves.
10. A TASER will NOT be used on handcuffed or restrained persons, except when the subject is displaying aggressive physical resistance and lesser means would be ineffective (or have been tried and failed).
11. A TASER should be aimed by use of the aiming laser(s) when possible. Fixed sights shall be used when the laser sight(s) are ineffective or as a secondary aiming tool.
12. Officers will not employ more than three cycles of a TASER against a subject during a single incident. Officers will consider transitioning to alternative control measures if the subject does not respond to TASER applications.
13. Officers may use a TASER in “drive stun” (contact mode) when and to the extent that it is objectively reasonable. Deployment of the TASER in drive stun mode from a policy perspective, is no different than a cartridge deployment. It is important to note that when the device is deployed in this manner, it is primarily a pain compliance tool, is minimally effective compared to a conventional cartridge deployment and is more likely to leave marks on the subject’s skin.
14. Officers should not intentionally activate more than one TASER at a time against a subject.
15. As soon as reasonably possible, a supervisor should be requested to respond to the scene of a potential or completed TASER deployment.
16. The TASER should not be deployed:
 - In a punitive or coercive manner.
 - On any subject demonstrating only passive resistance.
 - As a torture device.

Post TASER Deployment:

1. Probes are not to be removed unless interfering with needed emergency medical treatment.
2. Subjects who have received an electrical charge from the TASER unit or probes shall be medically treated as follows:
 - a. If possible preceding a pending deployment or after the subject is safely restrained, Officers shall request EMS for a subject of "TASER deployment".
 - b. Officers shall assess breathing, level of consciousness and immediately provide medical treatment if indicated. Continue to monitor condition until relieved by EMS personnel. On arrival of EMS, if the probes penetrated the skin, the puncture sites shall be brought to the attention of medical personnel.
 - c. EMS personnel are directed by the Sponsor Hospital Council of Greater Bridgeport to transport all subjects of a TASER activation to the hospital Emergency Department. EMS is further directed not to accept a patient refusal in such circumstances.
 - d. EMS is directed not to remove the TASER darts unless (a) the darts are impeding treatment and (b) EMS receives permission to remove the darts from Police personnel.
 - e. Officers observing the subject fall from a standing position when TASER is deployed will inform EMS of distance and position of landing for potential injury mechanism.

Evidence Collection Following Taser Deployment:

1. The spent air cartridge and probes shall be collected and preserved as evidence. Caution should be exercised in handling probes that have penetrated a subject's skin. Such probes shall be packaged and handled with the same care as a hypodermic needle and shall be packaged in a suitable container to prevent accidental infection. The probes shall be labeled as a biohazard when submitted as evidence.
2. Take photos of any injuries (or lack thereof) and place them into evidence, Collect expended cartridge(s), probes, AFIDs and place into evidence.
3. The deploying officer is responsible removing the TASER from service until such time as the deployment report is downloaded from the TASER's data port. A supervisor or TASER instructor trained to recover the deployment data shall perform this function. Once a printed report is obtained, the TASER may return to service. A copy of the printed report shall include the date prior to the deployment, the date of deployment on a subject and the day after if available, and then attached to *Use Of Force Report (TPD Form 98)* forwarded to the records division for inclusion in the case file. Records will forward per Department policy (*See Use of Force Reporting and Investigation policy*).

Police Canine:

General Principles:

1. Canine Unit will train twice monthly and certify its Officers semi-annually.
2. Canine Unit will have a unit policy (*See TPD Canine Policy*) which at minimum, will address training requirements and standards for safe handling and control of the dog when:
 - The dog is on leash and off leash,
 - Tracking and apprehending suspects,
 - Used for building search,

- Used for crowd control, and
 - The dog is ordered to bite and the dog is ordered to release a bite.
3. Due to the potential risks, handlers who are not capable of demonstrating such handling and control shall not be active in the field until the situation is rectified.
 4. No handler is permitted to train the police dog in methods, techniques, or activities contrary to the accepted methods used by the Canine Unit.
 5. Police Canines shall be deployed as a force tactic only when objectively reasonable.
 6. No handler shall use their police dog solely to intimidate, coerce, or frighten any person.

Canine Deployment Announcements:

1. If feasible, officers shall issue a verbal warning to the suspect prior to deploying a police canine as a force tactic and wait a reasonable time to allow subjects to comply. The announcement shall advise that failure to comply with the officers' commands will result in the release of a trained police canine and they will be bitten if they do not comply.
2. Prior to deploying a canine in any structure or enclosed contained area a loud announcement shall be made and repeated. This announcement is intended to notify persons within the containment area of the intent to utilize a canine team and to afford suspects the opportunity to surrender to the police. The announcement shall say that there are police officers on the premises and that a trained police canine will be released and may bite you if you do not surrender. The announcement shall be clear, consider any language barriers, loud and audible to all personnel at the operation.
3. Containment personnel shall confirm hearing the canine announcements prior to initiating a search.
4. A warning shall be repeated as the search proceeds and the canine team reaches a different floor, or parts of the building or other area where the initial announcement may not have been heard.
5. A decision not to make a deployment announcement shall be made by a Sergeant or higher. The circumstances under which an announcement may be dispensed with are:
 - The foreknowledge that there is likely to be one or more suspects armed with guns or another instrumentality likely to result in death or serious physical injury
 - In a contained location where an officer ambush is possible, combined with a tactical demand for stealth or surprise based upon strong considerations of officer safety, and no reasonable alternative will suffice to extract the suspects.

Canine Deployment:

1. Canine handlers will only allow their canines to physically engage or bite a suspect if there is a reasonable belief or if it is known that the suspect is armed with a weapon or other instrumentality capable of producing death or serious physical injury or otherwise poses an imminent threat of death or serious physical injury to the handler or others or is engaged in active aggression or escaping.

2. In the case of a subject who has been located in hiding, handlers will not allow their canine to seize and extract the suspect if a lower level of force could reasonably be expected to control the suspect or allow for the apprehension to be made safely.
3. Canine teams should not be used to apprehend anyone suspected to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol if no other serious crime is involved, nor the mentally disturbed or disabled if no other serious crime is involved, unless the subject is armed with a weapon or other instrumentality capable of producing death or serious physical injury and attempts to do harm to officers, self or others.
4. Should a bite occur, the handler will as rapidly as possible determine if the suspect is armed and call off the dog at the first possible moment the canine can be safely released.
5. When deciding to call off the dog, particular attention must be given to the perceived threat or actual resistance presented by the suspect. Handlers will continue to factor into their call-off decision that the average person will struggle if being seized or confronted by a canine. This struggling, alone, will not be cause for not calling off the canine.
6. It is prohibited to use canines for crowd control situations at peaceful demonstrations. During a riot or other major unlawful assembly, after an order to disperse has been made, and only with a specific approval of the Chief of Police or his or her designee, canines may be used. In these situations, canines shall be short-leashed at all times to protect the public from serious injury, and the handler shall not be permitted to initiate any offensive action, unless to prevent imminent death or serious physical injury.

Off-Leash Canine Deployments:

1. Off-leash canine deployments, searches, and other instances presenting a significant risk of a canine bite to a suspect or others shall be limited to searches for armed felony or armed misdemeanor suspects, wanted for a serious crime, particularly one of violence, where there is a clear danger of death or serious physical injury to the officer or others. In all other instances, searches must be on-leash.
2. This policy requires canine officers to have approval from an immediate supervisor before the canine can be deployed off-leash. The supervisor shall make certain that all requirements have been met prior to giving authorization.
3. All off-leash deployment of the Canine requires:
 - A secure perimeter be established and maintained.
 - Announcements shall be made in accordance with the above announcement section.
 - Commercial building searches where there is the possibility of suspects hidden inside, be cleared of any other occupants.
 - Canine searches are discouraged whenever there is risk of a bite to innocent persons.
 - Residential searches not be conducted off-leash unless the handler can determine that there are no residents at home. The presence of uncontained animals in a residence to be searched will also preclude the use of canine as well unless the animals can be lured out or contained.
 - In a populated or residential area, a police officer should precede the canine team to clear the area and contact residents to request their cooperation during the search by

staying inside and bringing their animals inside, unless an officer ambush is possible, combined with a tactical demand for stealth or surprise based upon strong considerations of officer safety, and no reasonable alternative will suffice to extract the suspects or warn residents.

- During the off-leash search, the handler makes a reasonable effort to keep the police canine in sight. It is understood that in vegetation, woods and other areas this may not be possible but because of the potential danger to bystanders and other officers in open area pursuits, handlers should terminate the pursuit and recall their canine if reasonable alternatives exist.

Post-Apprehension:

1. Immediately upon securing an individual who has been bitten, handler shall summon EMS to examine and treat the individual or transport the person to a hospital for emergency or other care. The individual will not be moved or transported by police officers without medical clearance. Supervisor shall be summoned to scene if not already present.

F. Post Use of Force Requirements:

1. Supervisor must respond to any Level 2 and 3 use of force or any use of force incidents resulting in injuries.
2. Officers shall preserve evidence and obtain name and contacts for witnesses.
3. Officers should identify and seek to preserve any video surveillance recordings from nearby surveillance cameras.
4. Seek consent from witness/citizens with recorded video to view and retrieve (i.e. cell phone) video if no other recordings exist of the incident. Only a Supervisor may authorize a brief detention of a civilian device while a search warrant is obtained for its content.
5. Complete *Use of Force Report (TPD Form 98)* prior to end of shift and meet all use of force reporting and investigation requirements as defined by *TPD Use of Force Reporting and Investigation Policy*.
6. Photographs will be taken of subject(s) of force, documenting injury or lack thereof.

G. Deadly Force: See TPD Policy and Procedure: *Use of Deadly Force*.