



# CITY OF MADISON POLICE DEPARTMENT STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE



## Non-Deadly Force – Use of

Eff. Date 01/27/2020

### Purpose

Consistent with our Mission and Core Values, the Madison Police Department is committed to valuing and preserving human life. The protection and preservation of all human life – including the lives of individuals being taken into custody – is the Department’s fundamental objective and the primary duty of all MPD employees.

The Department is committed to resolving conflicts through the use of communication skills, crisis intervention and de-escalation tactics, when feasible. Officers may only use that force which is objectively reasonable, and only in furtherance of a legitimate, lawful objective. “Objective reasonableness” is a test based on the totality of the circumstances. *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386 (1989). Officers will only apply force in a manner consistent with MPD’s Code of Conduct, SOP, and training.

As used in this SOP, non-deadly force means the use of any weapon or instrument, or any physical action taken by an officer which is not likely to cause death.

### Procedure

#### NON -DEADLY FORCE AUTHORIZED

Non-deadly force is only authorized when an officer reasonably believes it is necessary to control a person under any of the following circumstances:

1. Detaining a person reasonably suspected of unlawful behavior.
2. Effecting a lawful arrest.
3. Achieving/maintaining control of resistive subjects.
4. Preventing escape.
5. Protecting oneself or another.
6. Maintaining order.
7. Taking a person into custody for emergency detention or protective custody.

#### FORCE CONSIDERATIONS

Officers shall use the degree of force believed to be objectively reasonable to control a situation considering the following factors:

1. The existence of alternative methods of control.
2. Physical size, strength and weaponry of the person as compared to the officer.
3. The nature of the encounter.
4. Actions of the person.
5. The severity of the offense.
6. Whether the subject poses a threat to the safety of officers or citizens.
7. Whether the subject is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight.

## **SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

Depending on the situation, there are a number of special circumstances officers may consider when engaging in and evaluating reasonable uses of force. These factors include, but are not limited to:

1. Reasonable perception of threat.
2. Special knowledge of the subject.
3. Sudden assault.
4. Subject's ability to escalate force rapidly.
5. Officer's physical positioning.
6. Injury or exhaustion.
7. Equipment and training.
8. Availability of backup.
9. Other exigent circumstances.

Control of a person through presence and verbal commands shall always be the preferred method of control. Because verbal commands are not always effective or appropriate in gaining compliance, officers may escalate the degree of force used, or make an affirmative decision to disengage, based on the actions of the person they are attempting to control. Officers will continually evaluate/assess the situation and need for the use of force. Once officers reasonably believe a person is under control, they must reduce their level of force to that needed to maintain such control, and then begin steps to render aid, when applicable.

The degree of force an officer chooses should be based on his/her tactical evaluation and threat assessment of the situation. Based upon the totality of the circumstances known at the time, and in light of the officer's training and experience, the officer should choose a tactic/procedure that is objectively reasonable and is consistent with one of the following:

1. The tactic/procedure utilized is a trained technique.
2. The tactic/procedure is a dynamic application of a trained technique.
3. The tactic/procedure not trained, but justifiable under the circumstances.<sup>1</sup>

## **DE-ESCALATION**

Whenever safe and feasible, officers will attempt to utilize de-escalation tactics and techniques in a manner consistent with the De-Escalation SOP.

## **USE OF FORCE TECHNIQUES/INSTRUMENTS**

The intentional continued restriction of the carotid neck arteries is not a trained MPD technique and is therefore prohibited, unless deadly force is justified.

## **THE USE OF OLEORESIN CAPSICUM SPRAY (O.C. SPRAY)**

1. Officers may use O.C. spray when they reasonably believe they are facing active resistance, or its threat, from the subject. O.C. spray is not to be used against subjects who are offering only passive resistance.
2. Officers shall only direct O.C. spray in a manner as prescribed by the Chief of Police through MPD training.
3. O.C. spray shall not be used once an individual is subdued and under control.
4. If practical, the individual should be provided with an opportunity to eliminate the effects of the irritant by washing and flushing the affected areas with water.

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<sup>1</sup> Excerpted from Defensive and Arrest Tactics, A Training Guide For Law Enforcement Officers, Wisconsin Department of Justice, Law Enforcement Standards Board, March 2007.

## CHEMICAL AGENT USE

Officers shall discharge chemical agents only in a manner as prescribed by the Chief of Police through MPD training.

## ELECTRONIC CONTROL DEVICE USE

1. An approved electronic control device (ECD) may only be utilized by officers that have successfully completed training in its use. Deployment and use of the electronic control devices will be in accordance with MPD training and procedure.
2. In cases where a subject is believed to be armed with a dangerous weapon, an ECD is not a substitute for deadly force. In such situations, an officer should not arm him or herself with an ECD unless another officer at the scene has the immediate ability to deliver deadly force, unless unique circumstances dictate otherwise. Officers armed with an ECD should continuously monitor and evaluate the ability of other officers present to deliver deadly force.
3. An officer may only display, present, or threaten to use an ECD if the officer reasonably believes that the potential for its authorized use exists. Furthermore, an officer may do so absent deadly force coverage if they reasonably believe the involved person is not armed with a dangerous weapon.
4. An ECD may only be used under the following circumstances:
  - a. To overcome violent or assaultive behavior or its threat when the officer reasonably believes that the subject poses an articulable threat of harm to an officer or to another person.
  - b. To control persons in order to prevent them from harming themselves or others.
5. Use of an ECD under the following circumstances is prohibited, unless exigent circumstances are present:
  - a. Against handcuffed subjects.
  - b. Against subjects fleeing on foot.
  - c. Against subjects in an elevated position where a fall is likely to result in significant injury.
  - d. Against subjects operating a motor vehicle.
  - e. Against small children.
  - f. Against a subject who is visibly pregnant or known to be pregnant.
  - g. Against elderly subjects.
  - h. From a moving vehicle.
6. The ECD will not be used under the following circumstances:
  - a. For coercion or intimidation.
  - b. To escort or prod subjects.
  - c. To awaken unconscious or intoxicated subjects.
  - d. Against subjects who are offering only passive resistance.
7. ECD probes may not be intentionally fired at the face, head, neck or groin, unless the use of deadly force would be justified.
8. Multiple, extended or simultaneous ECD applications against a single individual are generally not recommended, and should be avoided unless the officer reasonably believes that the need to control the subject or unavailability of alternative force options outweighs the potential risk posed by multiple, extended or simultaneous applications.
9. Officers shall assess all subjects against whom an ECD has been deployed. The subject shall be evaluated by medical personnel if:
  - a. The subject requests medical treatment.
  - b. The subject displays an adverse reaction to the ECD deployment.
  - c. The subject has been exposed to more than one ECD simultaneously.
  - d. The subject has been exposed to three (3) or more ECD firing cycles; or one continuous firing cycle of fifteen (15) seconds or more.
10. If the ECD probes have penetrated the skin in a sensitive area (head, neck, groin or breast) the subject will be conveyed to an emergency room for removal. If the probes are embedded in non-sensitive areas, a trained officer may remove them.

11. Removing the air cartridge to deploy an ECD in the drive-stun mode is not authorized as a primary ECD deployment technique.

### **BATON USE**

1. A baton may be used when an officer reasonably believes a lesser degree of force would be insufficient to control the situation.
2. An officer shall never intentionally strike a person's head with a baton unless such an action is justified under the use of deadly force.
3. Officers shall only use MPD-approved batons and techniques.
4. MPD-approved batons are the only authorized impact weapons. Flashlights, radios, firearms, etc., are not recommended as impact weapons; however, the MPD recognizes that emergency self-defense situations involving other objects and instruments may occur.

### **IMPACT PROJECTILES**

1. Impact projectile weapons may only be utilized by officers that have successfully completed training in their use. Deployment of impact projectiles will be in accordance with MPD training.
2. In cases where a subject is believed to be armed with a dangerous weapon, an impact projectile weapon is not a substitute for deadly force. Unless circumstances dictate otherwise, an officer should not arm him or herself with an impact projectile weapon unless another officer at the scene has the immediate ability to deliver deadly force. Officers armed with impact projectile weapons should continuously monitor and evaluate the ability of other officers present to deliver deadly force.
3. It is the responsibility of the officer arming him or herself with an impact projectile weapon to ensure that the weapon is loaded with impact projectiles each time the weapon is deployed.
4. Deployment of impact projectiles at non-vital areas is considered non-deadly force. Impact projectiles may only be used under the following circumstances:
  - a. To overcome violent or assaultive behavior or its threat when the officer reasonably believes that the subject poses an articulable threat of harm to an officer or to another person.
  - b. To control persons in order to prevent them from harming themselves or others.Additionally, an officer must reasonably believe that a lesser degree of force would be insufficient to control the situation, or that it is necessary to deliver force at a safe distance from the subject.
5. The intentional deployment of impact projectiles at the face, head or neck is considered deadly force.
6. All persons taken into custody who have been struck with an impact projectile will be conveyed to an emergency room for medical clearance.
7. The investigative requirements of the Use of Deadly Force SOP will be followed only if deployment of an impact projectile results in death or great bodily harm.
8. Absent an imminent risk of harm to officers or citizens, impact projectiles will not be used in crowd control situations. Impact projectiles will not be used to move or disperse crowds.
9. Impact projectiles may be deployed in other jurisdictions pursuant to a mutual aid request. In the event that an individual struck with an impact projectile is taken into custody by another agency, officers from that agency shall be notified of the need for medical treatment.

### **CANINE USE**

See MPD SOP on Canine Use.

### **USE OF RESTRAINING DEVICES**

1. Officers shall place handcuffs on any individual in custody when the officer reasonably believes the individual may become violent, attempt to escape, or pose a danger to self or others. It is mandatory that all persons who have aggressively resisted or attacked another person be placed in handcuffs.

2. Officers shall apply handcuffs in a manner prescribed by the Chief of Police through MPD training.
3. When handcuffs prove to be insufficient in restraining an individual (e.g., kicking, attempting to flee, etc.), officers may employ the use of additional MPD-approved restraining devices.
4. In an emergency situation when a MPD-approved restraining device is not available, the MPD recognizes that alternative devices may have to be employed. In such situations, approved devices should be substituted as soon as reasonably practicable.
5. Individuals who are placed in a maximum restraint position should be continuously monitored for breathing and circulation.

### **USE OF SPIT HOODS**

1. A spit hood is a temporary protective device, which may be used on persons that display behavior or threatening behavior that pose a hazard of exposure to bodily fluids transmitted by spitting, wiping blood from their face/head, or wiping/blowing nasal discharges at or onto officers.
2. Officers should use only MPD-approved spit hoods. In an emergency situation if not readily available, officers may utilize other breathable items, such as pillowcases, surgical masks, etc.
3. Subjects must be stabilized and restrained (handcuffed) before applying the hood.
4. Officers shall apply the spit hood in accordance with MPD training.
5. Persons wearing the spit hood must be closely monitored and shall not be left unattended.
6. Officers shall document the use of the spit hood including the circumstances requiring its use in their report of the incident. A copy of the report shall be routed to Training.

### **USE OF FORCE REPORTING REQUIRED**

Any officer who uses physical force, or any of the following enumerated weapons, items or devices against another person, shall complete an original or supplementary report on the incident involved:

1. Firearms (including pointing a firearm at an individual)
2. Baton or Less Lethal Impact Munitions
3. Chemical Agents, including OC spray, or Electronic Control Devices
4. Handcuffs or Other Restraining Devices, including hobble restraints, spit hoods, etc.
5. Physical force, including focused and diffused strikes, pressure points, escort holds, decentralization techniques, holding or grabbing of subjects, etc.

The report shall specifically note the totality of the circumstances necessitating force and the manner of force employed.

### **DUTY TO INTERCEDE**

Any officer present and observing another officer using excessive force, or engaged in unlawful conduct, or in violation of the Madison Police Department's Code of Conduct has an affirmative obligation to intercede and report.

### **AFTERCARE**

Once the scene is safe and as soon as practical, an officer shall provide appropriate medical care consistent with his or her training to any individual who has visible injuries, complains of being injured, or requests medical attention. Any time recordable force (takedowns, active countermeasures, OC spray, impact weapons, hobble restraints, less lethal projectiles, ECD deployments, K9 apprehensions) is used, officers will affirmatively ask the subject against whom the force has been used if he/she wants medical treatment.

## USE OF FORCE REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS

All instances of the use of non-deadly force shall be reviewed for compliance with MPD procedure by an appropriate supervisor. Anytime a commissioned employee uses recordable force during an incident, the force must be documented in the MPD use of force database.

In cases where a complaint is filed pertaining to an officer's use of non-deadly force, the Professional Standards and Internal Affairs Unit (PSIA) has the primary responsibility for coordinating the internal investigation to ensure compliance with the MPD Use of Non-Deadly Force SOP.

If necessary, as part of the District's or PSIA's internal investigation, members from the Personnel and Training Team who are certified WI Defensive and Arrest Tactics (DAAT) instructors can be consulted to determine findings and forward their conclusions to the appropriate source requesting assistance.

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