

COLUMBUS POLICE DEPARTMENT



General Order 4: Use of Force

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Definitions:


1. **Deadly Force**
Force that creates a substantial risk of death or serious bodily injury.
2. **Direct Line of Supervision**
An employee who is in a position to affect the terms and conditions of another individual's employment, including making decisions about work assignments, compensation, grievances, advancement, or performance evaluation. The term does not include the responsibilities to make decisions regarding salary ordinances, budgets, or personnel policies of the department. (IC 36-1-20.2-4)
3. **Electronic Control Device (ECD)**
A weapon that is designed to disrupt neuro-motor control of a person.
4. **Objectively reasonable**
What is reasonable after evaluating the situation in light of the totality of known circumstances.
5. **Reasonable belief**
That which an ordinary person of average intelligence and sound mind would believe.
6. **Relative**
Includes a spouse, parent or stepparent, child or stepchild, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, half-brother, or half-sister, niece or nephew, aunt or uncle, daughter-in-law or son-in-law, or adopted child.
7. **Serious physical injury**
Physical injury that creates a reasonable risk of death or that causes serious or permanent disfigurement, serious impairment of health or loss or protracted impairment of the function of any bodily organ or limb.

4.1 Use of Force

4.1.1 Use of Reasonable Force

Officers may only use reasonable force to accomplish lawful objectives, and apply de-escalation techniques when possible. The use of force is not left to the unfettered discretion of the involved officer, and must be objectively reasonable; the officer may only use that force which a reasonably prudent officer would use under the same or similar circumstances. Such uses of force are permitted by I.C. 35-41-3-3. The department's use of force training for personnel authorized to use reasonable force will include immediate action and de-escalation. This training should include scenario-based training that includes the concept of proportionality, crisis recognition, effective communication, using distance and cover to create time, contact and cover responsibilities, tactical repositioning, and "slowing down" situations that do not pose an immediate threat. Personnel not having sworn status are prohibited from using force in situations other than self-defense.

4.1.2 Use of Deadly Force

	<i>LETB UNIFORM STATEWIDE POLICY</i>	Agency Policy/General Order Number:
	Subject: Deadly Force	
	Effective: July 1, 2024	Revised: October 23, 2023

I. PURPOSE

In accordance with IC 5-2-1-1, the Law Enforcement Training Board hereby establishes this consistent and uniform statewide deadly force policy in order to ensure the public safety and general welfare of the people of the state of Indiana and to promote equity for all segments of society. This policy may not be added to, modified, or altered in any way by any Indiana law enforcement agency, office, or department.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the LETB to value and preserve the sanctity of human life. Law enforcement officers shall only use force, non-deadly or deadly, in compliance with the law, this policy, and the Board established training program to further an enforcement action. Officers shall use only the force that is objectively reasonable, while protecting the safety of officers and others. Officers shall use only the level of force which a reasonably prudent officer would use under the same or similar circumstances.

III. DEFINITIONS

The following definitions correspond to terminology used within this policy and the statewide training program:

- A. **CHOKEHOLD (IC 35-41-3-3)** – Applying pressure to the throat or neck of another person in a manner intended to obstruct the airway of the other person.

- B. **DEADLY FORCE (IC 35-31.5-2-85)** – Force which creates a substantial risk of serious bodily injury.

- C. **DEADLY WEAPON (IC 35-31.5-2-86)** – Means the following:
 - 1. A loaded or unloaded firearm.

 - 2. A destructive device, weapon, device, taser (as defined in IC 35-47-8-3) or electronic stun weapon (as defined in IC 35-47-8-1), equipment, chemical substance, or other material that in the manner it is used; could ordinarily be used; is intended to be used; is readily capable of causing serious bodily injury.

 - 3. An animal (as defined in IC 35-46-3-3) which is readily capable of causing serious bodily injury, and which is used in the commission or attempted commission of a crime.

 - 4. A biological disease, virus or organism which is capable of causing serious bodily injury.

 - 5. The term does not include:
 - a. a taser (as defined in IC 35-47-8-3);

 - b. an electronic stun weapon (as defined in IC 35-47-8-1);

 - c. a chemical designed to temporarily incapacitate a person; or

 - d. another device designed to temporarily incapacitate a person;

if the device described in subdivisions (a) through (d) is used by a law enforcement officer who has been trained in the use of the device and who uses the device in accordance with the law enforcement officer's training and while lawfully engaged in the execution of official duties.

- D. DE-ESCALATION – Actions taken in an attempt to stabilize the situation in an effort to reduce or eliminate the necessity of using force against subjects.
- E. FORCIBLE FELONY - a felony that involves the use or threat of force against a human being in which there is imminent danger of serious bodily injury to a human being.
- F. RESISTANCE –
 - 1. PASSIVE RESISTANCE - a non-forcible act that is intended to impede, hinder, or delay complying with a lawful order or effecting an arrest (e.g., “going limp,” “dead weight,” ignoring a lawful command, or holding on to something while disobeying verbal orders to release, wherein no force is directed toward the officer).
 - 2. ACTIVE RESISTANCE – a physical action(s) that prevent(s) an officer from being able to lawfully exercise their duties (e.g., subject walking away after being told to stop, subject fleeing from arrest, or subject tensing/pulling away/breaking officer’s grip involving force demonstrated by the individual’s use of power, strength, or violence directed at or against the officer).

Passive resistance may turn into active resistance. For example, holding onto a steering wheel is passive resistance; however, if an officer attempts to remove the hands and the subject reacts by tensing or pulling away using power, strength, or violence, then this becomes active resistance.
 - 3. FORCIBLE RESISTANCE - the use or imminent use of force (non-deadly or deadly) directed toward an officer which interferes with the law enforcement officer’s rightful exercise of their duties (e.g., hitting, punching, use of instruments or weapons).
- G. SERIOUS BODILY INJURY (IC 35-31.5-2-292) – Impairment of physical condition which creates a substantial risk of death or causes serious permanent disfigurement, unconsciousness, extreme pain, permanent or protracted loss or

impairment of the function of a bodily member or organ, or loss of a fetus.

IV. PROCEDURE

- A. De-escalation: an officer shall attempt to engage in de-escalation prior to using force when safe and feasible to do so.
- B. Officers shall only use police vehicles as a weapon in situations where deadly force is allowed by law.

However, use of a precision immobilization technique (PIT) maneuver, when used in accordance with agency, department or office training guidelines, is not considered deadly force.

- C. Officers shall not:

- 1. Discharge any warning shot. The objectively reasonable discharge of a firearm in the direction of an individual, against whom deadly force is allowed by law, with the intent to assist an officer or third-party who is in imminent danger, is not considered a warning shot;
- 2. Discharge a firearm at or from a vehicle except in situations where deadly force is allowed by law;
- 3. Use force against a person who is merely verbally abusive; or
- 4. Use a chokehold except in situations where deadly force is allowed by law.

- D. Use of Force:

- 1. A law enforcement officer is justified in using reasonable force if the officer reasonably believes that the force is necessary to enforce a criminal law or to effect a lawful arrest.
- 2. A law enforcement officer is justified in using reasonable force against any other person to protect the person or a third person from what the officer reasonably believes to be the imminent use of unlawful force.
- 3. A law enforcement officer is justified in using deadly force if the officer has probable cause to believe that deadly force is necessary to prevent the imminent threat of serious

bodily injury to the officer or a third person or the commission of a forcible felony.

4. A law enforcement officer who has an arrested person in custody is justified in using the same force to prevent the escape of the arrested person from custody that the officer would be justified in using if the officer was arresting that person.
5. The use of deadly force against persons by officers relating to arrest or escape shall be restricted to the following:
 - a. The officer has probable cause to believe that the deadly force is necessary:
 - i. to prevent the commission of a forcible felony; or
 - ii. to effect an arrest of a person who the officer has probable cause to believe poses an imminent threat of serious bodily injury to the officer or a third person; and
 - iii. has given a warning, if feasible, to the person against whom the deadly force is to be used.
 - b. An officer who has an arrested person in custody is justified in using deadly force to prevent the escape of the arrested person from custody only if the officer:
 - i. Has probable cause to believe deadly force is necessary to prevent the escape from custody of a person who the officer has probable cause to believe poses an imminent threat of serious bodily injury to the officer or a third person; and
 - ii. Has given a warning, if feasible, to the person against whom the deadly force is to be used.
 - c. A guard or other official in a penal facility or a law enforcement officer is justified in using reasonable force, including deadly force, if the officer has probable cause to believe that the force is necessary to prevent the escape of a person who is detained in the penal facility.

E. Duty to Intervene:

1. A law enforcement officer who is present and observes another officer using force

that the officer has reason to know is excessive under the circumstances shall have a duty to intervene when it is safe and feasible to do so.

2. Law enforcement officers who intervene shall immediately report the incident to a supervisor or commanding officer.

F. Each law enforcement officer involved in a use of force incident shall:

1. Cease using force when the subject is properly secured, provided that the subject has stopped any active or forcible resistance; and
2. If needed, as soon as safe and practical, provide appropriate medical aid (e.g. first aid, CPR, or activation of available EMS) after any use of force.
3. Complete the appropriate report(s) and/or notifications in accordance with agency, department or office reporting policies and procedures. However, if the use of force incident involves serious bodily injury or death, the officer shall immediately notify a supervisor, or the appropriate command personnel of the agency, department or office.

V. ANNUAL TRAINING

The uniform statewide deadly force policy and corresponding training program shall be reviewed annually during the mandatory in-service training adopted by the Law Enforcement Training Board.

4.1.3 Warning Shots

A. Warning shots are prohibited, as per 4.1.2(IV)(C)(1).

B. Other regulations regarding firearms:

1. In addition to 4.1.2, Officers may discharge a firearm under the following circumstances:
 - a. During range practice or for legitimate recreation purposes, or
 - b. For the destruction of sick, injured, nuisance, or aggressive animals. However, if practical, permission from a supervisor in charge must be obtained before destroying the animal.

4.1.4 Use of Authorized Less Lethal Weapons

Authorized less lethal weapons are governed by General Order 4.3.1. Authorized less lethal weapons may be used in accordance with General Order 4.1.1 and 4.1.2. Less lethal weapons are not meant to be deployed in deadly force situations, and should not be used or deployed in a deadly force situation without lethal backup.

4.1.5 Rendering Medical Aid Following Police Actions

- A. Officers shall render appropriate medical attention as quickly as reasonably possible following any law enforcement action in which injuries have been sustained. In addition, as soon as reasonably practical, officers shall request emergency medical assistance when obvious severe injuries have occurred, medical distress is apparent or the individual is unconscious.
- B. If a person requests medical attention after any use of force used by an officer on the person, the officer should seek medical attention for the person as soon as objectively reasonable.
- C. If an officer should reasonably deem that a person is in need of medical attention as a result of force used by an officer on the person, the officer shall either transport the suspect to a place where medical attention can be rendered or call for medical personnel to meet with the suspect at the scene, even if the person has refused medical attention.
- D. Additional requirements for SIM (Specialty Impact Munition) impacts – Whenever a person is impacted by a SIM, the person impacted shall either be transported to a place where medical attention can be rendered or be assessed by medical personnel at the scene.
- E. Additional requirements for Electronic Control Device (ECD) exposures – Once the person or animal has been restrained and/or controlled, officers may remove the probe(s) and shall treat them as a biohazard; however, if the probe(s) are embedded in the neck, female breast area, face or groin area, the probe(s) shall be removed by medical personnel. If the person exposed to an ECD is arrested, the jail staff shall be notified of such exposure by the remanding officer.
- F. Additional requirements for Chemical Agent exposures – Once the person has been restrained and/or controlled, officers should ensure that the person is not lying on their belly and the officer should not apply pressure to the person's back. Contact lenses shall be removed by medical personnel. If the person exposed to a chemical agent is arrested, the jail staff shall be notified of such exposure by the remanding officer.

4.1.6 Vascular Neck Restrictions

Vascular neck restraints rely on the temporary disruption of blood flow, not the restriction of oxygen intake. Officers shall receive annual proficiency training of this weaponless control technique in accordance with G.O. 4.3.3. Officers may use vascular neck restraints when considered reasonable in accordance with G.O. 4.1.1 and 4.1.2 only after having received specific documented training from a certified instructor in the application of the technique in order to minimize the possibility of unintended consequences. If such technique is used, officers shall provide immediate medical aid in accordance with G.O. 4.1.5.

4.1.7 Choke Holds

1. Choke holds rely on restricting the intake of oxygen. In accordance with G.O. 4.1.2(IV)(C)(4), choke holds are prohibited except in situations where deadly force is allowed by law. If such technique is used, officers shall provide immediate medical aid in accordance with G.O. 4.1.5.

4.2 Use of Force Reporting and Review

4.2.1 Reporting Uses of Force

Whenever an employee uses force, they shall immediately notify either his/her direct supervisor or the on-duty supervisor. If practical, supervisors should ensure that photographs and other evidence relevant to the use of force be obtained and preserved. The supervisor shall complete the established use of force report in the department's electronic tracking software. Use of force reports shall be completed whenever an employee:

- A. Discharges any firearm on or off-duty, for any reason other than authorized training or legitimate recreation purposes.
 1. Use of force reports are not required for an accidental discharge where there is no injury, but an accidental discharge without injury shall be reported in an incident report and delivered to supervisors through the employee's chain of command.
 2. Use of force reports are not required for discharging a firearm for putting an injured animal down for humane purposes, but shall be reported in an incident report.
- B. Takes any action that results in or is alleged to have resulted in injury or death of another person.
- C. Applies force through the use of lethal or less lethal weapons.

1. The pointing of weapons alone does not constitute application of force to another person, and does not require the completion of a use of force report.
2. Use of force reports are not required for using lethal or less lethal force on an aggressive animal, but applying lethal or less lethal force to an aggressive animal shall be reported in an incident report.

D. Applies weaponless physical force to another person.

1. Slight physical touching, slight gripping or holding, or frisking alone does not constitute application of weaponless physical force, and does not require the completion of a use of force report.

4.2.2 Written Use of Force Reports and Administrative Review

- A. Upon completion of a Use of Force report in the department's electronic tracking software by a supervisor, the supervisor shall then assign this report to the Use of Force Review Board, to complete the administrative review of the use of force incident. The supervisor shall immediately address any obvious findings of policy violations or training inadequacies.
- B. Columbus Police Department will objectively review and evaluate any use of force by its officers to ensure that their authority is used lawfully, appropriately and is consistent with training and department policies. A Use of Force Review Board will be established.

1. **COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD:** Members of the Use of Force Board will be selected by the Chairperson from all eligible persons, and must be approved by the Chief of Police.

- a. The Chairperson of the Use of Force Review Board will be the Training Coordinator, and will vote only in the event of a tie;
- b. Two (2) selected Physical Tactics instructors will be members and each will have one vote;
- c. A uniform supervisor will be a member and will have one vote;
- d. A uniform officer will be a member and will have one vote; and
- e. A Taser instructor will be a member and will have one vote.

2. **REVIEW PROCEDURES:** The Use of Force Review Board is responsible for the review of all reported use of force incidents involving CPD officers.

- a. The Chairperson will establish appropriate procedures for efficient review of all investigative materials concerning the reported use of force.
 - b. The Use of Force Review Board may review all reports, photos, videos, bodycam videos and may require testimony from the involved officer(s) and other personnel connected, if necessary.
 - c. The Use of Force Review Board will vote on the use of force to be one of the following;
 - 1. Lawfully justified, adheres to all policies
 - 2. Lawfully justified, does not adhere to all policies
 - 3. Not lawfully justified, does not adhere to all policies
 - d. A member of the Use of Force Review Board that is involved or on scene at the time of the use of force must be replaced temporarily from serving as a board member by the Chairperson.
 - 1. The replacement of the Use of Force board member shall be replaced by an officer of same rank and experience (if feasible) for the review of that particular incident.
 - e. The review shall be based upon those facts which were reasonably believed or known by the officer(s) at the time of incident; applying any departmental policies, procedures and approved training to those facts.
3. **PROCEDURE FINDINGS:** The Training Coordinator will add the Use of Force Review Board's findings to the department's electronic tracking software entry created by the supervisors for a final review by the Board of Captains.
- a. The Deputy Chief will be responsible for adding any additional information, if necessary, regarding the Board of Captain's findings to the department's electronic tracking software entry.
 - b. If the findings conclude law or policy violations occurred in the reported use of force, the Board of Captains will determine the appropriate course of action. If an Officer is found to have violated the law, policy or a combination of the two, the Board of Captains will determine if discipline and or additional training is suggested.

4.2.3 Administrative Leave

When an employee's use of force or other action results in death or serious injury that is likely to result in death of another person, the employee shall be placed on administrative leave and an internal investigation should be initiated, all in accordance with General Order 26.

A. The on-duty supervisor shall:

1. Ensure the scene is secured as a crime scene;
2. Ensure notifications are made:
 - a. Immediately to the Chief of Police through the chain of command;
 - b. Immediately to the Indiana State Police for the criminal investigation;
 - c. When necessary, to the employee's emergency contact;
 - d. Upon the employee's request to a department chaplain; and
 - e. Upon the employees request to legal counsel.
3. Escort the involved employee to the Columbus Police Department, provided the employee is medically able to go to the department.
4. Give the officers the opportunity to designate a support officer, who they wish to be contacted. The support officer's responsibilities should be:
 - a. To attend to the mental and physical well-being of the involved officer.
 - b. To assist the involved officer in making notifications of family, legal counsel, etc.
 - c. To keep the involved officer in a position of safety/security away from the media/public.
 - d. To stay with the involved officer, and provide other support as needed (i.e. food, beverage, transportation, etc.).
 - e. The support officer shall not engage in conversation with the involved officer regarding the facts of the incident, as such conversations are not protected.

- B. During the employee's administrative leave, the Chief of Police may require the officer to obtain psychological counseling through the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and the employee will not return to duty until found psychologically fit for duty.
- C. If the employee's issued firearm was discharged during the incident, the employee should expect to have their issued firearm taken and held as evidence. A replacement firearm should be issued within a reasonable time after the issued firearm is taken. This should be done out of view of the public and media.
- D. Employees may be asked to:
 - 1. Participate in a walk-through of the crime scene in accordance with General Order 26.3.5(C)(4) prior to the internal affairs investigation being initiated.
 - 2. Submit to tests/procedures in accordance with General Order 26.3.6 prior to the internal affairs investigation being initiated.
 - 3. In the event of a critical incident, the family members of the employee may also require assistance in dealing with the situation. Counseling for family members of the employee is available through the department chaplains and Employee Assistance Program (EAP).

4.2.4 Analyze Reports from Use of Force

Each calendar year, the Deputy Chief or his/her designee shall perform a documented administrative analysis of all reports submitted regarding the use of force by department employees as required by General Order 4.2.1. The analysis may reveal patterns or trends that could indicate training needs, equipment upgrades, and/or policy modifications. The annual report shall include the following:

- A. Date and time of incidents;
- B. Types of encounters resulting in use of force.
- C. Trends or patterns related to race, age and gender of subjects involved;
- D. All injuries and data that shows trends or patterns of injuries; and
- E. Impact of findings on policies, practices, equipment and training.

4.3 Weapons and Training

4.3.1 Authorization: Weapons and Ammunition

While in the performance of their official duties, both on and off duty, officers are required to use only weapons and ammunition that are authorized by the department. Authorization includes meeting the criteria of General Orders 4.3.2, 4.3.3 and 4.3.4 with each weapon. Officers may, but are not required to, carry an authorized firearm while off duty. However, certified officers must be armed with an authorized firearm when in uniform and/or while operating a department issued vehicle, and are prohibited from carrying an authorized firearm while consuming alcoholic beverages or other intoxicants (this does not apply to an officer who is at home or to an officer working in an undercover capacity where it may be necessary to consume alcoholic beverages during an investigation.) This directive is not intended to prohibit the use of other weapons or ammunition if exigent circumstances exist that justify the need to use unauthorized weapons or ammunition, provided the officer acts in accordance with General Order 4.1.1 and 4.1.2.

- A. The types and specification of all lethal and less lethal weapons approved for use, including those used by members of the SWAT team shall be listed in an SOP.
- B. Types and specifications of ammunition approved for use, including ammunition used in specialized weapons for members of the SWAT team shall be listed in an SOP.
- C. Each weapon issued for use by an officer in the performance of duty shall be examined, inspected and approved by a CPD armorer prior to being issued or carried.
 - 1. The Chief of Police will appoint an ECD program manager who will be responsible for the maintenance/inspection of the department registered ECDs.
- D. If any employee discovers that a weapon is deemed unsafe or otherwise not in a state of operational readiness, it should be reported in accordance with General Order 17.5.2(D)(3). An armorer, or the firearm's manufacturer should be consulted on whether the weapon can be deemed safe and maintained in a state of operational readiness. Upon a recommendation that the weapon cannot be deemed safe and maintained in a state of operational readiness, the training coordinator shall make arrangements to remove and replace the weapon in question, and shall make the necessary inventory changes in accordance with General Order 17.5.1(C).
- E. The procedure outlined in General Order 17.5.1 shall be used for maintaining a record on each weapon authorized and issued by the department for official use. The training coordinator will also be responsible for maintaining a record on back-up and off-duty handguns authorized by the department for official use.
- F. Guidelines for the safe and proper storage of agency authorized firearms:
 - 1. Department issued handguns should be carried concealed when the officer is in plain clothes unless:

- a. The officer is on duty and the officer's badge is prominently displayed on the officer's belt, neck lanyard or other device, or the officer is engaged in law enforcement actions.
 - b. The officer is engaged in activities where it would be permissible for a citizen to carry an exposed handgun, such as target practice, etc.
2. When armed, whether on or off duty, officers shall carry their authorized handgun in a properly maintained holster or other proper mode of carry (i.e. fanny pack, go bag, etc.) and have on their person their agency identification.
 3. Officers shall not carelessly, flippantly, or casually use, display, or store a firearm.
 4. Any authorized firearm stored in a department issued vehicle shall be safely secured in a locked container or gun mount of substantial strength to prevent easy removal, and that is affixed to the vehicle in such a manner that removal would be difficult by unauthorized persons. (Gun vault, locking glove box and/or console, cable and/or chained trunk lock, etc.)
 5. Officers who store authorized firearms in their residence shall lock those firearms in a locked container or gun vault of substantial strength to prevent easy removal by unauthorized persons.
 6. Only firearm armorers can work on the internal/external mechanics of CPD firearms. Firearm instructors can install, uninstall and maintain long gun slings and make adjustments to gun sights and weapon-mounted flashlights.

4.3.2 Demonstrating Proficiency with Weapons

Employees shall not be approved to carry or use any department-authorized weapons until they demonstrate proficiency in the use of such weapons. Department authorized weapons include all weapons listed in General Order 4.3.1. Employees shall demonstrate proficiency by:

- A. Achieving minimum qualifying scores on prescribed courses;
- B. Attaining and demonstrating a knowledge of the laws concerning the use of authorized weapons;
- C. Attaining and demonstrating a knowledge of the department policies on the use of force and deadly force;
- D. Being familiar with recognized safe-handling procedures for the use of the weapons;

E. Showing compliance with General Order 4.3.4.

4.3.3 Annual Proficiency Training


Employees authorized to carry weapons are required to receive annual in-service training on the department's use of force policies, and demonstrate proficiency with weaponless control techniques and all approved lethal weapons and less lethal weapons that the employee is authorized to use.

A. Proficiency training must be instructed by or at least monitored by an instructor certified to instruct in each specialty.

1. Firearms

- a. Every calendar year, each officer shall be required to qualify with his/her assigned long gun and assigned handgun during at least one (1) training session. If an officer is also assigned a compact handgun, he/she shall qualify with both the assigned handguns during each training session. The qualification will be graded on a pass/fail basis.
 - i. Every calendar year, officers shall qualify with their back-up or off-duty handguns at least once during each training session.
 - ii. Officers shall be allowed no more than three attempts per gun to qualify on any given training session.
 - iii. Officers must qualify if they have not been on full duty for 180 days or more.
 - iv. Officers that miss a firearms qualification course due to an extended leave (examples include medical leave, administrative leave, etc.) must first qualify before returning to full duty.
- b. Each calendar year, all officers authorized to carry firearms shall receive training in the law and agency policy and procedures relating to the use of force, and shall be required to demonstrate their understanding of the training.
- c. Officers assigned to SWAT, are required to qualify using additional proficiency standards established by their unit commander. These include but are not limited to proficiency testing at night and/or in reduced light situations, in combat simulation, and using both weak and strong hands.

2. Weaponless control techniques and less lethal weapons (except projectile)

	LETB UNIFORM STATEWIDE POLICY	Agency Policy/General Order Number:
	Subject: Uniform Statewide Defensive Tactics Training Program	
	Effective: January 1, 2024	Revised: June 19, 2023

I. PURPOSE

In accordance with IC 5-2-1-1, the Law Enforcement Training Board (“LETB”) hereby establishes this Uniform Statewide Defensive Tactics Training Policy in order to ensure the public safety and general welfare of the people of the state of Indiana and to promote equity for all segments of society. This policy may not be added to, modified, or altered in any way by any Indiana law enforcement agency, office, or department.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the LETB to value and preserve the sanctity of human life. To ensure the safety of law enforcement officers and others, it is essential that officers are educated, trained, and proficient in defensive tactics techniques to ensure the officer uses only objectively reasonable force to enforce the law, to effect a lawful arrest, and/or to prevent the escape of the person from custody.

The defensive tactics techniques documented in the Uniform Statewide Defensive Tactics Training Program have been approved by the LETB and shall be trained within a two (2) year training cycle by law enforcement officers to ensure proficiency. The statewide defensive tactics training program may not be added to, modified, or altered in any way by any Indiana law enforcement agency, office, or department.

III. UNIFORM STATEWIDE DEFENSIVE TACTICS TRAINING PROGRAM

The Uniform Statewide Defensive Tactics Training Program (“Training Program”) contains the approved defensive tactics techniques that will be trained within a two (2) year training cycle to ensure proficiency of Indiana’s law enforcement officers in the area of defensive tactics.

A. The Training Program contains the following mandatory categories of techniques that will be trained with demonstrated proficiency, as defined in the Training Program:

1. Positioning;
2. Strikes;
3. Kicks;
4. Blocks;
5. Handcuffing;
6. Takedowns;
7. Offensive Ground Fighting;
8. Defensive Ground Fighting;
9. Subject Control/Displacement/Transition Techniques;
10. Basic Self-Defense Escapes;
11. Intermediate Weapons;
12. Weapon Defense/Retention;
13. Scenario-Based Training; and
14. Vascular Neck Restraint.

B. Defensive Tactics Instructors must train a minimum of one (1) approved technique listed in the Training Program in each of the mandatory categories listed above within a two (2) year training cycle.

C. All law enforcement officers subject to the mandatory in-service training requirement adopted by the LETB, must attend training course(s) that train a minimum of one (1) approved technique listed in

the Training Program in each of the mandatory categories listed above, within a two (2) year training cycle, to fulfill the mandatory defensive tactics in-service training requirement.

- D. Law enforcement officers who are issued intermediate weapons, to include: conducted energy weapon (“CEW”), chemical designed to temporarily incapacitate a person, and/or another device designed to temporarily incapacitate a person, shall be trained on those issued intermediate weapons, as specified by the manufacturer’s training requirement. At this time, this policy and Training Program does not include less-lethal projectiles, and these weapons may be independently trained as directed by law enforcement agencies.
- E. All law enforcement officers subject to the mandatory in-service training requirement adopted by the LETB, shall annually complete a minimum of four (4) hours of active hands-on participation in defensive tactics training to fulfill the requirement.
- F. The LETB, through the Executive Director of the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy, may waive the active participation requirement, and physical demonstration of proficiency, of the mandatory defensive tactics in-service training for officers on limited duty status, if a waiver is requested by the chief executive officer or training coordinator of the law enforcement agency, office, or department.
- G. Law enforcement officers shall demonstrate proficiency, as defined in the Training Program, in each trained technique for successful completion of the in-service requirement. Defensive Tactics Instructors shall certify the proficiency of each officer trained or provide remedial training until proficiency is demonstrated.
- H. The mandatory category, Vascular Neck Restraint, is a control technique characterized by vascular body compression, applying pressure to the vascular structures of the neck, with no compression of the respiratory structures of the throat, such as the trachea or the windpipe. The Vascular Neck Restraint, when properly applied by a trained law enforcement officer, is not a chokehold as defined in IC 35-41-3-3.

IV. CERTIFIED INSTRUCTORS

- A. Psychomotor skill instructors certified in physical tactics, hereby known as defensive tactics, (hereinafter referred to as “psychomotor skill instructors”) must complete a LETB-approved instructor course or courses that provides instructor-level training under each of the

categories of mandatory defensive tactics instruction. This training shall be completed prior to providing any certified defensive tactics instruction under those categories.

- B. Psychomotor skill instructors who are not currently certified to instruct each of the mandatory categories of defensive tactics instruction, may only train the categories for which they hold current certification.
 - C. Psychomotor skill instructors may only train the approved technique(s) for which they hold current certification.
 - D. Psychomotor skill instructors previously certified to instruct all the mandatory categories of defensive tactics instruction will be re-issued a certificate as a Defensive Tactics Instructor.
 - E. Psychomotor skill instructors who are not currently certified to instruct all the mandatory categories of defensive tactics instruction, shall have one (1) year from the effective date of this policy to obtain the training under subsection A, and submit a request for a re-issued certificate as a Defensive Tactics Instructor, or they forfeit instructor certification.
 - F. Defensive tactics instructors shall document the approved technique or techniques, and the defensive tactics category or categories, trained for each defensive tactics course. This information will be documented on an Indiana Law Enforcement Academy's Defensive Tactics In-Service Training form, and a copy maintained on file with the hiring or appointing law enforcement agency.
 - G. Certified instructors are responsible for accurately documenting the defensive tactics training to maintain the instructor certificate.
 - H. The re-issuance of instructor certificates will not affect the Term of Certification under 250 IAC 2-10-6.
3. Less lethal projectile weapons not covered in 4.3.3(A)(2)
- A. Each officer shall be required to qualify with each authorized less lethal projectile weapon(s) issued and/or utilized annually, which will be graded on a pass/fail basis.

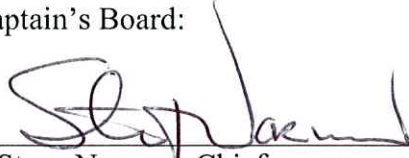
- B. All training shall be documented by the certified instructor who either instructed or monitored the training. The documentation shall include the lesson plan and the training record maintenance requirements set forth in General Order 33.1.6. The instructor will be responsible for delivering this documentation to the training coordinator.
- C. Officers who are unable to qualify with an authorized weapon, other than a back-up or off-duty handgun, are not fit for duty and should be treated as if they were on light duty, and assigned to non-enforcement duties. The officer shall be referred to remedial training in accordance with General Order 33.1.5.
 - 1. In order to resume official duties, the officer must:
 - a. Complete remedial training as determined by the training coordinator after taking into consideration the instructor's recommendations for corrective action.
 - b. Pass the qualification within one week of the initial qualification failure. The officer shall not have more than three attempts per authorized firearm to qualify after the remedial training is complete.
 - 2. If the officer does not resume official duties by meeting the requirements of General Order 4.3.3(C)(1), he/she shall be placed on administrative leave in accordance with General Order 26.3.7, pending the outcome of a fitness-for-duty evaluation as determined by the Board of Captains.

4.3.4 Prerequisites to Carrying Lethal/Less Lethal Weapons

Employees authorized to carry lethal and less lethal weapons shall be issued copies of and be instructed in General Orders 4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3, 4.1.4 and 4.1.5 and related instruction before being authorized to carry any weapon. The issuance of the General Orders and instruction shall be documented. Instruction should include confirmation of employee understanding of legal implications and requirements and weapon specific operating and care procedures.

Acceptance by Columbus Police Department Captain's Board:

Date: 04/30/2024


Steve Norman, Chief

Attest:


Matt Martindale, Deputy Chief


Kathy Rodomanski, Chief's Secretary


Brian Wilder, Administrative Captain



Toby Combest, Uniform Captain

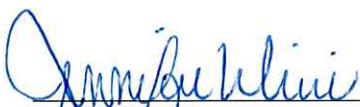
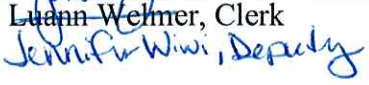
Acceptance by Columbus Board of Public Works and Safety:

Date: April 30, 2024


Mary Ferdon, Mayor

Attest:


Eric Frey, Member


Luann Welmer, Clerk

Jennifer Wiwi, Deputy


John Pickett, Member


Melanie Henderson, Member


Brenda Sullivan, Member