

Control Devices and Techniques

303.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for the use and maintenance of control devices that are described in this policy.

303.2 POLICY

In order to control subjects who are violent or who demonstrate the intent to be violent, the Vernon Hills Police Department authorizes officers to use control devices in accordance with the guidelines in this policy and the Use of Force Policy.

303.3 ISSUING, CARRYING AND USING CONTROL DEVICES

Control devices described in this policy may be carried and used by members of this department only if the device has been issued by the Department or approved by the Chief of Police or the authorized designee. Sworn members of the Department who are assigned to patrol, are required to carry at least two of the three available control devices (includes Baton, OC Spray and TASER®).

Only officers who have successfully completed department-approved training in the use of any control device are authorized to carry and use the device.

Control devices may be used when a decision has been made to control, restrain or arrest a subject who is violent or who demonstrates the intent to be violent, and the use of the device appears reasonable under the circumstances. When reasonable, a verbal warning and opportunity to comply should precede the use of these devices. Control devices may also be used in these circumstances to defend the officer from the actions of the subject(s).

When using control devices, officers should carefully consider potential impact areas in order to minimize injuries and unintentional targets.

303.4 RESPONSIBILITIES

303.4.1 SHIFT COMMANDER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Shift Commander may authorize the use of a control device by selected personnel or members of specialized units who have successfully completed the required training.

303.4.2 USE OF FORCE PROGRAM COORDINATOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The Use of Force Program Coordinator shall control the inventory and issuance of all control devices and shall ensure that all damaged, inoperative, outdated or expended control devices or munitions are properly disposed of, repaired or replaced.

Every control device will be periodically inspected by the Use of Force Program Coordinator or the designated instructor for a particular control device. The inspection shall be documented.

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303.4.3 USER RESPONSIBILITIES

All normal maintenance, charging or cleaning shall remain the responsibility of personnel using the various devices.

Any damaged, inoperative, outdated or expended control devices or munitions, along with documentation explaining the cause of the damage, shall be returned to the Use of Force Program Coordinator for disposition. Damage to Village property forms shall also be prepared and forwarded through the chain of command, when appropriate, explaining the cause of damage.

303.5 BATON GUIDELINES

The need to immediately control a suspect must be weighed against the risk of causing serious injury. The head, neck, throat, spine, heart, and kidneys should not be intentionally targeted except when the officer reasonably believes the suspect poses an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death to the officer or others.

[See the Vernon Hills Police Department Procedures Manual: 201.1 LESS LETHAL WEAPONS.](#)

When carrying a baton, sworn/non-sworn uniformed personnel shall carry the baton in its authorized holder on the equipment belt or on the outer vest carrier. Plainclothes and non-field personnel may carry the baton as authorized and in accordance with the needs of their assignment or at the direction of their supervisor.

303.6 TEAR GAS GUIDELINES

Tear gas may be used for crowd control, crowd dispersal or against barricaded suspects based on the circumstances. Only the Shift Commander, Incident Commander or Crisis Response Unit Commander may authorize the delivery and use of tear gas, and only after evaluating all conditions known at the time and determining that such force reasonably appears justified and necessary.

When practicable, fire personnel should be alerted or summoned to the scene prior to the deployment of tear gas to control any fires and to assist in providing medical aid or gas evacuation if needed.

303.7 OLEORESIN CAPSICUM (OC) GUIDELINES

As with other control devices, oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray and pepper projectiles may be considered for use to bring under control an individual or groups of individuals who are engaging in, or are about to engage in violent behavior. OC spray should not, however, be used against individuals or groups who merely fail to disperse or do not reasonably appear to present a risk to the safety of officers or the public.

[See the Vernon Hills Police Department Procedures Manual: 201.1 LESS LETHAL WEAPONS.](#)

303.7.1 OC SPRAY

Sworn/non-sworn uniformed personnel carrying OC spray shall carry the device in its holster on the equipment belt or the outer vest carrier. Plainclothes and non-field personnel may carry OC

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spray as authorized, in accordance with the needs of their assignment or at the direction of their supervisor.

303.7.2 PEPPER PROJECTILE SYSTEMS

While the use of a pepper projectile system by an outside or mutual aid agency may be authorized, the Department reserves the right to refuse the use of such weapons based on the circumstances present. A supervisor shall respond to all pepper projectile system incidents where the suspect has been hit or exposed to the chemical agent. The supervisor shall ensure that all notifications and reports are completed as required by the Use of Force Policy.

303.7.3 TREATMENT FOR OC SPRAY EXPOSURE

Persons who have been sprayed with or otherwise affected by the use of OC should be promptly provided with clean water to cleanse the affected areas. Those persons who complain of further severe effects shall be examined by appropriate medical personnel.

303.8 POST-APPLICATION NOTICE

Whenever tear gas or OC has been introduced into a residence, building interior, vehicle or other enclosed area, officers should provide the owners or available occupants with notice of the possible presence of residue that could result in irritation or injury if the area is not properly cleaned. Such notice should include advisement that clean up will be at the owner's expense. Information regarding the method of notice and the individuals notified should be included in related reports.

303.9 KINETIC ENERGY PROJECTILE GUIDELINES

While the use of kinetic energy projectiles by an outside or mutual aid agency may be authorized, the Department reserves the right to refuse the use of such weapons based on the circumstances present. A supervisor shall respond to all kinetic energy projectile deployment incidents where the suspect has been hit. The supervisor shall ensure that all notifications and reports are completed as required by the Use of Force Policy.

303.10 TRAINING FOR CONTROL DEVICES

The Use of Force Program Coordinator shall ensure that all personnel who are authorized to carry a control device have been properly trained and certified to carry the specific control device and are retrained or recertified as necessary.

- (a) Proficiency training shall be monitored and documented by a certified, control-device weapons or tactics instructor.
- (b) All training and proficiency for control devices will be documented in the officer's training file.
- (c) Officers who fail to demonstrate proficiency with the control device or knowledge of this agency's Use of Force Policy will be provided remedial training. If an officer cannot demonstrate proficiency with a control device or knowledge of this agency's Use of

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Force Policy after remedial training, the officer will be restricted from carrying the control device and may be subject to discipline.

303.11 REPORTING USE OF CONTROL DEVICES AND TECHNIQUES

Any application of a control device or technique listed in this policy shall be documented in the related incident report and reported pursuant to the Use of Force Policy.