



Minneapolis Police Department Policy and Procedure Manual

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Volume Five – Code of Conduct and Use of Force

Use of Force

5-304 Authorized and Prohibited Force Control Options

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I. Purpose

- A. This policy is intended to recognize and respect the sanctity of life and value of all human life. The MPD recognizes that combative, non-compliant, armed or otherwise violent subjects may cause handling and control problems that require special training and equipment.
- B. The purpose of this policy is to cover definitions, authorizations, restrictions and prohibitions that apply to all force options.

II. Definitions

Carry: Carrying a weapon or tool means having it on one's person. This includes having it in a pocket, holster, or backpack or similar container, as well as having it slung or having it in hand.

Display: Display means having a weapon in hand, while engaged with a subject. For a handgun, this means having it out of the holster, while engaged with a subject. For larger weapons such as rifles, this means having it in hand (slung or unslung), while engaged with a subject.

Engaged with a Subject: This means treating someone as a potential suspect or dealing with a person who is the focus of law enforcement attention in an incident, while using some level of reportable force (such as display or pointing). An example of a person who is the focus of law enforcement attention is a person in crisis who may not be a potential suspect.

Point: Pointing a weapon means directing it towards a subject, while engaged with them as a potential suspect or as a focus of law enforcement attention in an incident (such as a person in crisis), with the intent to use or imply the use of the weapon. This includes using a CEW to laser paint a subject, aiming firearms, and aiming less-lethal launchers.

Use: Using a weapon or tool means activating or applying any of its mechanical functions, pointing a weapon, or making contact with a subject with the weapon or tool. This includes discharging a weapon such as a firearm, CEW, aerosol, or 40mm launcher, arcing, red-dotting or activating a CEW, applying handcuffs or restraints, and making bodily contact with a subject

with an impact weapon. Using empty hand techniques means making bodily contact with a subject.

III. Policy

A. Authorized Control Options and Improvised Control Options

All uses of force shall be in accordance with the standards and requirements in P&P 5-301.

1. Officers shall only carry and use MPD approved weapons for which they are currently trained and authorized to use through the MPD Training Division, except in exigent circumstances.
 - a. An authorized device is a device an officer has received permission from the MPD to carry and use in the discharge of that officer's duties, and for which the officer has:
 - i. Obtained training in the technical, mechanical and physical aspects of the device.
and
 - ii. Developed a knowledge and understanding of the MPD policy, law, rules and regulations regarding the use of such a device.
2. MPD Training provides the foundation for considerations regarding decision-making and the use of force. While this training is as comprehensive as possible, it is recognized that not all situations are linear and that use of force sometimes deviates from trained techniques.
 - a. In the event that an officer's use of force incorporates improvised weapons or techniques, officers shall still adhere to the force guiding principles and ensure their actions are objectively reasonable, necessary, and proportional (P&P 5-301).
3. The use of a vehicle, intermediate weapon, empty hand technique, or other improvised weapon by an officer may constitute the use of deadly force, depending on how the weapon or technique was used.

B. Limitations and Prohibitions

1. Transporting a person facedown

Officers shall not secure a person in any way that results in transporting the person face down in a vehicle unless MN Statute section 609.066 authorizes the use of deadly force to protect the officer or another from death or great bodily harm (MN Statute section 609.06).

2. Prone positioning

- a. People in MPD custody shall not be placed in the facedown prone position or any other position that causes a breathing restriction, other than briefly when necessary to secure the person or to prevent the person from causing harm to themselves or others.
- a. If a person is in a position that causes a breathing restriction, for the purpose of securing the person or preventing the person from causing harm to self or others, the person shall be placed in a sitting position, or laying on their side, in a recovery position, as soon as safely possible for all parties. These positions allow the person to breathe freely, reducing the possibility of bodily harm or death from any part of the body respiratory system being restricted or manipulated.

3. Prohibition on neck restraints and choke holds

Neck Restraints and choke holds are prohibited. Instructors are prohibited from teaching the use of neck restraints or choke holds.

- A choke hold is “as a method by which a person applies sufficient pressure to a person to make breathing difficult or impossible, and includes but is not limited to any pressure to the neck, throat, or windpipe that may prevent or hinder breathing, or reduce intake of air. Choke hold also means applying pressure to a person's neck on either side of the windpipe, but not to the windpipe itself, to stop the flow of blood to the brain via the carotid arteries.” (MN Statute section 609.06 Subd. 3 (b))

4. Prohibition on hogties

Hogtying a subject is prohibited.

- A hogtie involves tying the feet of the subject directly to their hands behind their back.

5. Prohibition on the Maximal Restraint Technique (MRT)

The Maximal Restraint Technique (MRT) and the Hobble Restraint Device (and related devices) are prohibited.

- The Maximal Restraint Technique (MRT) is a technique used to secure a subject's feet to their waist, through the Hobble Restraint Device or other related devices.

6. Knives

Officers shall not carry knives as weapons. Officers may carry a knife as a tool with a blade length no longer than 4 inches.

C. Force Used During Off-duty Employment Outside of Minneapolis

When reportable force is used during the scope of off-duty employment outside of Minneapolis (i.e. for another law enforcement agency), officers shall obtain a Minneapolis CCN from MECC and complete a Police Report with the code AOA and refer to the outside employer's incident report in the Narrative Text. If an MPD CEW was used when working off-duty outside of Minneapolis, officers shall then download the device and store the information under the Minneapolis CCN (the MPD CEW must be approved for use with the outside agency in the required Letter of Agreement per P&P 3-801).

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