



# Minneapolis Police Department Policy and Procedure Manual

Number:  
5-300

## Volume Five – Code of Conduct and Use of Force

### Use of Force

#### 5-306 Control Option- Empty Hand Techniques

(xx/xx/24)

Revisions to prior policies: (09/08/20) (12/22/20) (04/04/21) (01/01/23)

##### I. Purpose

This policy is intended to recognize and respect the sanctity of life and value of all human life, and to expand on the requirements of other force policies, specifically related to empty hand techniques.

##### II. Definitions

**Empty Hand Technique:** An empty hand technique is force used by an officer that employs the officer's own body as the mechanism of force (also called bodily force). Empty hand techniques do not include the use of an intermediate or improvised weapon.

**Body weight to pin:** Using body weight to pin a subject to the ground or floor, or to a fixed object while the subject is lying down.

**Control pressure:** Pressing a subject into a fixed object, while the subject is not lying down (such as applying pressure while the subject is against a vehicle or building).

**Escort holds:** Temporary holding of the hand, wrist, arm or shoulder to physically control or direct a subject.

**Joint manipulations:** Forcefully controlling a subject's joint to limit or direct movement. This also includes locks such as wristlocks, armbars, shoulder locks, joint locks, etc.

**Pressure Point Compliance:** Directed touch pressure that is delivered to gain compliance and may result in brief temporary pain.

**Pushes:** Using physical force to press forward in an effort to effect movement.

**Strikes:** Punches, kicks, knees, slaps.

**Takedown techniques or tackles:** Using bodily force that compels a standing or seated person to the ground or floor, or forceful actions that result in the person ending up on the ground or floor (whether intentional or unintentional).

Examples of actions that constitute takedowns include, but are not limited to:

1. Two-officer or single-officer takedown.
2. A push, pull or shove that propels the subject to the ground or floor.
3. A vehicle extraction that ends on the ground or floor.
4. Tacking the subject.
5. A leg sweep.

**Terms defined in P&P 5-304:**

- Use

**III. Policy**

**A. Conditions for Use**

1. Objectively reasonable, necessary and proportional

Empty hand techniques may only be used when objectively reasonable, necessary and proportional, in order to provide for the safety of an officer or a third person, stop an attack, make an arrest, bring a person or situation safely under control, or prevent escape (as described in P&P 5-301). Officers are reminded that they shall use the lowest degree of force necessary (P&P 5-301).

When using empty hand techniques, officers must continually assess the situation and modulate their use of force accordingly as the level of resistance changes.

2. Restriction on Strikes

Strikes shall not be used with people who are Compliant or are Passively Resisting as defined by policy (P&P 5-301).

**B. Treatment and Medical Aid**

In addition to standard medical treatment after use of force (in accordance with P&P 5-301), when officers use strikes, or if empty hand techniques cause a subject's head to strike an object or surface, treatment for the subject shall include visually inspecting the areas struck for signs of injury, when appropriate. Officers shall routinely monitor the person's medical condition until they are released to medical or other law enforcement personnel.