

**GENERAL  
ORDER**

*Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department*

*Partners with the Community*

TO	: ALL PERSONNEL	June 18, 2015	Directive No. GO-008-15
SUBJECT	: USE OF FORCE		Effective Date IMMEDIATELY
Additional Information	: Changes appear in <i>italics</i> ; deletions appear <del>struck out</del> . Semi-annual Use of Force policy review committee.		
Accreditation Standards	: 1.2.2, 1.3.1 through 1.3.7, 1.3.10 through 1.3.13	Dept. Manual Reference:	6/002.00-.03
Approval Signature	:	Joseph Lombardo, Sheriff Kevin McMahill, Undersheriff	

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**6/002.00 USE OF FORCE POLICY**  
**I. POLICY**  
**II. DEFINITIONS**  
**III. DETERMINING OBJECTIVELY REASONABLE FORCE**  
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**I. POLICY**

The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department is committed to protecting people, their property and rights, while providing the best in public safety and service. The proper use of force is essential for policing. There are circumstances where individuals will not comply with the law unless compelled or controlled by the use of force. Yet, officers must also remain mindful that they derive their authority from the community and that unreasonable force degrades the legitimacy of that authority. In a Use of Force Incident, the governmental interest must match the level of force and intrusion upon an individual's constitutional rights.

It is the policy of this department that officers hold the highest regard for the dignity and liberty of all persons, and place minimal reliance upon the use of force. The department respects the value of every human life and that the application of deadly force is a measure to be employed in the most extreme circumstances.

**II. DEFINITIONS**

- A. Approved Weapons** – Approved weapons are those weapons meeting department specifications for which officers receive proficiency and safety training. Prior to the use of any approved weapon option, the officer, when practical, will communicate to other officers and the subject that the use of the option is imminent, and clearly and audibly announce the same to all personnel in the immediate area unless exigent circumstances prevent this from occurring.
- B. Blocking** - Blocking is the positioning of a police vehicle in the path of an occupied subject vehicle where contact between the vehicles is not anticipated or is anticipated to be minimal. The intent of blocking is to prevent an avenue of escape by the safe placement of a police vehicle.
- C. Cuffing Under Power** - Cuffing under Power is a tactic where a secondary officer handcuffs a subject while the ECD (being deployed by the primary officer) is cycling and the subject is in Neuro-Muscular Incapacitation (NMI).
- D. Critical Incident Review Team (CIRT)** - A team put in place to conduct an administrative examination of uses of deadly force and other high-risk law enforcement operations, for the purpose of improving both individual and the agency's performance.
- E. Deadly Force** - Deadly force is that degree of force, which is likely to produce death or serious bodily injury. Deadly force can also result from a force option being improperly applied. Deadly force is not limited to the use of firearms.
- F. Electronic Control Device (ECD)** - The ECD is a Neuro-Muscular Incapacitation (NMI) device that stimulates the motor neurons to contract disrupting communication from the brain to the muscles thereby causing temporary motor skill dysfunction.
  - 1. Spark Display – A non-contact demonstration of the ECD's ability to discharge electricity.
  - 2. Touch Stun - A secondary function of the ECD intended to administer pain to a subject by making direct contact with the body after the air cartridge has been expended or removed.
  - 3. Probe Mode - The primary function of the ECD where the ECD cartridge is deployed firing probes at the subject. The intent is that the subject be temporarily immobilized for the period of time the ECD is cycled.
- G. Fatal Detail** – A section of the Traffic Bureau who conducts or assists in investigations related to uses of force with a vehicle which may cause serious bodily injury, or result in death.

- H. **Force Transitions** - The movement, escalation/de-escalation, from the application of one force type to another in conjunction with the “objectively reasonable” standard from Graham v. Connor, 490 U.S. 386 (1989). The officer must consider all the factors prior to using force and choose a reasonable option based on the “totality of the circumstances” present.

The LVMPD Use of Force Policy applies to all commissioned officers, but the legal standard specific to incidents involving use of force within a detention facility are set forth in Hudson v. McMillian, 503 U.S. 1(1992).

- I. **Force Investigation Team (FIT)** - Conducts a criminal investigation to determine whether the use of deadly force was legally justified under criminal law. FIT also directs the investigation against a subject who either committed crimes which led to the use of deadly force or who has committed crimes against an officer.
- J. **Imminent Threat** - “Imminent threat” refers to an impending violent act or resistance that an officer reasonably believes will occur, based on the totality of the circumstances.
- K. **Intermediate Force** - A level of force that has the potential to cause injury or substantial pain, and is greater than Low-Level Force.
- L. **Involved Officer** – A commissioned officer or supervisor, who participated in, directed or influenced the application of the use of force.
- M. **Lateral Vascular Neck Restraint (LVNR®)** - LVNR® is a specific method of applying pressure to the side of a subject’s neck to overcome resistance and allow safe control. This technique is used only in accordance with official departmental training and policy.
- N. **Levels of Control** - Levels of Control are broad categories of influence and/or force in identifiable, escalating stages of intensity. They are identified as low level force, intermediate force, and deadly force.
- O. **Low Level Force** - Low level force is a level of force or control that is neither likely nor intended to cause injury.
- P. **Non-Deadly Force** - Non-deadly force is the level of force required to compel compliance, which is not intended to, and is not known to create a substantial risk of causing death or serious bodily harm.
- Q. **Officer-Involved Shooting** - An officer-involved shooting is an officer’s discharge of a firearm at a person, with or without physical injury or the death of the person.
- R. **Officer Witness Monitor** - An Officer Witness Monitor is a designated officer who is not involved in the use of deadly force. The responsibilities of the Officer Witness Monitor are to observe and prevent discussions regarding the incident among involved officer(s) and witness(s).
- S. **Other Firearm Discharge** - An “other firearm discharge” is an unintentional discharge of a firearm that does not cause injury or death to a person or the intentional shooting at, injuring, or killing animals.
- T. **Precision Intervention Technique (PIT)** - The PIT is a specific manner of intentional contact using a police vehicle against a fleeing vehicle to cause the fleeing vehicle to come to a stop; this technique is used only in accordance with official department training and policy.
- U. **Public Safety Statement (PSS)** - The PSS is a series of questions to obtain information to determine if there is an immediate threat to public safety and must be taken in a timely manner. (An example would be shots fired by an officer or a subject in the direction where the public may be in immediate danger.) The supervisor must take appropriate action to ensure public safety, based on the information received from the PSS.
- V. **Ramming** - The use of a vehicle to intentionally hit another vehicle, outside the approved PIT, blocking and stationary vehicle immobilization policies. Ramming is prohibited unless it is a deadly force situation which can be clearly articulated.

- W. **Reasonable Force** - Reasonable force is an objective standard of force viewed from the perspective of a reasonable officer, without the benefit of 20/20 hindsight, and based on the totality of the circumstances presented at the moment the force is used. See section IV. "Determining Objectively Reasonable Force."
- X. **Reportable Force** - Reportable force is any use of force which is required to overcome subject resistance to gain compliance that results in injury or complaint of injury, complaint of continuing pain, or any use of force greater than low level force (see Levels of Control) and any application of the LVNR®.
- Y. **Serious Bodily Injury** - A bodily injury that creates a substantial risk of death; causes serious, permanent disfigurement; or results in a prolonged loss or impairment of the functioning of any bodily member or organ.
- Z. **Significant Force** - Any force which results in treatment at a medical facility due to injuries or alleged injuries caused by any officer. Examples include, but are not limited to: skeletal fractures; serious bodily injury or complaint of injury to a person's head or sternum area. All Significant Force is Reportable Force.
- AA. **Stationary Vehicle Immobilization Technique (Pinching)** - Is a containment tactic whose use is restricted for specialized units. It employs extremely low-speed, intentional vehicle contact with a subject vehicle. The purpose is to render a vehicle immobile by blocking it in place with police vehicles, so that subjects can be taken into custody.
- BB. **Use of Force Model** – A visual guide describing the appropriate levels of force authorized to be used by an officer in response to the level of resistance being displayed by a subject
- CC. **Witness Officer** – A commissioned officer or supervisor who did not participate in or directly influence the application of the use of force.

### III. DETERMINING OBJECTIVELY REASONABLE FORCE

The United States Supreme Court decisions and interpretations of the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution a police officer may only use such force as is "objectively reasonable" under all of the circumstances. The standard that courts will use to examine whether a use of force is constitutional was first set forth in Graham v. Connor, 490 U.S. 386 (1989) and expanded by subsequent court cases. The reasonableness of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with 20/20 vision of hindsight. The reasonableness must account for the fact that officers are often forced to make split-second judgments - in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving.

The reasonableness inquiry in reviewing use of force is an objective one: the question is whether the officer's actions are objectively reasonable in light of the facts and circumstances confronting them. The officer's perception will be a consideration, along with other objective factors that may affect the reasonableness of the force. These factors may include but are not limited to:

1. The severity of the crime(s) at issue;
2. Whether the subject poses an immediate threat to the safety of the officer(s) or others;
3. Whether the subject is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight;
4. The influence of drugs/alcohol or the mental capacity of the subject;
5. The time available to an officer to make a decision;
6. The availability of officers/resources to de-escalate the situation;
7. The proximity or access of weapons to the subject;
8. The environmental factors and/or other exigent circumstances.

The officer will use a level of force that is necessary and within the range of "objectively reasonable" options. When use of force is needed, officers will assess each incident to determine, based on policy, training and experience, which use of force option will de-escalate the situation and bring it under control in a safe and prudent manner. Reasonable and sound judgment will dictate the force option to be employed. Therefore, the department examines all uses of force from an objective standard rather than a subjective standard.

The LVMPD Use of Force Policy applies to all commissioned officers, but the legal standard specific to incidents involving use of force within a detention facility are set forth in Hudson v. McMillian, 503 U.S. 1(1992). Corrections officers will follow DSD Standard Operating Procedure(s) regarding the Use of Force as applicable (i.e. DSD SOP 09.11.01 Use of Force).

LVMPD allows certain classifications of civilian employees to carry a firearm and OC spray while on duty. Civilian employees have no power of arrest and therefore may only use force consist with Nevada law on self-defense or defense of others.

#### IV. MEDICAL ATTENTION

Whenever an officer applies a Use of Force option upon a subject that results in a visible injury or complaint of injury, the officer will monitor the subject and immediately summon medical attention. When requesting medical attention, the officer will provide the nature of the injury for responding medical personnel.

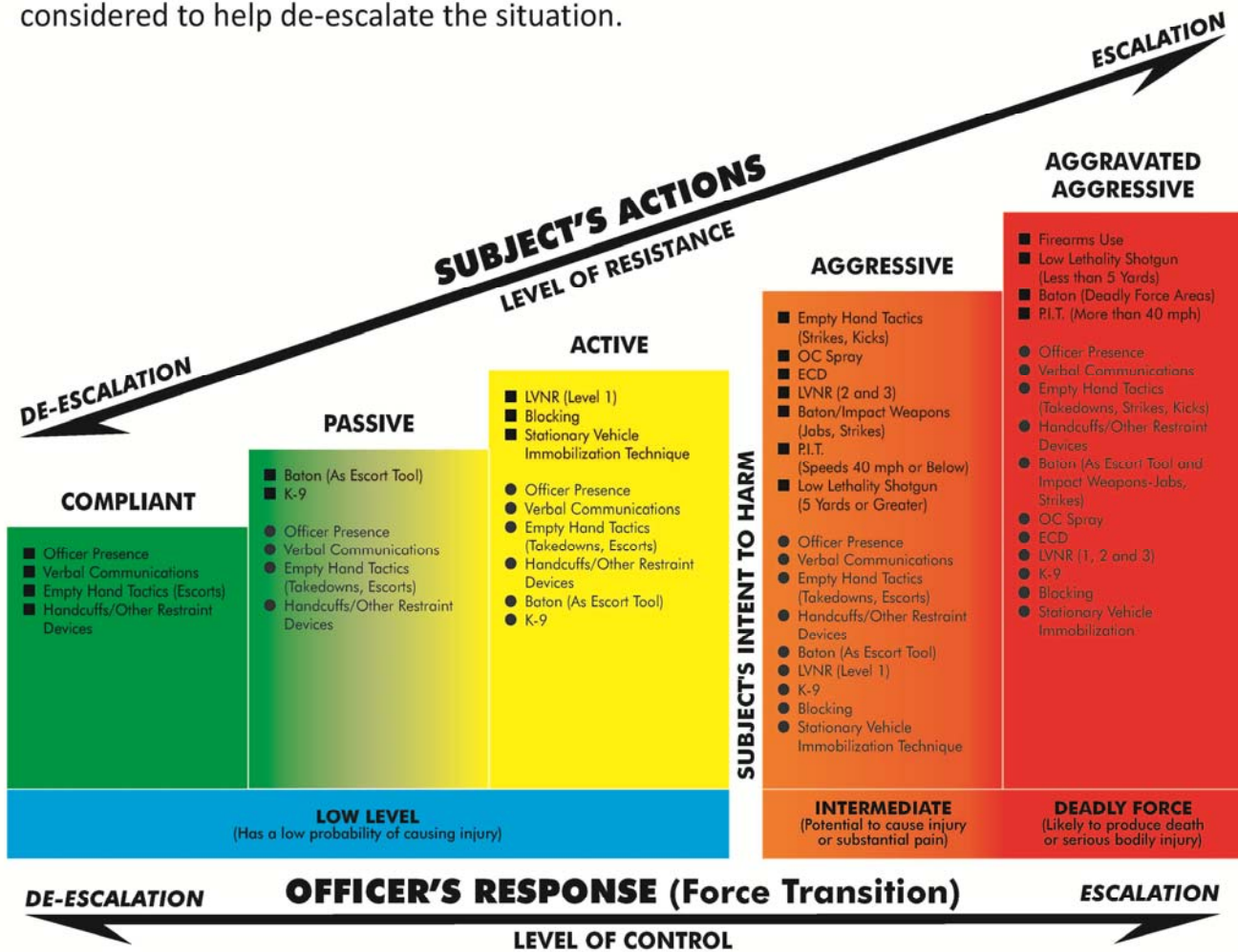
*Note:* In some instances, the best course of action may be to transport the subject to the nearest medical facility. In these instances, the nature of injury, response time of medical personnel and proximity of the medical facility should be considered.

Medical attention will be summoned for the following Use of Force applications regardless of visible injury or complaint of injury:

1. Baton/Impact Weapons-Any strikes to the head, neck or groin area.
2. OC Spray- Direct exposure to the facial area.
3. LVNR®-When applied.
4. ECD-Probe strikes to the head, neck or groin area.
5. Use of Canine- All bites
6. Use of Force with a vehicle:
  - a. Precision Intervention Technique- Over 40 MPH.
  - b. Blocking- Contact with an occupied vehicle.
  - c. Stationary Vehicle Immobilization Technique (Pinching)-All.
  - d. Ramming-All.
7. Use of Force with a Firearm:
  - a. Low Lethality Shotgun-All strikes.
  - b. Handgun/Shotgun (“00” Buck & Slug)/Rifle-Any discharge.

#### V. USE OF FORCE MODEL

Each bold force option within the Levels of Control represents the highest level of force option available; however, other force options should be considered to help de-escalate the situation.



This graphic is intended as a general guideline for an officer. The subject(s) actions will dictate the Resistance Level and officers will make an “objectively reasonable” force option choice. Corrections officers will follow their established standard operating procedures in incidents involving use of force within a detention facility. (i.e. DSD SOP 09.11.01 Use of Force.)

In use of force incidents, the officer will transition to differing degrees or types of force, including attempts to de-escalate. Force situations are dynamic and require an officer to continually assess the subject’s actions to ensure an objectively reasonable response. Officers shall modify their Level of Control in relation to the amount of resistance offered by a subject. (9/14, 06/15) ■

6/002.01 USE OF FORCE PROCEDURE

- I. USE OF FORCE TO AFFECT A DETENTION, AN ARREST OR TO CONDUCT A SEARCH
- II. DUTY TO INTERVENE
- III. LEVELS OF RESISTANCE (see Use of Force Model)
- IV. LEVELS OF CONTROL (see Use of Force Model)
- V. DE-ESCALATION

I. USE OF FORCE TO AFFECT A DETENTION, AN ARREST OR TO CONDUCT A SEARCH

- A. Officers may use reasonable force:
  - 1. To protect themselves;
  - 2. To protect others;
  - 3. To affect a lawful detention;
  - 4. To affect a lawful arrest;
  - 5. To conduct a lawful search.
- B. If it is not already known by the subject to be detained, arrested, or searched, officers should, if reasonable, make clear their intent to detain, arrest or search the subject. When practicable, officers will identify themselves as a peace officer before using force.

II. DUTY TO INTERVENE

Any officer present and observing another officer using force that is clearly beyond that which is objectively reasonable under the circumstances shall, when in a position to do so, safely intercede to prevent the use of such excessive force. Officers shall promptly report these observations to a supervisor.

III. LEVELS OF RESISTANCE (see Use of Force Model, 6/002.00)

It is important for officers to bear in mind that there are many reasons a suspect may be resisting arrest or may be unresponsive. The person in question may not be capable of understanding the gravity of the situation. Officers must consider several factors when dealing with a non-compliant subject. A subject may be non-compliant due to a medical condition, mental, physical, or hearing impairment, language barrier, drug interaction or emotional crisis, and have no criminal intent. This may not make the subject any less dangerous but it may require a change in tactics that will be more effective while maintaining officer safety, once these circumstances are known to the officer.

- A. **Compliant** - A person contacted by an officer who acknowledges direction or lawful orders given and offers no passive/active, aggressive, or aggravated aggressive resistance.
- B. **Passive Resistance** - The subject is not complying with an officer's commands and is uncooperative, but is taking only minimal physical action to prevent an officer from placing the subject in custody and taking control. Examples include: standing stationary and not moving upon lawful direction, falling limply and refusing to use their own power to move (becoming "dead weight"), holding onto a fixed object, or locking arms to another during a protest or demonstration.
- C. **Active Resistance** - The subject's verbal or physical actions are intended to prevent an officer from placing the subject in custody and taking control, but are not directed at harming the officer. Examples include: walking or running away, breaking the officer's grip.

----- SUBJECT'S INTENT TO HARM -----

- D. **Aggressive Resistance** - The subject displays the intent to harm the officer, themselves or another person and prevent an officer from placing the subject in custody and taking control. The aggression may manifest itself through a subject taking a fighting stance, punching, kicking, striking, attacks with weapons or other actions which present an imminent threat of physical harm to the officer or another.

- E. **Aggravated Aggressive Resistance** - The subject's actions are likely to result in death or serious bodily harm to the officer, themselves or another. These actions may include a firearm, use of blunt or bladed weapon, and extreme physical force.

IV. **LEVELS OF CONTROL** (see Use of Force Model, 6/002.00)

When use of force is needed, officers will assess each incident to determine, based on policy, training and experience, which use of force option is believed to be objectively reasonable for the situation and bring it under control in a safe and prudent manner.

- A. **Low Level Force** - Low level force is a level of force or control that is neither likely nor intended to cause injury. Examples are handcuffing a compliant arrestee for transport to detention facility or proning a suspect out on a high-risk vehicle stop.

This level of force includes:

1. Officer Presence
2. Verbal Communication
3. Empty Hand Tactics (Takedowns)
4. Handcuffs/Other LVMPD Approved Restraint Devices
5. Baton (As escort tool)
6. LVNR® (Level One – minimum restraint)
7. Canine
8. Pinching
9. Blocking

- B. **Intermediate Force** - A level of force that has the potential to cause injury or substantial pain, and is greater than Low-Level Force.

- C. This level of force requires a Use of Force Report and includes:

1. Empty Hand Tactics (Takedown with injury, Strikes, Kicks)
2. Baton/Impact Weapons (Jabs, Strikes)
3. LVNR® (Level 2 – medium restraint; and 3-maximum restraint)
4. OC Spray
5. ECD
6. Low Lethality Shotgun (five yards or greater)
7. Canine
8. P.I.T. (Speeds 40mph or below)

- D. **Deadly Force** - Deadly force is that degree of force, which is likely to produce death or serious bodily injury. Deadly force can also result from a force option being improperly applied. In order for the Use of Deadly Force to be justified, at least one of the parameters and all elements must be present. Examples include but are not limited to:

1. Baton (Striking head, neck, sternum, spine, groin, or kidneys)
2. Low Lethality Shotgun (Fired at a distance less than five yards)
3. P.I.T. (More than 40mph)
4. Ramming
5. Firearm Use

**Parameters for Use of Deadly Force**

An officer may use deadly force upon another person only when it is objectively reasonable to:

1. Protect themselves or others from what is reasonably believed to be an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury;
2. Prevent the escape of a fleeing felon who the officer has probable cause to believe has committed a violent felony crime and is an imminent threat to human life if escape should occur. (See NRS 171.1455.) Officers will give some warning, if feasible, prior to the use of deadly force.

Example: *"Police! Stop or I will shoot!"*



### Elements of Deadly Force

1. **Ability** - Ability exists when a person has the means or capability to cause grave injury, serious bodily harm or death to an officer or another. This may include, but is not limited to the following: the subject's physical ability, size, age, strength, combative skill, level of aggression, and any weapons in their immediate control.
2. **Opportunity** - Opportunity exists when a person is in a position to effectively resist an officer's control or to use force or violence upon the officer or another. Examples which may affect opportunity include: relative distance to the officer or others, and physical barriers between the subject and the officer.
3. **Imminent Jeopardy** - Based upon all the facts and a circumstance confronting the officer, the officer reasonably believes the subject poses an imminent threat to the life of the officer(s) or other third parties and the officer must act immediately to prevent death or serious bodily injury.
4. **Preclusion** - Lesser alternatives have been reasonably considered and exhausted prior to the use of deadly force, to include disengagement. Deadly force in response to the subject's actions must remain reasonable while based upon the totality of the circumstances known to the officer at the time force was applied. (Updated 06/15)

### V. DE-ESCALATION

Policing requires that at times an officer must exercise control of a violent or resisting subject to make an arrest, or to protect the officer, other officers, or members of the community from risk of imminent harm. Clearly, not every potential violent confrontation can be de-escalated, but officers do have the ability to impact the direction and the outcome of many situations they handle, based on their decision-making and the tactics they choose to employ.

When reasonable under the totality of circumstances, officers should gather information about the incident, assess the risks, assemble resources, attempt to slow momentum, and communicate and coordinate a response. In their interaction with subjects, officers should use advisements, warnings, verbal persuasion, and other tactics and alternatives to higher levels of force. Officers should recognize that they may withdraw to a position that is tactically more secure or allows them greater distance in order to consider or deploy a greater variety of Force Options. Officers shall perform their work in a manner that avoids unduly jeopardizing their own safety or the safety of others through poor tactical decisions.

The prospect of a favorable outcome is often enhanced when supervisors become involved in the management of an overall response to potential violent encounters by coordinating resources and officers' tactical actions. Supervisors should possess a good knowledge of tactics and ensure that officers under their supervision perform to a standard. As a good practice, supervisors will acknowledge and respond to incidents in a timely manner where law enforcement use of force is probable. (4/14, 5/14) ■

### 6/002.02 AUTHORIZED FORCE TOOLS, DESCRIPTION, REQUIREMENTS, USES AND CONSIDERATIONS

- I. Presence and Verbal Communication:
- II. Empty Hand Tactics:
- III. Handcuffs, flexible handcuffs, or other restraint devices:
- IV. Baton/Impact Weapons:
- V. Oleoresin Capsicum Spray:
- VI. Lateral Vascular Neck Restraint®:
- VII. Electronic Control Device:
- VIII. Use of Canine
- IX. Use of Force with a Vehicle
  - a. Precision Intervention Technique:
  - b. Blocking
  - c. Stationary Vehicle Immobilization Technique (Pinching)
  - d. Ramming
- X. Use of Force with a Firearm
  - a. Low Lethality Shotguns

- b. **Handgun/Shotgun (“OO” Buck & Slug)/Rifle**
- c. **Deployment of Rifles**

With minimal exception, only department-approved weapons and training techniques shall be used. Uniformed officers will carry all issued tools and equipment required by the policies of this agency. Officers should note that less lethal tools may result in a lethal outcome, or be ineffective even when used appropriately.

Non-uniformed commissioned personnel the rank of lieutenant and below are required to carry at least one intermediate force option - baton, OC spray, or ECD – on their person when on-duty unless the requirement is waived, via completion of LVMPD Form 483, by their division commander.

Supervisors of commissioned personnel will ensure their subordinates complete their minimum required hours of training within the calendar year. Officers completing an academy during the calendar year are exempt from the minimum hour requirement. Defensive tactics proficiency testing will be required for the quarter following graduation from an academy.

If the employee fails to demonstrate proficiency, the employee and/or the employee’s supervisor will contact the Organizational Development Bureau/DSD Training as soon as practicable for assistance in formulating a remedial training program.

The following are authorized force tools/restraints and techniques which may be used when objectively reasonable and otherwise permitted under this policy. Specialized units may have additional tools that are not covered in this policy.

**I. Presence and Verbal Communication:**

Level of Control:

Low Level Force

Approved Use:

Officers will, when and to the extent reasonably possible, attempt to use verbal communication skills to control subjects before resorting to physical control methods.

**II. Empty Hand Tactics:**

Level of Control:

Low Level Force – takedowns (not likely to cause injury), escorts

Intermediate Level Force - takedown, strikes, kicking

Deadly Force - takedown, strikes, kicking

Certification/POST Requirements:

1. Entry level training is taught at the LVMPD police and corrections academies.
2. Annual Training - Two hours of Defensive Tactics training per quarter for lieutenants and below. NV POST requires officers must participate in 8 hours of Defensive Tactics training per year and demonstrate proficiency with each tactic/tool they are authorized to use.

Approved Use:

1. These tactics will be used only in accordance with policy and department training.
2. Officers should only use tactics appropriate to the situation which have been taught by department Defensive Tactics instructors.

Additional Considerations:

Summon medical attention on use of an Empty Hand Tactic and/or any incident where a subject is injured and/or complains of injury.

All strikes, punches, kicks, and/or any incident where a subject is injured or complains of injury is a reportable Use of Force Report in Blue Team.

**III. Handcuffs, flexible handcuffs, or other restraint devices:**

Level of Control:

Low Level Force

Description:

Officers will only use department-authorized or issued handcuffs.

Certification/POST Requirements:

1. Entry level training is taught at the LVMPD police and corrections academies.
2. Two hours of Defensive Tactics training per quarter for lieutenants and below. NV POST requires officers participate in 8 hours of Defensive Tactics training per year and demonstrate proficiency with each tactic/tool they are authorized to use.

Inspection Requirement:

Handcuffs will be maintained in clean and working order.

Approved Use:

1. This tool will be used only in accordance with policy and department training.
2. In an attempt to minimize the risk of injury to officers and others during arrest situations, officers will handcuff all persons arrested as soon as possible.
3. During investigative detentions ("Terry Stops") where one or more of the following factors is present: Note: Investigative detentions cannot exceed 60 minutes pursuant to NRS 171.123.
  - a. Articulate facts that the subject is physically uncooperative;
  - b. Articulate facts that a subject's actions at the scene may present physical danger to themselves or others if not restrained;
  - c. Reasonable possibility of flight based on the action of the subject;
  - d. Information that the subject is currently armed;
  - e. The stop closely follows a violent crime and the subject matches specific parts of a description;
  - f. When there are articulable facts that a crime of violence is about to occur;
  - g. Care and discretion should be used when the subject is at extremes of age (elderly and young children) or physically disabled, when handcuffing an individual during an investigative detention.
  - h. The authority to handcuff during investigatory stops continues for only as long as the circumstances above exist.
4. Suicidal persons;
5. During a search warrant service;
  - a. At a private residence as is reasonably necessary to execute the warrant in safety;
  - b. At a commercial business open to the public if it reasonably appears that handcuffing is necessary to protect an officer or others from physical harm. Circumstances which may justify initial handcuffing may change and eliminate continued justification;
6. Persons being transported to detoxification facilities;
7. By detention personnel moving in-custody subjects.

Disapproved Use:

1. If medical circumstances make it unreasonable to handcuff an arrestee, officers will refrain from handcuffing.
2. When responding to a security office where a subject has already been placed in handcuffs prior to arriving to the scene, officers shall not place LVMPD handcuffs on the subject until they have reasonable suspicion or probable cause based on their independent investigation and/or findings.

Tactical Considerations:

1. Officers will check handcuffs for tightness and double lock as soon as it is safe to do so prior to transport.
2. When a handcuffed subject first complains that handcuffs are too tight and/or are hurting the subject, the officer having custody of the handcuffed subject will, as soon as reasonably possible, check the handcuffs to make sure that they are not too tight. If they are too tight (per training), they will be loosened and double locked.

Additional Considerations:

Summon medical attention on use of Handcuffs or other restraint devices and/or any incident where a subject is injured and/or complains of injury.

Any incident where a subject is injured or complains of injury is a reportable Use of Force Report in Blue Team.

**IV. Baton/Impact Weapons:**

Level of Control:

Low Level Force - when used as an escort tool

Intermediate Force - when used for jabbing or striking

Deadly Force - striking subjects on the head, neck, sternum, spine, groin, or kidneys

Description:

1. A baton is a department-authorized expandable straight baton or side handle baton.
2. All commissioned police personnel the rank of lieutenant and below must obtain certification training and carry the baton when in an approved LVMPD uniform (see 4/107.00).
3. Plain clothes officers are required to carry either OC spray, an ECD, or an expandable straight baton.

Certification/POST Requirements:

1. Entry level training is taught at the LVMPD police and corrections academies.
2. All officers, in the rank of lieutenant and below, shall complete the following requirements:
  - a. Receives initial baton training in the academy; or
  - b. Receives a minimum of four (4) hours of initial expandable straight baton training by an LVMPD certified Defensive Tactics Instructor.
3. Annual Training - Two hours of Defensive Tactics training per quarter for lieutenants and below. Nevada POST requires officers participate in 8 hours of Defensive Tactics training per year and demonstrate proficiency with each tactic/tool they are authorized to use.

Inspection Requirement:

Batons will be maintained in clean and working order.

Deployment Requirement:

1. When deploying, an officer will, if practical, announce a warning to the subject and other officers of the intent to deploy a baton/impact weapon if the subject does not comply with your commands.  
Example, "Do what I am telling you to do, or I will strike you with my baton."
2. Officer shall give the subject a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply.

Approved Use:

1. This tool will be used only in accordance with policy and department training.
2. Blocking, jabbing, to apply control holds, or passive/active escort techniques (Example: stirring the pot).

Disapproved Use:

1. A subject who poses no imminent threat will not be struck with a baton or impact tool.
2. Officers are discouraged from using their firearm as an impact tool due to the possibility of an unintentional discharge.
3. During non-deadly force incidents, officers will use reasonable care to avoid striking subjects on the head, neck, sternum, spine, groin, or kidneys, as these strikes may constitute deadly force.
4. The use of instruments as a weapon for the purpose of striking or jabbing (i.e., flashlights, radio, etc.) other than department-authorized batons, is strongly discouraged and acceptable only when other authorized force responses have been exhausted and are either unavailable or ineffective.
5. Officers must be able to articulate a compelling need to use any other device or object other than an authorized baton as an impact weapon.

Additional Considerations:

Summon medical attention on all strikes with a Baton/Impact weapon and/or any incident where a subject is injured and/or complains of injury.

Notify a supervisor when a Baton/Impact weapon has been used.

Use of the baton for escort/control or “stirring the pot” is non-reportable.

All strikes or any incident where a subject is injured and/or complains of injury is a reportable Use of Force Report in Blue Team.

V. Oleoresin Capsicum Spray:

Level of Control:

Intermediate Force

Description:

1. OC spray is a non-lethal agent which causes inflammation of the skin and mucus membranes of a subject and has a natural base as opposed to a chemical base.
2. All commissioned police personnel the rank of lieutenant and below must obtain certification training and carry OC spray when in an approved LVMPD uniform (see 4/107.00).
3. Plain clothes officers are required to carry OC spray, an ECD, or an expandable straight baton.

NOTE: SWAT and SERT personnel are exempt from these provisions during tactical operations, and will follow their own training and standard operations procedures (SOP).

Certification/POST Requirements:

1. Entry level training is taught at the LVMPD police and corrections academies.
2. Annual Training - Two hours of Defensive Tactics training per quarter for lieutenants and below. Nevada POST requires officers participate in 8 hours of Defensive Tactics training per year and demonstrate proficiency with each tactic/tool they are authorized to use.

Inspection Requirement:

OC spray expiration date and serviceability will be checked.

Deployment Requirement:

2. When deploying, an officer will, if practical, announce a warning to the subject and other officers of the intent to deploy the OC spray if the subject does not comply with your commands.  
Example, *“Do what I am telling you to do, or I will spray you with pepper spray.”*
3. Officer shall give the subject a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply.

Approved Use:

1. OC Spray will be used only in accordance with policy and department training.
2. OC spray may be used when subject is engaging or displays the intent to engage in aggressive resistant behavior which may cause injury.
3. OC spray may be used on vicious or aggressive animals when those animals interfere with the safety of the officers or citizens.
4. OC spray may only be used in a protest or demonstration situation when authorized by an incident commander in response to imminent threat of harm.

Disapproved Use:

1. Shall not be used on a subject inside a closed vehicle, unless an officer is attempting to secure an aggressive resistant subject in a patrol vehicle. OC is not intended to be used to force extraction from an enclosed area, unless utilized in a detention facility. (See DSD SOP 09.11.01 Use of Force)
2. Shall not be used on passive resistant protestors.
3. Shall not be used other than as an aerosol/stream.
4. Shall not be used on a handcuffed subject unless the subject is displaying Aggressive Resistance.

Tactical Considerations:

1. Whenever possible, should be used upwind and relatively close to the subject.
2. High capacity OC spray may be used as an intermediate level of control; however, officers will assess the effect the device will have on subjects in the general area due to the volume of agent dispersed.

Supervisory Consideration:

Incident commander may authorize use in a protest or demonstration incident in response to imminent threat of harm.

Additional Considerations:

Summon medical attention on all use of OC Spray and/or any incident where a subject is injured and/or complains of injury.

Notify a supervisor when OC Spray has been used.

Inform detention personnel the subject has been exposed to OC Spray and ensure they have been screened by the detention facility medical staff.

The use of OC Spray on a subject is a reportable Use of Force Report in Blue Team.

Note: In addition to the above, when OC Spray is used by a civilian department member a patrol officer and supervisor will respond to the scene to assist with enforcement action.

**VI. Lateral Vascular Neck Restraint®:**

There are three levels to applying the LVNR®. Level One begins with Low Level Force and may progress to the Intermediate based on the subject's actions.

Level of Control:

Low Level Force -- LVNR® Level One (minimum restraint)

Intermediate Force -- LVNR® Level Two (medium restraint)  
LVNR® Level Three (maximum restraint)

Description:

The LVNR® is a control technique in which the carotid arteries on the sides of the neck are compressed, restricting blood flow to the brain, causing the subject to pass out.

Certification/POST Requirements:

1. Entry Level Training is provided in the LVMPD police and corrections academies. No officer will use the LVNR® without first completing the 12-hour certification course provided in the academy.
2. Training will be provided by certified LVNR® instructors only.
3. All commissioned officers the rank of lieutenant and below will receive training in the LVNR®.
4. Officers certified in the LVNR® will be required to complete four hours of recertification training through quarterly defensive tactics.
  - a. Any officer requesting an exemption from LVNR® training due to medical reasons must obtain a medical exemption from their physician.
  - b. This exemption must be obtained immediately upon requesting the exemption and at the beginning of each calendar year thereafter, and be forwarded to the Director of Risk Management.

Approved Use:

1. This tool will be used only in accordance with policy and department training.
2. The LVNR® is a defensive tactic to quickly and safely stop active/aggressive resistance.

Disapproved Use:

1. Will not be used on subjects that have been exposed to OC spray or who are experiencing difficulty breathing.
2. Officers will not use any arm bar technique that involves a neck restraint.

Tactical Considerations:

1. When applying the LVNR®, only the amount of force necessary to bring the subject under control will be used.
2. Upon the subject being brought under control the LVNR® will be relaxed.

Additional Considerations:

Summon medical attention on all use of LVNR®, and/or any incident where a subject is injured and/or complains of injury.

Notify a supervisor when LVNR® has been attempted or used.

Inform detention personnel LVNR® has been applied on the subject and ensure they have been screened by the detention facility medical staff.

Any application of LVNR® on a subject is a reportable Use of Force Report in Blue Team.

**VII. Electronic Control Device:**

All commissioned personnel at the rank of lieutenant and below must obtain initial ECD certification training, and annual recertification. Sergeants and below, who are issued an ECD, must carry the device when in an approved LVMPD uniform (including overtime assignments; see 4/107.00), excluding NYE, 9/11 or any other Special Events as stated in the IAP for the Event.

Level of Control:

Intermediate Force

Description:

1. The ECD is a Neuro-Muscular Incapacitation (NMI) device that disrupts the body's ability to communicate messages from the brain to the muscles thereby causing temporary NMI.
  - a. An air cartridge is a replaceable cartridge for the ECD which uses compressed nitrogen to fire two barbed probes on thin connecting wires, sending a high voltage/low current signal into a subject.
2. Use of the ECD Camera
  - a. Some ECDs are equipped with a video camera and audio recording device.
  - b. Any and all images, video, and/or audio generated by the ECD camera are the sole property of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. No video and/or audio may be downloaded unless obtained in the course of official duties. No material produced by the ECD cameras may be reproduced, uploaded to non-departmental websites, or otherwise disseminated without authorization from the Sheriff or his designee.
  - c. When an officer leaves the Patrol Division, the ECD camera must be turned into the Supply Section.

Certification/POST Requirements:

1. Entry Level Training is taught at the LVMPD police and corrections academies.
2. Defensive Tactics instructors who have been certified as ECD instructors will be the only authorized persons to instruct on the ECD.
3. Officers authorized to use an ECD must successfully complete an initial six-hour certification training course, to include written and practical tests.
4. Once certified, all officers, regardless of issuance of an ECD, must annually attend four-hour recertification training taught by the AOST Staff.
5. If the employee fails to demonstrate proficiency at any time, the employee and/or the employee's supervisor will contact the Training Section for assistance in formulating a remedial training program.

Inspection Requirement:

1. Officers will use only authorized ECD equipment issued by the LVMPD. The ECD will be inspected for damage and cleanliness, and batteries and cartridges replaced by the officer when required. The ECD will be inspected and maintained in accordance with training protocols. When off duty, ECDs must be stored and secured in a climate-controlled area (i.e. locker), not in a vehicle.
2. Officers must conduct a spark check, outside the public view, at the beginning of shift to ensure the ECD will function properly. This spark check does not require completion of a Use of Force Report.
3. Uniformed officers will carry the ECD in a department approved holster. The holster will be carried on the duty belt, on the side opposite the duty firearm. Cross-draw position is optional. Plain clothes officers, who are issued an ECD, will carry the device on their weak side. Officers have the option of carrying the standard DPM or the X-DPM which is an extended version, capable of carrying a spare ECD cartridge.

Deployment Requirement:

1. When displaying an ECD, officers will give a warning, when practical, to the subject and other officers before firing the ECD.  
Example: *"Do what I am telling you to do or I will taze you and it will hurt."*
2. Officer shall give the subject a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply.

Note: Officers should be aware of the higher risk of sudden death which may exist in subjects under the influence of illicit drugs and/or exhibiting symptoms associated with excited delirium. In addition, once a subject has received an ECD application; officers should be aware of the potential for impaired breathing during restraint procedures. If the subject is thought to be experiencing impaired breathing, they should be placed on their side to reduce the risk of aspiration. Severely impaired breathing could result in death.

Approved Use:

1. This tool will be used only in accordance with policy and department training.
2. The ECD is an Intermediate Level of Control and may be used when there is an imminent threat of physical harm.

Disapproved Use:

1. Officers are not authorized to draw or display the ECD except for training and inspection, unless the circumstances create a reasonable belief that use may be necessary. The ECD will be handled in the same manner as a firearm and will be secured prior to entering any detention facility.
2. The intentional use of more than one ECD simultaneously on the same subject is prohibited.
3. The ECD will not be used:
  - a. When the officer knows a subject has come in contact with flammable liquids or is in a flammable atmosphere;
  - b. When the subject is in a position where a fall may result in serious bodily harm or death;
  - c. Punitively for purposes of coercion or in an unjustified manner;
  - d. To escort or jab individuals;
  - e. To awaken unconscious or intoxicated individuals;
  - f. When the subject is visibly pregnant, unless deadly force is the only other option;
  - g. When a subject displays solely Passive or Active Resistance (i.e. peaceful protest, refusal to stand, non-aggressive verbal resistance, etc.);
  - h. When a subject is fleeing as the sole justification for use of the ECD.
4. The ECD should not be used in the following circumstances unless there are compelling reasons to do so which can be clearly articulated:
  - a. When the subject is in handcuffs or waist restraints;
  - b. When the subject is operating a motor vehicle;
  - c. When the subject is holding a firearm;
  - d. When the subject is at the extremes of age (elderly and young children) or physically disabled;
  - e. In a situation where deadly force is clearly justifiable unless another officer is present and capable of providing deadly force to protect the officers and/or others as necessary.
5. Use of the ECD Camera:
  - a. The ECD camera will not be used as a simple recording device.



- b. The ECD camera may only be used for official law enforcement business. Any use of the ECD camera video or audio that is not in the performance of official duties is strictly prohibited.

Tactical Considerations:

1. There are three types of reportable ECD applications:
  - a. Spark Display - A non-contact demonstration of the ECD's ability to discharge electricity.
  - b. Touch Stun - A pain compliance application of the ECD without a cartridge intended to gain compliance of a subject or used to complete a circuit by making direct contact with the body after the air cartridge has been expended or removed. Note: Use of the ECD as a pain-compliance tool is discouraged.
  - c. Probe Mode - When the ECD cartridge is fired at a subject with the intent that the subject be temporarily immobilized for the period of time the ECD is cycled. Proper application will result in temporary immobilization of the subject and provide the officer a "window of opportunity" in which to take the subject safely into custody.
2. For a frontal shot, reasonable effort should be made to target lower center mass and avoid intentionally targeting the head, neck, groin and chest. It is recognized that the dynamics of each situation and officer safety may not permit the officer to limit the application of the ECD probes to a precise target area. Back shots are the preferred target area when practical.
3. When deploying an ECD, officers will:
  - a. Initial use of the ECD shall be a standard five-second cycle, and then the officer will evaluate the need to apply a second five-second cycle after providing the subject a reasonable opportunity to comply. Each subsequent five-second cycle requires separate justification based on the objectively reasonable standard of Graham v. Connor, 490 U.S. 386 (1989). Once the subject has been exposed to three cycles, the ECD shall be deemed ineffective and another use of force option will be considered, unless exigent circumstances exist;
  - b. Begin control and restraint procedures, including cuffing under power, as soon as is reasonably safe and practical to do so in order to minimize the total duration of ECD exposure(s). The device user, and those assisting the user, should avoid touching the probes, wires, and the areas between the probes to avoid accidental shock during the electrical discharge;
  - c. The use of "touch stun" mode should only be used to supplement Probe Mode to complete the Neuro-Muscular Incapacitation (NMI) effect. The ECD "touch stun" mode requires the same level of justification as probe deployment.

Additional Considerations

Summon medical attention on all use of the ECD, and/or any incident where a subject is injured and/or complains of injury.

Notify a supervisor when ECD has been used (Spark Display, Probe or Touch Stun).

Inform detention personnel an ECD has been used on the subject (Probe or Touch Stun) and ensure they have been screened by the detention facility medical staff.

Any use of ECD on a subject is a reportable Use of Force Report in Blue Team with the only exception being a spark check out of public view. Note: Any accidental discharge of an ECD other than at a subject will be documented on an Officer's Report.

If the subject is thought to be experiencing impaired breathing, they should be placed on their side to reduce the risk of aspiration.

**VIII. Use of Canine**

Level of Control:

Low Level

Intermediate Force

Certification/POST Requirements:

1. All police service dogs will be initially certified.
2. Patrol dogs will be re-certified on a quarterly basis, while detector dogs will be re-certified on a semi-annual basis.

**Inspection Requirement:**

Maintenance training with the Canine team should occur on a daily basis to ensure the training standards are maintained.

**Deployment Requirement:**

Canine teams can be requested through Communications, 24 hours a day, and 7 days a week. A Canine team may need to be called out upon the approval of the section lieutenant or his designee.

**Approved Use:**

1. Canine is approved when there is probable cause to believe a subject has committed a crime or is a danger to themselves or others, and when the subject is actively evading efforts to take them into custody and the use of a canine would reduce risk to officers or the public. Canine will be used only in accordance with policy, department training, and *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386 (1989).

**Disapproved Use:**

Since the use of police dogs may inflame an already volatile situation, it is the policy of this department to place limitations on the use of police dogs in crowd control, civil disorders, or riot situations. In the event of such an occurrence, the canine teams may be dispatched to the problem area in a standby status. They would be utilized only when authorized by the field lieutenant in charge of the scene in a dire emergency. Such an emergency would be for crowd control in conjunction with an all-out police effort to rescue isolated officers or citizens in danger of being injured or killed.

**Tactical Considerations:**

1. In police operations, canine handlers are in charge and responsible for their dogs' deployment.
2. When it is believed a subject may be armed with a weapon likely to cause injury or death to the police service dog, the handler may exercise their discretion before deploying the dog.
3. Risk to Third Parties: In using police service dogs, the canine handler shall exercise reasonable care to avoid unnecessary risk of injury to persons who are not the subject of a search or apprehension.
4. When cover officers accompany canine handlers during searches, they should stay with the handler during a search and not move or run past the canine team unless directed to do so. Cover officers should watch for dangers, make citizen contacts and let canine handlers issue commands to a subject. The canine handlers will let the cover officers know when it is safe to apprehend a subject.

**Additional Considerations:**

Summon medical attention on all bites, and/or any incident where a subject is injured and/or complains of injury.

Notify a supervisor when a subject or person has been bitten by a police service dog.

Inform detention personnel the subject has been bitten by a police service dog and ensure they have been screened by the detention facility medical staff.

Any use of a Canine with bites on a subject is a reportable Use of Force Report in Blue Team. Note: Any injury caused by a police service dog to a person who was not the subject of the search will be documented in an Officer's Report.

**IX. Use of Force with a vehicle:**

- Blocking**
- Stationary Vehicle Immobilization Technique (Pinching)**
- Precision Intervention Technique (PIT)**
- Ramming**

Level of Control:

Blocking & Pinching - Low Level Force

PIT-Intermediate Force - At speeds 40mph or below

Deadly Force – In the following instances:

1. At speeds of more than 40mph;
2. When used on motorcycles;
3. When used on high center of gravity vehicles likely to roll over, such as vans, SUVs, and jeeps;
4. In circumstances creating a substantial risk of death or serious bodily injury.

Ramming - Deadly Force regardless of speed.

Description:

**Blocking-** is the positioning of a police vehicle in the path of an occupied subject vehicle where contact between the vehicles is not anticipated or is anticipated to be minimal. In circumstances where the officer initiates contact it is a reportable use of force. In the use of blocking, the potential for injuries and vehicle damages are low. If the subject initiates contact, this will be investigated as an incident.

**Pinching-** is a pre-planned containment tactic that uses low-speed, intentional police vehicle contact with a subject's vehicle. This tactic is limited for use by specialized units with Bureau Commander's approval and training. The purpose is to render a vehicle immobile so that subjects can be taken into custody.

**PIT-** is a specific manner of intentional contact using a police vehicle against a fleeing vehicle to cause the fleeing vehicle to come to a stop.

**Ramming-** is the use of a police vehicle to intentionally hit another vehicle.

Certification/POST Requirements:

**Pinching:**

1. Personnel assigned to an approved unit intending to use this technique for a preplanned apprehension, must re-certify each year by attending EVOC training.
2. Approval necessary for specialized units to train in and use this technique must be given by the specialized unit's bureau commander, and the ODB commander.
3. Training records for personnel certified in this technique will be maintained by the Training Section of ODB.

**PIT:**

1. Entry level training is taught at the LVMPD police and corrections academies.
2. Only commissioned officers who maintain current certification may use this stopping technique.

Deployment Requirement:

**Blocking:** The officer has reasonable belief the subject has committed a crime and may use the vehicle to flee.

**Pinching:** The officer has a reasonable belief the subject has committed a crime and has been attempting to evade, or has the potential to harm themselves or others.

**PIT:**

1. Prior to initiating a PIT, officers will use their emergency equipment (red and blue lights and sirens) and will give the operator of the subject vehicle a reasonable opportunity to stop.
2. Officers will broadcast through dispatch the intent to use PIT if circumstances permit. Otherwise, notification will be made immediately after.

**Ramming:** The officer has reasonable belief imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury exists. Notification will be made immediately after.

Approved Use:

These tactics will be used only in accordance with policy and department training.

**Blocking:** The intent of blocking is to prevent the escape of a subject by utilizing a police vehicle to block the path of the occupied subject vehicle when contact is not anticipated or probable.

**Pinching:** This pre-planned tactic is not approved for use by Patrol. May be used by specialized units who have gathered intelligence on a specific subject(s) requiring the application of the tactic based on the subjects potential for violence, disregard for public safety and/or to prevent a potential vehicle pursuit.

**PIT:** Circumstances warranting the use of PIT as deadly force are as follows:

1. Continued movement of the pursued vehicle would place others in danger of serious bodily injury or death; and/or
2. Apparent risk of harm, to other than the occupants of the pursued vehicle, is so great as to outweigh the risk of harm in making the forcible stop; and
3. Other means of apprehension have been considered and rejected as impractical, i.e., continue to follow, stop sticks, request the air unit.

**Ramming:** To be used when all other means of apprehension have been considered and rejected as impractical and/or an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury exists.

Disapproved Use:

**Pinching:** Not approved for use by patrol.

**PIT:**

1. PIT will not be used unless the subject demonstrates their attempt to evade police and the elements necessary for an approved Vehicular Pursuit (6/014.00) are present (i.e., violent felony offense or subject presents a clear and immediate danger to the public).
2. Officers driving department truck or SUV-type vehicles are not authorized to use PIT.  
(Exception: Patrol Division Marked Ford Explorer SUV)

**Ramming:** When the imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to an officer or citizen does not exist.

Tactical Considerations:

Officers will consider the safety of the public and subjects before utilizing these tactics.

Environmental factors:

- a. Areas with pedestrians;
- b. Other vehicle traffic;
- c. Parked vehicles;
- d. Telephone/utility poles;
- e. Bridges/overpasses;
- f. Areas adjacent to paved roads with a large elevation change.

Subject factors:

- a. Seriousness of the crime;
- b. Number of subjects;
- c. Subject(s) known to have or has access to firearms;
- d. Potential of the subject to use the vehicle as a weapon;
- e. Potential of a tactical disadvantage due to close proximity of the subject(s);
- f. Potential of creating a crossfire situation;

- g. Size/weight of the subjects vehicle compared to the police vehicle.

Supervisory Consideration:

**Blocking:** Utilized to prevent the escape of a subject in a vehicle.

**Pinching:**

1. Supervisors assigned to units authorized to use this technique will ensure all personnel operating police vehicles in a Stationary Vehicle Immobilization deployment are current on annual certifications.
2. Order discontinuation of the pinch when the necessity for apprehension is outweighed by the dangers of the pinch.
3. Ensure this is the best tactic and that other reasonable options have been considered.

**PIT:**

1. Immediately acknowledge the officer's notification over the radio, and assume responsibility for (either approving or disapproving) PIT;
2. Order discontinuation of the PIT when the necessity for apprehension is outweighed by the dangers of the PIT;
3. Consider use of other options.

**Ramming:** When the imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to an officer or citizen does not exist.

Additional Considerations:

Summon medical attention on all incidents involving use of force with a vehicle and/or any incident where a subject is injured and/or complains of injury.

Notify a supervisor on any use of force with a vehicle.

Blocking with contact of a vehicle that is occupied is a reportable Use of Force Report in Blue Team.

Blocking with contact of an unoccupied vehicle, or a subject's vehicle unintentionally touches the patrol vehicle; the contact will be reported as a traffic incident, LVMPD 42, Vehicle Incident Report.

Pinching is a reportable Use of Force Report in Blue Team. In addition, any contact or collision between any vehicles will be documented by Traffic and reported as a traffic incident, LVMPD 42, Department Vehicle Incident Report.

PIT (successful uses, attempts and/or declared uses) is a reportable Use of Force Report in Blue Team. In addition a Pursuit Report in Blue Team is required when PIT was used during a pursuit.

Ramming regardless of speed is a reportable Use of Force Report in Blue Team.

**X. Use of Force with Firearm**  
**Handgun/Shotgun (Low Lethality, "00" Buck & Slug)/Rifle**

Level of Control:

**Low Lethality Shotgun**

- Intermediate Force - when fired at a distance of five yards or greater.
- Deadly Force - when fired at a distance less than five yards.

**Handgun/Shotgun ("00" Buck & Slug)/Rifle**

- Deadly Force - Shots fired.

Description:

**Low Lethality Shotgun** - Low lethality shotguns are department-issued Remington 870 shotguns with the fore end and stock colored orange. The ammunition is a 12 gauge, drag stabilized, less lethal round.

**Handgun/Shotgun** (“00” Buck & Slug)/Rifle - See policy 5/208.02 Authorized Firearms and Associated Equipment

NOTE: SERT (Use of Force 09.11.01; Special Emergency Response Team SERT 08.07.00) and SWAT personnel are exempt from these provisions during tactical operations, and will follow their own training and standard operations procedures (SOP).

Certification/POST Requirements:

1. Entry level training is taught at the LVMPD police and corrections academies.
2. Low Lethality Shotgun-Re-qualify annually.
3. Handgun/Shotgun (“00” Buck & Slug)/Rifle-See policy 5/108.14 Firearms Training

Inspection Requirement:

Ensure weapon is clean and functional at all times;

**Low Lethality Shotgun**

- Prior to each shift, ensure shotgun is only loaded with department issued low lethality munitions.

**Handgun/Shotgun** (“00” Buck & Slug)/Rifle

- Ensure weapon is loaded with department duty ammunition and not mixed with practice ammunition;
- Officer is responsible to know how many rounds are loaded in the firearm and each magazine(s).

Deployment Requirement:

**Low Lethality Shotgun**

1. Prior to firing a low lethality shotgun, when feasible, the officer will announce a warning to the subject and other officers of the intent to deploy the low lethality shotgun if the subject does not comply with commands.  
*Example: “Police! Do what I am telling you to do, or I will shoot you with a bean bag, and it will hurt.”*
2. Officer shall give the subject a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply.
3. Two officers will be present if a low lethality shotgun is deployed.

**Handgun/Shotgun** (“00” Buck & Slug)/Rifle

1. Before using a firearm, officers will, whenever feasible, identify themselves and state their intention to shoot.  
*Example: “Police! Stop or I’ll shoot!”*
2. Officer shall give the subject a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply.

**Rifle Deployment**

1. If there is a potential for deadly force an officer may deem an approved rifle is appropriate based on distance, available cover, and tactical situation presented. It is important for an officer to understand terminal ballistic capabilities and limitations of the rifle to be deployed.
2. It is incumbent on the officer to use discretion when deploying and displaying the rifle, and to only deploy the rifle when the situation dictates. The officer must be aware of the number of rifles already deployed.
3. Officer(s) deploying rifle(s) will :
  - a. Announce intent to deploy the rifle via the radio and receive an acknowledgment from dispatch;
  - b. Whenever possible, deploy the rifle using a two-officer team consisting of a single rifle carrier supported by a cover officer to ensure security of the scene;
  - c. Advise dispatch, via the radio, of deployment location and update dispatch and others assigned to the event whenever deployment location changes, thus providing situational

- awareness to all personnel on-scene of location of deployed rifle(s);
  - d. Advise dispatch, via the radio, of whether or not deploying officer is accompanied by a cover officer.
4. Communications will re-broadcast that a rifle has been deployed and notify the area supervisor of the deployment.

Approved Use:

All firearms will be used only in accordance with policy and department training

**Low Lethality Shotgun**

1. The low lethality shotgun should only be used against persons who are armed with a weapon that could cause serious injury or death to themselves or others, or when a subject poses an imminent threat to the safety of the officer or other persons. This includes, but is not limited to: an edged weapon, club, pipe, bottle, brick, etc.
2. Officers are cautioned that the target area for impact munitions substantially differs from a deadly force target area. Instead of aiming for center mass of the body, the low lethality shotgun is aimed at abdomen, legs or arms. The head, neck, and groin should be avoided.
3. It may be used as an option to deadly force only when circumstances allow the officer involved to bring an incident to a safe conclusion without unnecessary risk to the officers.

**Handgun/Shotgun ("00" Buck & Slug)/Rifle**

1. Officers are to fire their weapons only:
  - a. To stop and incapacitate a subject from completing a potentially deadly act.
  - b. Protect themselves or others from what is reasonably believed to be an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury.
  - c. To prevent the escape of a fleeing felon who the officer has probable cause to believe has committed a violent felony crime and is an imminent threat to human life if escape should occur (See NRS 171.1455 and Tennessee v. Garner, 471 U.S. 1(1985)).
2. Humanely Euthanize Injured or Dangerous Animals - Officers may humanely euthanize an injured or dangerous animal under the following circumstances:
  - a. In self-defense;
  - b. To prevent serious harm to the officer or others; or
  - c. When the animal is so badly injured as to require humane relief from further suffering.

NOTE: A seriously wounded or injured animal may be destroyed only after attempts have been made to request assistance from the agency (Humane Society, animal control, game warden, etc.) responsible for the disposal of animals. The destruction of vicious animals involves the same rules set forth for self-defense and the defense and safety of others. (See policy 5/109.08 for an exception regarding the Humane Disposal of Animals at Resident Locations.) Also, if the animal's owner is present, the owner will be allowed, at his option, to transport the animal to veterinary care.

Disapproved Use:

**Low Lethality Shotgun**

1. The low lethality shotgun will not be used in the following circumstances:
  - a. Against persons who are holding a firearm unless there are compelling reasons to do so which can be clearly articulated.
  - b. In a civil unrest situation unless authorized by a lieutenant or above, and each application must have a specific targeted individual who presents an imminent threat; and it must be reasonably assured that other individuals in the crowd who pose no threat of violence will not be struck by the munitions.
  - c. When the subject is visibly pregnant, unless deadly force is the only other option.
2. The low lethality shotgun should not be used in the following circumstances unless there are compelling reasons to do so which can be clearly articulated:
  - a. When the subject is at the extremes of age (elderly and young children) or physically disabled;

- b. When a subject is in an elevated position where a fall is likely to cause serious injury or death;
- c. When subject is handcuffed or otherwise restrained;
- d. As a breaching tool.

**Handgun/Shotgun (“00” Buck & Slug)/Rifle**

1. Officers are not authorized to draw or display their firearms, except for training at an approved firearms range, unless the circumstances create reasonable belief that it may be necessary to use the firearm in the performance of their duty.
2. Officers are not authorized to discharge their firearm:
  - a. As warning shots;
  - b. If it appears likely that an innocent person may be injured;
  - c. Either at or from a moving vehicle, unless it is absolutely necessary to do so to protect against imminent threat to the life of the officer or others. The imminent threat must be by means other than the vehicle, itself:
    - 1) Officers will attempt to move out of the path of an oncoming vehicle, if possible, rather than discharge their firearms;
    - 2) Officers will not intentionally place themselves in the path of an oncoming vehicle and attempt to disable the vehicle by discharging their firearms;
    - 3) Officers will not discharge their firearms at a fleeing vehicle (a vehicle moving away from the officer) or its driver.

Tactical Considerations:

**Low Lethality Shotgun**

1. Officers should not fire the low lethality shotgun through barriers, such as glass or chain link fences, because the bag may tear and lead shot may be released.

**Handgun/Shotgun (“00” Buck & Slug)/Rifle**

1. An officer’s decision to draw or exhibit a firearm should be based on the tactical situation at hand and the officer’s reasonable belief there is a substantial risk that the situation will escalate to the point where deadly force may be justified. Unnecessarily drawing or exhibiting a firearm may limit an officer’s alternatives in controlling a situation, create unnecessary anxiety on the part of citizens, and result in an unwarranted or accidental discharge of the firearm.
2. Officers should shoot at the “center mass” for maximum stopping effectiveness and minimal danger to innocent bystanders.
3. Flashlights mounted to firearms will be used only for the purposes authorized and intended and will not be used routinely in the place of a hand-held flashlight.

**Rifle**

1. It is the supervisor’s responsibility to ensure proper deployment of rifles and address over-deployment.
2. Area supervisor will:
  - a. Proceed immediately to the incident involving the rifle deployment and assume tactical control, when possible;
  - b. Ensure that rifle deployment is appropriate for the incident;
  - c. If rifle deployment is inappropriate for the incident, modify or cancel deployment.

Additional Considerations:

Summon medical attention on all use of a firearm (Low Lethality/“00” Buck & Slug) and/or Rifle, and/or any incident where a subject is injured and/or complains of injury.

Notify communications of “Shots Fired!” not applicable for Low Lethality

Notify a supervisor when a firearm (Low Lethality/“00” Buck & Slug) and/or Rifle have been used.



Any intentional use of a firearm (Low Lethality/"00" Buck & Slug) and/or Rifle on a subject is a reportable Use of Force Report in Blue Team.

Inform detention personnel a Low Lethality Shotgun has been used on the subject and ensure they have been screened by the detention facility medical staff. (When applicable)

### **Rifle Deployment**

All rifle deployments are a reportable Use of Force Report in Blue Team. Exceptions to Blue Team reporting are, rifle deployments as part of training or a tactical drill exercise (i.e., MACTAC tests), SWAT personnel and Corrections officers conducting a high risk transport.

When multiple officers deploy rifles during a single incident, the supervisor should designate one deploying officer to complete the Rifle Deployment Report in Blue Team, listing all officers that deployed a rifle as "involved officers" in the report. (03/15, 06/15)

## **6/002.03 REPORTABLE USE OF FORCE**

- I. REPORTABLE FORCE INCIDENTS**
- II. INVESTIGATIONS AND REPORTING**

### **I. REPORTABLE FORCE INCIDENTS**

Reportable force incidents which require the completion of a Use of Force Report in Blue Team include, but are not limited to:

1. Empty Hand Tactics (Takedown with injury, Strikes, Kicks)
2. Baton/Impact Weapons (Jabs, Strikes)
3. OC Spray
4. ECD (spark display, touch stun and probe deployment)
5. LVNR® (Level 1, 2 and 3)
6. Canine (With bites)
7. Use of Force with a vehicle:
  - a. Blocking (With officer initiated contact)
  - b. Stationary Vehicle Immobilization Technique (Pinching - With contact between vehicles)
  - c. P.I.T. (Used or attempted)
  - d. Ramming
8. Use of Force with a Firearm
  - a. Low Lethality Shotgun
  - b. Handgun/Shotgun("00" Buck & Slug)/Rifle  
Deployment of Rifles (Excluding SWAT/SERT)

Note: In addition to the Use of Force Report other Blue Team reports may be required depending on the force application. (Firearm Discharge, Rifle Deployment and Vehicle Pursuit)

Supervisors will respond without necessary delay to all potential reportable uses of force.

### **II. INVESTIGATIONS AND REPORTING**

- A. The department reviews or investigates all reportable use of force incidents to determine their justification, as well as to correct any identifiable training deficiencies. Officers involved in reportable use of force incidents will immediately notify their supervisor or, if unavailable, another on-duty supervisor, and complete the Use of Force Report in Blue Team prior to the end of shift (exceptions must be approved by a supervisor). The report should distinguish which force option was selected and why it was objectively reasonable. Supervisors will respond to each use of force incident in which reportable force is used, conduct an investigation and assist with the completion of the use of force report. (NOTE: Acting supervisors are not authorized to complete this investigation). The report will be required by each officer involved in a use of force incident when reportable force is used. All Use of Force Reports in Blue Team

will be completely coordinated through the officer's chain of command and entered into IA Pro within 30 calendar days of the event. Internal Affairs will provide a monthly report to the appropriate Deputy Chief listing all Use of Force Reports which have exceeded the 30-day limitation.

- B. A Use of Force Report is not required when no injury and/or complaint of injury occurs as a result of:
  - 1. Low Profile Pat Down/High Profile Pat Down/Arm Lock/Standing Search;
  - 2. Routine Handcuffing;
  - 3. Felony Prone Handcuffing (Front and Rear);
  - 4. Felony Prone Search Felony Kneeling;
  - 5. Baton Escort Technique;
  - 6. Takedown;
  - 7. Blocking without contact.
- C. The following Use of Force Options requires a Use of Force Report be completed by the involved officer.
  - 1. Any use of force which is required to overcome subject resistance to gain compliance that results in injury, complaint of injury, or complaint of continuing pain;
  - 2. Any takedown which causes injury or verbal complaint of injury;
  - 3. Use of OC Spray;
  - 4. Lateral Vascular Neck Restraint;
  - 5. Use of an ECD or a Spark Display;
  - 6. Baton Takedowns, Strikes and Jabs;
  - 7. Empty Hand Strikes, Punches, and Kicks;
  - 8. Use of a Low Lethality Shotgun (five yards or greater);
  - 9. A citizen or person arrested complains that an injury has been inflicted as the result of the use of force; or
  - 10. PIT (used, attempted, or declared).
- D. CIRT will complete the use of force report when deadly force is used (i.e. PIT over 40 MPH, or Low Lethality Shotgun less than five yards) or force which results in death.
- E. The following incidents require a Firearm Discharge Report.
  - 1. Accidental Discharge of a firearm during a law enforcement operation.
  - 2. A firearm discharge resulting in death or serious bodily injury;
  - 3. A Non-Injury or Property Damage Intentional Discharge of a Firearm Incident (which includes an intentional discharge at anything other than a person, such as a dog)
  - 4. When shots are fired outside the firearm's range, excluding off-duty situations such as hunting or participating in competitive shooting. When a firearm is discharged at a human being and/or an animal in self-defense or to humanely euthanize an animal (excluding resident areas), CIRT will complete the Firearm Discharge Report.
  - 5. When a resident area officer discharges a firearm at an animal either in self-defense or to humanely euthanize the animal, the resident officer will complete the Firearm Discharge Report. (9/14, 06/15)■