

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. This section is intended to identify some less lethal alternatives.

303.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include (Washington State Office of the Attorney General Model Use of Force Policy):

Oleoresin capsicum (OC) - An inflammatory agent that causes an intense burning sensation of the eyes, nose, mouth, and skin, which may result in closing, tearing, and swelling of the eyes, as well as choking, gagging, and gasping for breath.

Tear gas - Chloroacetophenone (CN), O-chlorobenzylidene malononitrile (CS), and any similar chemical irritant dispersed in the air for the purpose of producing temporary physical discomfort or permanent injury. "Tear gas" does not include oleoresin capsicum (RCW 10.116.030).

303.2 POLICY

In order to control subjects who are violent or who demonstrate the intent to be violent, the Sedro-Woolley 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

Whenever possible, use available and appropriate less lethal alternatives before using deadly force. (RCW 10.120.020). Officers shall use all tools in accordance with training. 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.

Only officers who have successfully completed department-approved training and have demonstrated satisfactory skill and proficiency 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.

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

303.4 RESPONSIBILITIES

Sedro-Woolley Police Department

Policy Manual

Control Devices and Techniques

303.4.1 SHIFT SERGEANT RESPONSIBILITIES

The Shift Sergeant 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 FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The Firearms Instructor or designee 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 Firearms Instructor or the designated instructor for a particular control device. The inspection shall be documented.

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 Firearms Instructor or designee for disposition. Damage to City equipment shall be documented 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. Officers shall not intentionally strike vital areas, including the head, neck, face, throat, spine, groin, or kidney unless deadly force is justified. Officers shall reassess the effectiveness of baton strikes as soon as safe and feasible, and if not effective, move to another appropriate target or to another tactical or physical force option. Officers shall not use a baton to intimidate a person when a baton warning is not justified by the threat presented (see the Use of Force Policy) (Washington State Office of the Attorney General Model Use of Force Policy).

When carrying a baton, uniformed personnel shall carry the baton in its authorized holder on the equipment belt. 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

Officers or other members are not authorized to use tear gas unless necessary to alleviate a present risk of serious harm posed by a (RCW 10.116.030):

- (a) Riot.
- (b) Barricaded subject.
- (c) Hostage situation.

Only the Shift Sergeant, Incident Commander, or Crisis Intervention Response Team Commander may authorize the delivery and use of tear gas, and only after evaluating all conditions known at

Sedro-Woolley Police Department

Policy Manual

Control Devices and Techniques

the time and determining that such force reasonably appears justified and necessary, and other alternatives to the use of tear gas have been exhausted (RCW 10.116.030).

If tear gas is to be used outside a correctional, jail, or detention facility, authorization shall be obtained from the highest elected official of the jurisdiction in which the tear gas is to be used (RCW 10.116.030).

Prior to any use, an announcement shall be made of the intent to use tear gas. Sufficient time and space shall be allowed for compliance with the announcement (RCW 10.116.030).

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 GUIDELINES

As with other control devices, oleoresin capsicum 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. Pepper projectiles and 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.

After the initial application of OC spray, each subsequent application must also be justified.

OC spray is not appropriate in an enclosed, highly populated space where there is a likelihood of impacting uninvolved persons, except where OC spray is the only available and appropriate force option. Officers deploying OC will attempt to avoid or minimize incidental exposure to non-involved persons (Washington State Office of the Attorney General Model Use of Force Policy).

303.7.1 OC SPRAY

Uniformed personnel carrying OC spray shall carry the device in its holster on their person.

Plain clothes and non-field personnel may carry OC spray as authorized, in accordance with the needs of their assignment or at the direction of their supervisor.

303.7.2 PEPPER PROJECTILE SYSTEMS

Pepper projectiles are plastic spheres that are filled with a derivative of OC powder. Because the compressed gas launcher delivers the projectiles with enough force to burst the projectiles on impact and release the OC powder, the potential exists for the projectiles to inflict injury if they strike the head, neck, spine, or groin. Therefore, personnel using a pepper projectile system should not intentionally target those areas, except when the officer reasonably believes the use of deadly force is justified (see the Use of Force Policy).

Officers encountering a situation that warrants the use of a pepper projectile system shall notify a supervisor as soon as practicable. 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.

Control Devices and Techniques

Each deployment of a pepper projectile system shall be documented. This includes situations where the launcher was directed toward the suspect, whether or not the launcher was used. Unintentional discharges shall be promptly reported to a supervisor and documented on the appropriate report form. Only non-incident use of a pepper projectile system, such as training and product demonstrations, is exempt from the reporting requirement.

303.7.3 TREATMENT FOR OC SPRAY EXPOSURE

At the earliest safe opportunity at a scene controlled by law enforcement, an officer shall take action to address the effects of the OC by flushing the person's eyes out with clean water and ventilating with fresh air, if possible (Washington State Office of the Attorney General Model Use of Force Policy). 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

This department is committed to reducing the potential for violent confrontations. Kinetic energy projectiles are designed to stun, temporarily incapacitate, or cause temporary discomfort without penetrating the person's body (Washington State Office of the Attorney General Model Use of Force Policy). When used properly, kinetic energy projectiles are less likely to result in death or serious physical injury and can be used in an attempt to de-escalate a potentially deadly situation.

303.9.1 DEPLOYMENT AND USE

Only department-approved kinetic energy munitions shall be carried and deployed. Approved munitions may be used to compel an individual to cease their actions when such munitions present a reasonable option.

Officers are not required or compelled to use approved munitions in lieu of other reasonable tactics if the involved officer determines that deployment of these munitions cannot be done safely. The safety of hostages, innocent persons and officers takes priority over the safety of subjects engaged in criminal or suicidal behavior.

Circumstances appropriate for deployment include, but are not limited to, situations in which:

- (a) The suspect is armed with a weapon and the tactical circumstances allow for the safe application of approved munitions.
- (b) The suspect has made credible threats to harm themselves or others.

Sedro-Woolley Police Department

Policy Manual

Control Devices and Techniques

- (c) The suspect is engaged in riotous behavior or is throwing rocks, bottles or other dangerous projectiles at people and/or officers.
- (d) There is probable cause to believe that the suspect has already committed a crime of violence and is refusing to comply with lawful orders.

303.9.2 DEPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Before discharging projectiles, the officer should consider such factors as:

- (a) Distance and angle to target.
- (b) Type of munitions employed.
- (c) Type and thickness of subject's clothing.
- (d) The subject's proximity to others.
- (e) The location of the subject.
- (f) Whether the subject's actions dictate the need for an immediate response and the use of control devices appears appropriate.

A verbal warning of the intended use of the device should precede its application, unless it would otherwise endanger the safety of officers or when it is not practicable due to the circumstances. The purpose of the warning is to give the individual a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply and to warn other officers and individuals that the device is being deployed.

An officer should target the buttocks, thigh, calf, and large muscle groups (Washington State Office of the Attorney General Model Use of Force Policy). Officers should keep in mind the manufacturer's recommendations and their training regarding effective distances. However, officers are not restricted solely to use according to manufacturer recommendations. Each situation must be evaluated on the totality of circumstances at the time of deployment.

The need to immediately incapacitate the subject must be weighed against the risk of causing serious injury or death. Officers should not use kinetic energy projectiles in the following circumstances unless the use of deadly force is justified (see the Use of Force Policy) (Washington State Office of the Attorney General Model Use of Force Policy):

- (a) When intentionally aiming kinetic energy projectiles at the head, neck, chest, or groin.
- (b) At ranges that are inconsistent with the projectile manufacturer's guidelines.
- (c) Directed at a person who is situated on an elevated surface (e.g., a ledge, scaffold, near a precipice) unless reasonable efforts have been made to prevent or minimize a fall-related injury (e.g., deploying a safety net).

An officer deploying kinetic energy projectiles shall assess the effectiveness of the projectiles after each shot. If subsequent projectiles are needed, the officer should consider aiming at a different targeted area.

Control Devices and Techniques

303.9.3 SAFETY PROCEDURES

Shotguns specifically designated for use with kinetic energy projectiles will be specially marked in a manner that makes them readily identifiable as such.

Officers will inspect the shotgun and projectiles at the beginning of each shift to ensure that the shotgun is in proper working order and the projectiles are of the approved type and appear to be free from defects.

When it is not deployed, the shotgun will be unloaded and properly and securely stored in the vehicle. When deploying the kinetic energy projectile shotgun, the officer shall visually inspect the kinetic energy projectiles to ensure that conventional ammunition is not being loaded into the shotgun.

Absent compelling circumstances, officers who must transition from conventional ammunition to kinetic energy projectiles will employ the two-person rule for loading. The two-person rule is a safety measure in which a second officer watches the unloading and loading process to ensure that the weapon is completely emptied of conventional ammunition.

303.10 TRAINING FOR CONTROL DEVICES

The Lieutenant shall ensure that all personnel who are authorized to carry a control device have been properly trained, have demonstrated satisfactory skill and proficiency, are 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 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.

Conducted Energy Device

304.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for the issuance and use of Conducted Energy Device (CED)s.

304.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include (Washington State Office of the Attorney General Model Use of Force Policy):

Conducted energy device - A portable device that fires darts/electrodes that transmit an electrical charge or current intended to temporarily immobilize a person (e.g., CED).

304.2 POLICY

The CED is intended to control a violent or potentially violent individual, while minimizing the risk of serious injury. The appropriate use of such a device should result in fewer serious injuries to officers and suspects.

304.3 ISSUANCE AND CARRYING CEDS

Only members who have successfully completed department-approved training and have demonstrated satisfactory skill and proficiency may be issued and carry the CED.

An officer that is issued a CED is expected to carry it as an option to be considered when deadly force is not justified (Washington State Office of the Attorney General Model Use of Force Policy).

CEDs are issued for use during a member's current assignment. Those leaving a particular assignment may be required to return the device to the department's inventory.

Officers shall only use the CED and cartridges that have been issued by the Department. Uniformed officers who have been issued the CED shall wear the device in an approved holster on their person. Non-uniformed officers may secure the CED in the driver's compartment of their vehicle.

When consistent with training, an officer carrying a CED shall perform a function check on the CED and check remaining battery life prior to every shift. An officer should report any malfunction to a supervisor or other appropriate personnel.

An officer shall carry a CED on the support side of the body, and in all but extreme circumstances, shall draw, exhibit, and use the device with the support (i.e., non-handgun firing) hand (Washington State Office of the Attorney General Model Use of Force Policy).

- (a) All CEDs shall be clearly and distinctly marked to differentiate them from the duty weapon and any other device.
- (b) Whenever practicable, officers should carry two or more cartridges on their person when carrying the CED.
- (c) Officers shall be responsible for ensuring that their issued CED is properly maintained and in good working order.

Conducted Energy Device

- (d) Officers should not hold both a firearm and the CED at the same time.

304.4 VERBAL AND VISUAL WARNINGS

A verbal warning of the intended use of the CED should precede its application, unless it would otherwise endanger the safety of officers or when it is not practicable due to the circumstances. The purpose of the warning is to:

- (a) Provide the individual with a reasonable opportunity to voluntarily comply.
- (b) Provide other officers and individuals with a warning that the CED may be deployed.

If, after a verbal warning, an individual is unwilling to voluntarily comply with an officer's lawful orders and it appears both reasonable and feasible under the circumstances, the officer may, but is not required to, display the electrical arc (provided that a cartridge has not been loaded into the device), or the laser in a further attempt to gain compliance prior to the application of the CED. The aiming laser should never be intentionally directed into the eyes of another as it may permanently impair his/her vision.

The fact that a verbal or other warning was given or the reasons it was not given shall be documented by the officer deploying the CED in the related report.

304.5 USE OF THE CED

The CED has limitations and restrictions requiring consideration before its use. The CED should only be used when its operator can safely approach the subject within the operational range of the device. Although the CED is generally effective in controlling most individuals, officers should be aware that the device may not achieve the intended results and be prepared with other options.

304.5.1 APPLICATION OF THE CED

The CED may be used in any of the following circumstances, when the circumstances perceived by the officer at the time indicate that such application is reasonably necessary to control a person:

- (a) The subject is violent or is physically resisting.
- (b) The subject has demonstrated, by words or action, an intention to be violent or to physically resist, and reasonably appears to present the potential to harm officers, themselves, or others.

Mere flight from a pursuing officer, without other known circumstances or factors, is not good cause for the use of the CED to apprehend an individual.

304.5.2 SPECIAL DEPLOYMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The use of the CED on certain individuals should generally be avoided unless the totality of the circumstances indicates that other available options reasonably appear ineffective or would present a greater danger to the officer, the subject, or others, and the officer reasonably believes that the need to control the individual outweighs the risk of using the device. This includes (Washington State Office of the Attorney General Model Use of Force Policy):

- (a) Individuals who are known to be pregnant.

Sedro-Woolley Police Department

Policy Manual

Conducted Energy Device

- (b) Elderly individuals or obvious juveniles.
- (c) Individuals with obviously low body mass.
- (d) Individuals who are handcuffed or otherwise restrained.
- (e) In any environment where an officer knows or has reason to believe that a potentially flammable, volatile, or explosive material is present that might be ignited by an open spark, including but not limited to OC spray with a volatile propellant, gasoline, natural gas, or propane.
- (f) Individuals who are situated on an elevated surface (e.g., a ledge, scaffold, near a precipice) unless reasonable efforts have been made to prevent or minimize a fall-related injury (e.g., deploying a safety net).
- (g) Operators in physical control of vehicles in motion, including automobiles, trucks, motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, bicycles, and scooters unless deadly force is justified.

The primary use of a CED is not as a pain compliance tool. Drive-stun mode should only be used when necessary to complete the incapacitation circuit where only one probe has attached to the person, where both probes attached in close proximity, or when no other alternatives to deadly force are available and appropriate (Washington State Office of the Attorney General Model Use of Force Policy).

The CED shall not be used to psychologically torment, elicit statements, or to punish any individual.

304.5.3 TARGETING CONSIDERATIONS

Reasonable efforts should be made to target lower center mass and avoid the head, neck, chest and groin. If the dynamics of a situation or officer safety do not permit the officer to limit the application of the CED probes to a precise target area, officers should monitor the condition of the subject if one or more probes strikes the head, neck, chest or groin until the subject is examined by paramedics or other medical personnel.

304.5.4 MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS OF THE CED

Officers should apply the CED for only one standard cycle of five seconds or less and then evaluate the situation before applying any subsequent cycles (Washington State Office of the Attorney General Model Use of Force Policy). Multiple applications of the CED against a single individual are generally not recommended and should be avoided unless the officer reasonably believes that the need to control the individual outweighs the potentially increased risk posed by multiple applications.

If the first application of the CED appears to be ineffective in gaining control of an individual, the officer should consider certain factors before additional applications of the CED, including:

- (a) Whether the probes are making proper contact.
- (b) Whether the individual has the ability and has been given a reasonable opportunity to comply.
- (c) Whether verbal commands, other options or tactics may be more effective.

Sedro-Woolley Police Department

Policy Manual

Conducted Energy Device

Multiple applications of the CED increase the risk of serious bodily injury or death. Officers should not intentionally deploy multiple CEDs at the same person, unless the first deployed CED clearly fails. An officershouldconsider other options if the officer has used a CED three times against a person and the person continues to be a threat, as the CED may not be effective against that person (Washington State Office of the Attorney General Model Use of Force Policy).

304.5.5 ACTIONS FOLLOWING DEPLOYMENTS

Officers should take appropriate actions to control and restrain the individual to minimize the need for longer or multiple exposures to the CED. As soon as practicable, officers shall notify a supervisor of all CED discharges. Confetti tags should be collected and the expended cartridge, along with both probes and wire, should be submitted into evidence. The cartridge serial number should be noted and documented on the evidence paperwork. The evidence packaging should be marked "Biohazard" if the probes penetrated the subject's skin.

304.5.6 DANGEROUS ANIMALS

The CED may be deployed against an animal as part of a plan to deal with a potentially dangerous animal, such as a dog, if the animal reasonably appears to pose an imminent threat to human safety and alternative methods are not reasonably available or would likely be ineffective.

304.5.6 OFF-DUTY CONSIDERATIONS

Officers are not authorized to carry department CEDs while off-duty.

Officers shall ensure that CEDs are secured while in their homes, vehicles or any other area under their control, in a manner that will keep the device inaccessible to others.

304.6 DOCUMENTATION

An officer shall clearly articulate and document the justification for each individual application of the CED in the related arrest/crime report and the CED report form (Washington State Office of the Attorney General Model Use of Force Policy). Notification shall also be made to a supervisor in compliance with the Use of Force Policy. Unintentional discharges, pointing the device at a person, laser activation, and arcing the device will also be documented on the report form.

304.6.1 CED/USE OF FORCE REPORT CARD/REPORTS

Items that shall be included in the CED report form are:

- (a) The type and brand of CED and cartridge and cartridge serial number.
- (b) Date, time and location of the incident.
- (c) Whether any display, laser or arc deterred a subject and gained compliance.
- (d) The number of CED activations, the duration of each cycle, the duration between activations, and (as best as can be determined) the duration that the subject received applications.
- (e) The range at which the CED was used.
- (f) The type of mode used (probe or drive-stun).

Conducted Energy Device

- (g) Location of any probe impact.
- (h) Location of contact in drive-stun mode.
- (i) Description of where missed probes went.
- (j) Whether medical care was provided to the subject.
- (k) Whether the subject sustained any injuries.
- (l) Whether any officers sustained any injuries.

The Lieutenant should periodically analyze the report forms to identify trends, including deterrence and effectiveness. The Lieutenant should also conduct audits of data downloads and reconcile CED report forms with recorded activations. CED information and statistics, with identifying information removed, should periodically be made available to the public.

304.6.2 CED DEVICE DEPLOYMENT REPORT

Officer who have a CED deployment will have the supervisor or the taser instructor download the CED device to retrieve a device deployment report. This report will include:

- (a) The type and brand of the CED and serial number.
- (b) Date and time of Use.
- (c) The number of CED activations, the duration of each cycle, the duration between activations.

The crime/arrest report should include the same aforementioned information in addition to the following detailed information:

- (a) The range at which the CED was used.
- (b) The type of mode used (probe or drive-stun).
- (c) Location of any probe impact.
- (d) Location of contact in drive-stun mode.
- (e) Description of where missed probes went.
- (f) Whether medical care was provided to the subject.
- (g) Whether the subject sustained any injuries.
- (h) Whether any officers sustained any injuries.

The Lieutenant should periodically analyze the report forms to identify trends, including deterrence and effectiveness. The Lieutenant should also conduct audits of data downloads and reconcile CED report forms with recorded activations. CED information and statistics, with identifying information removed, should periodically be made available to the public.

Unintentional discharges of a CED shall be reported immediately to a supervisor and should include the cause of discharge.

Conducted Energy Device

304.6.3 REPORTS

The officer should include the following in the arrest/crime report:

- (a) Identification of all personnel firing CEDs
- (b) Identification of all witnesses
- (c) Medical care provided to the subject
- (d) Observations of the subject's physical and physiological actions
- (e) Any known or suspected drug use, intoxication or other medical problems

304.7 MEDICAL TREATMENT

At the earliest safe opportunity at a scene controlled by law enforcement, officers shall remove CED probes, unless probes are in a sensitive area, such as the head, breast, or groin. Probes in sensitive areas shall be removed by an emergency medical technician (EMT), paramedic, or other health care professional (Washington State Office of the Attorney General Model Use of Force Policy). Used CED probes should be treated as a sharps biohazard, similar to a used hypodermic needle and handled appropriately. Universal precautions should be taken.

All persons who have been struck by CED probes or who have been subjected to the electric discharge of the device or who sustained direct exposure of the laser to the eyes shall be medically assessed prior to booking. Additionally, any such individual who falls under any of the following categories should, as soon as practicable, be examined by paramedics or other qualified medical personnel:

- (a) The person is suspected of being under the influence of controlled substances and/or alcohol.
- (b) The person may be pregnant.
- (c) The person reasonably appears to be in need of medical attention.
- (d) The CED probes are lodged in a sensitive area (e.g., groin, female breast, head, face, neck).
- (e) The person requests medical treatment.

Any individual exhibiting signs of distress or who is exposed to multiple or prolonged applications (i.e., more than 15 seconds) shall be transported to a medical facility for examination or medically evaluated prior to booking. If any individual refuses medical attention, such a refusal should be witnessed by another officer and/or medical personnel and shall be fully documented in related reports. If an audio recording is made of the contact or an interview with the individual, any refusal should be included, if possible.

The transporting officer shall inform any person providing medical care or receiving custody that the individual has been subjected to the application of the CED (see the Medical Aid and Response Policy).

Conducted Energy Device

304.8 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

When possible, supervisors should respond to calls when they reasonably believe there is a likelihood the CED may be used. If practicable, a supervisor should respond to all incidents where the CED was activated.

A supervisor should review each incident where a person has been exposed to an activation of the CED. The device's onboard memory should be downloaded through the data port by a supervisor or Firearms Instructor and saved with the related arrest/crime report. Photographs of probe sites should be taken and witnesses interviewed.

304.9 TRAINING

Personnel who are authorized to carry the CED shall be permitted to do so only after successfully completing the initial department-approved training and demonstrating satisfactory skill and proficiency. Any personnel who have not carried the CED as a part of their assignment for a period of six months or more shall be recertified by a department-approved CED instructor prior to again carrying or using the device.

Proficiency training for personnel who have been issued CEDs should occur every year. A reassessment of an officer's knowledge and/or practical skill may be required at any time if deemed appropriate by the Lieutenant. All training and proficiency for CEDs will be documented in the officer's training file.

Command staff, supervisors, and investigators should receive CED training as appropriate for the investigations they conduct and review.

Officers who do not carry CEDs should receive training that is sufficient to familiarize them with the device and with working with officers who use the device.

The Lieutenant is responsible for ensuring that all members who carry CEDs have received initial and annual proficiency training. Periodic audits should be used for verification.

Application of CEDs during training could result in injury to personnel and should not be mandatory for certification.

The Lieutenant should ensure that all training includes:

- (a) A review of this policy.
- (b) A review of the Use of Force Policy.
- (c) Performing weak-hand draws to reduce the possibility of unintentionally drawing and firing a firearm.
- (d) Target area considerations, to include techniques or options to reduce the unintentional application of probes near the head, neck, chest, and groin.
- (e) Handcuffing a subject during the application of the CED and transitioning to other force options.
- (f) De-escalation techniques.

Sedro-Woolley Police Department

Policy Manual

Conducted Energy Device

- (g) Restraint techniques that do not impair respiration following the application of the CED.

Firearms

306.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for issuing firearms, the safe and legal carrying of firearms, firearms maintenance, and firearms training.

This policy does not apply to issues related to the use of firearms that are addressed in the Use of Force or Officer-Involved Shootings and Deaths policies.

This policy only applies to those members who are authorized to carry firearms.

306.2 POLICY

The Sedro-Woolley Police Department will equip its members with firearms to address the risks posed to the public and department members by violent and sometimes well-armed persons. The Department will ensure firearms are appropriate and in good working order and that relevant training is provided as resources allow.

306.3 AUTHORIZED FIREARMS, AMMUNITION, AND OTHER WEAPONS

A firearm is a weapon with lethal ammunition carried by an officer that meets the firearm specifications of the Department or that has been authorized as a specialty firearm by the Chief of Police or the authorized designee (Washington State Office of the Attorney General Model Use of Force Policy). Members shall only use firearms that are issued or approved by the Department and have been thoroughly inspected by the Firearms Instructor.

All other weapons not provided by the Department may not be carried by members in the performance of their official duties without the express written authorization of the member's Lieutenant including but not limited to:

- (a) Edged weapons.
- (b) Chemical or electronic weapons.
- (c) Impact weapons.
- (d) Any weapon prohibited, or restricted by law, or that is not covered elsewhere by department policy.

This exclusion does not apply to the carrying of a single folding pocketknife that is not otherwise prohibited by law.

306.3.1 HANDGUNS

The main authorized department-issued handgun is the Sig Sauer P320 9 mm. Back-up handguns must be pre-authorized by the Chief and the firearms instructor.

306.3.2 SHOTGUNS

The authorized department-issued shotgun is the Remington 870 12 guage.

Sedro-Woolley Police Department

Policy Manual

Firearms

When not deployed, the shotgun shall be properly secured consistent with department training in a locking weapons rack in the patrol vehicle.

Those authorized to carry shotguns as a member of an interlocal tactical team will follow qualification and training guidelines from the sponsoring agency.

306.3.3 PATROL RIFLES

authorized department-issued patrol rifles are approved for on-duty use:

Members may deploy the patrol rifle in any circumstance where the member can articulate a reasonable expectation that the rifle may be needed. Examples of some general guidelines for deploying the patrol rifle may include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Situations where the member reasonably anticipates an armed encounter.
- (b) When a member is faced with a situation that may require accurate and effective fire at long range.
- (c) Situations where a member reasonably expects the need to meet or exceed a suspect's firepower.
- (d) When a member reasonably believes that there may be a need to fire on a barricaded person or a person with a hostage.
- (e) When a member reasonably believes that a suspect may be wearing body armor.
- (f) When authorized or requested by a supervisor.
- (g) When needed to euthanize an animal.

When not deployed, the patrol rifle shall be properly secured consistent with department training in a locking weapons rack in the patrol vehicle, truck vaults, locking gun safe, or department armory.

Before carrying a department-issued rifle members shall qualify under range supervision and thereafter shall qualify in accordance with the Sedro-Woolley Police Department qualification schedule.

306.3.4 AUTHORIZED SECONDARY HANDGUN

Members desiring to carry department or personally owned secondary handguns are subject to the following restrictions:

- (a) The handgun shall be in good working order and on the department list of approved firearms.
- (b) Only one secondary handgun may be carried at a time.
- (c) The purchase of the handgun and ammunition shall be the responsibility of the member unless the handgun and ammunition are provided by the Department.
- (d) The handgun shall be carried concealed at all times and in such a manner as to prevent unintentional cocking, discharge or loss of physical control. Location of handgun will be evaluated for level of retention and ability to defend.

Sedro-Woolley Police Department

Policy Manual

Firearms

- (e) The handgun shall be inspected by the Firearms Instructor prior to being carried and thereafter shall be subject to inspection whenever it is deemed necessary.
- (f) Ammunition shall be the same as department issue. If the caliber of the handgun is other than department issue, the Chief of Police or the authorized designee shall approve the ammunition.
- (g) Prior to carrying the secondary handgun, members shall qualify under range supervision and thereafter shall qualify in accordance with the department qualification schedule. Members must demonstrate proficiency and safe handling, and that the handgun functions properly.
- (h) Members shall provide written notice of the make, model, color, serial number and caliber of a secondary handgun to the Firearms Instructor, who will maintain a list of the information.

306.3.5 AUTHORIZED OFF-DUTY FIREARMS

The carrying of firearms by members while off-duty is permitted by the Chief of Police but may be rescinded should circumstances dictate (e.g., administrative leave). Members who choose to carry a firearm while off-duty, based on their authority as peace officers, will be required to meet the following guidelines:

- (a) A personally owned or department issued firearm can be used, carried and inspected in accordance with this policy.
 - 1. The purchase of the personally owned firearm and ammunition shall be the responsibility of the member.
- (b) The firearm shall be carried concealed at all times and in such a manner as to prevent unintentional cocking, discharge or loss of physical control.
- (c) It will be the responsibility of the member to submit the firearm to the Firearms Instructor for inspection prior to being personally carried. Thereafter the firearm shall be subject to periodic inspection by the Firearms Instructor.
- (d) Prior to carrying any off-duty firearm, the member shall demonstrate to the Firearms Instructor that he/she is proficient in handling and firing the firearm and that it will be carried in a safe manner.
- (e) The member will successfully qualify with the firearm prior to it being carried.
- (f) Members shall provide written notice of the make, model, color, serial number and caliber of the firearm to the Firearms Instructor, who will maintain a list of the information.
- (g) If a member desires to use more than one firearm while off-duty, he/she may do so, as long as all requirements set forth in this policy for each firearm are met.
- (h) Members shall only carry department-authorized ammunition.
- (i) When armed, officers shall carry their badges and Sedro-Woolley Police Department identification cards under circumstances requiring possession of such identification or valid Concealed Pistol License.

Sedro-Woolley Police Department

Policy Manual

Firearms

306.3.6 AMMUNITION

Members shall carry only department-authorized ammunition. Members shall be issued fresh duty ammunition in the specified quantity for all department-issued firearms during the member's firearms qualification. Replacements for unserviceable or depleted ammunition issued by the Department shall be dispensed by the Firearms Instructor when needed, in accordance with established policy.

Members carrying personally owned authorized firearms of a caliber differing from department-issued firearms shall be responsible for obtaining fresh duty ammunition in accordance with the above, at their own expense.

306.4 EQUIPMENT

Firearms carried on- or off-duty shall be maintained in a clean, serviceable condition. Maintenance and repair of authorized personally owned firearms are the responsibility of the individual member.

306.4.1 REPAIRS OR MODIFICATIONS

Each member shall be responsible for promptly reporting any damage or malfunction of an assigned firearm to a supervisor or the Firearms Instructor.

Firearms that are the property of the Department or personally owned firearms that are approved for department use may be repaired or modified only by a person who is department-approved and certified as an armorer or gunsmith in the repair of the specific firearm. Such modification or repair must be authorized in advance by the Firearms Instructor.

Any repairs or modifications to the member's personally owned firearm shall be done at the member's expense and must be approved by the Firearms Instructor.

306.4.2 HOLSTERS

Only department-approved holsters shall be used and worn by members. Members shall periodically inspect their holsters to make sure they are serviceable and provide the proper security and retention of the handgun.

306.4.3 TACTICAL LIGHTS

Tactical lights may only be installed on a firearm carried on- or off-duty after they have been examined and approved by the Firearms Instructor. Once the approved tactical lights have been properly installed on any firearm, the member shall qualify with the firearm to ensure proper functionality and sighting of the firearm prior to carrying it.

306.4.4 OPTICS OR LASER SIGHTS

Optics or laser sights may only be installed on a firearm carried on- or off-duty after they have been examined and approved by the Firearms Instructor. Any approved sight shall only be installed in strict accordance with manufacturer specifications. Once approved sights have been properly installed on any firearm, the member shall qualify with the firearm to ensure proper functionality and sighting of the firearm prior to carrying it.

Sedro-Woolley Police Department

Policy Manual

Firearms

Except in an approved training situation, a member may only sight in on a target when the member would otherwise be justified in pointing a firearm at the target.

306.5 SAFE HANDLING, INSPECTION AND STORAGE

Members shall maintain the highest level of safety when handling firearms and shall consider the following:

- (a) Members shall not unnecessarily display or handle any firearm.
- (b) Members shall be governed by all rules and regulations pertaining to the use of the range and shall obey all orders issued by the Firearms Instructor. Members shall not dry fire or practice quick draws except as instructed by the Firearms Instructor or other firearms training staff.
- (c) Members shall not clean, repair, load or unload a firearm anywhere in the Department, except where clearing barrels are present.
- (d) Shotguns or rifles removed from vehicles or the equipment storage room shall be loaded and unloaded in the parking lot and outside of the vehicle, using clearing barrels.
- (e) Members shall not place or store any firearm or other weapon on department premises except where the place of storage is locked. No one shall carry firearms into the jail section or any part thereof when securing or processing an arrestee, but shall place all firearms in a secured location. Members providing access to the jail section to persons from outside agencies are responsible for ensuring firearms are not brought into the jail section.
- (f) Members shall not use any automatic firearm, heavy caliber rifle, gas or other type of chemical weapon or firearm from the armory, except with approval of a supervisor. For officers that are trained to carry and deploy the aforementioned items as a member of an interlocal tactical team or sniper team, they will work under the existing policy of that interlocal agency. This section does not control cover control devices under the Control Devices and Techniques policy (CED/taser, pepper projectile systems, OC, kinetic energy projectile devices).
- (g) Any firearm authorized by the Department to be carried on- or off-duty that is determined by a member to be malfunctioning or in need of service or repair shall not be carried. It shall be promptly presented to the Department or a Firearms Instructor approved by the Department for inspection and repair. Any firearm deemed in need of repair or service by the Firearms Instructor will be immediately removed from service. If the firearm is the member's primary duty firearm, a replacement firearm will be issued to the member until the duty firearm is serviceable.

306.5.1 INSPECTION AND STORAGE

Handguns shall be inspected regularly and upon access or possession by another person. Shotguns and rifles shall be inspected at the beginning of the shift by the member to whom the weapon is issued. The member shall ensure that the firearm is carried in the proper condition and loaded with approved ammunition. Inspection of the shotgun and rifle shall be done while standing outside of the patrol vehicle. All firearms shall be pointed in a safe direction or into clearing barrels.

Sedro-Woolley Police Department

Policy Manual

Firearms

Personally owned firearms may be safely stored in lockers at the end of the shift. Department-owned firearms shall be stored in the appropriate equipment storage room. Handguns may remain loaded if they are secured in an appropriate holster. Shotguns and rifles shall be unloaded in a safe manner outside the building and then stored in the appropriate equipment storage room.

306.5.2 STORAGE AT HOME

Members shall ensure that all firearms and ammunition are locked and secured while in their homes, vehicles or any other area under their control, and in a manner that will keep them inaccessible to children and others who should not have access. Members shall not permit department-issued firearms to be handled by anyone not authorized by the Department to do so. Members should be aware that negligent storage of a firearm could result in civil liability.

306.5.3 ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

Firearms shall not be carried by any member, either on- or off-duty, who has consumed an amount of an alcoholic beverage, taken any drugs or medication, or has taken any combination thereof that would tend to adversely affect the member's senses or judgment.

306.6 FIREARMS TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS

All members who carry a firearm while on-duty are required to successfully complete training bi-annually with their duty firearms. In addition to bi-annual training, all members will qualify at least annually with their duty firearms. Members will qualify with off-duty and secondary firearms at least once a year. Training and qualifications must be on an approved range course.

At least annually, all members carrying a firearm should receive practical training designed to simulate field situations including low-light shooting.

306.6.1 NON-CERTIFICATION OR NON-QUALIFICATION

If any member fails to meet minimum standards for firearms training or qualification for any reason, including injury, illness, duty status or scheduling conflict, that member shall submit a memorandum to the member's immediate supervisor prior to the end of the required training or qualification period.

Those who fail to meet minimum standards or qualify on their first shooting attempt shall be provided remedial training and will be subject to the following requirements:

- (a) Additional range assignments may be scheduled to assist the member in demonstrating consistent firearm proficiency.
- (b) Members shall be given credit for a range training or qualification when obtaining a qualifying score or meeting standards after remedial training.
- (c) No range credit will be given for the following:
 - 1. Unauthorized range make-up.
 - 2. Failure to meet minimum standards or qualify after remedial training.

Firearms

Members who repeatedly fail to meet minimum standards will be removed from field assignment and may be subject to disciplinary action.

306.7 FIREARM DISCHARGE

Except during training or recreational use, any member who discharges a firearm intentionally or unintentionally, on- or off-duty, shall make a verbal report to the member's supervisor as soon as circumstances permit. If the discharge results in injury or death to another person, additional statements and reports shall be made in accordance with the Officer-Involved Shootings and Deaths Policy. If a firearm was discharged as a use of force, the involved member shall adhere to the additional reporting requirements set forth in the Use of Force Policy.

In all other cases, written reports shall be made as follows:

- (a) If on-duty at the time of the incident, the member shall file a written report with the member's Lieutenant or provide a recorded statement to investigators prior to the end of shift, unless otherwise directed.
- (b) If off-duty at the time of the incident, a written report shall be submitted or recorded statement provided no later than the end of the next regularly scheduled shift, unless otherwise directed by a supervisor.

306.7.1 DESTRUCTION OF ANIMALS

Members are authorized to use firearms to stop an animal in circumstances where the animal reasonably appears to pose an imminent threat to human safety and alternative methods are not reasonably available or would likely be ineffective.

In circumstances where there is sufficient advance notice that a potentially dangerous animal may be encountered, department members should develop reasonable contingency plans for dealing with the animal (e.g., fire extinguisher, CED, oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray, animal control officer). Nothing in this policy shall prohibit any member from shooting a dangerous animal if circumstances reasonably dictate that a contingency plan has failed or becomes impractical.

306.7.2 INJURED ANIMALS

With the approval of a supervisor, a member may euthanize an animal that is so badly injured that human compassion requires its removal from further suffering and where other dispositions are impractical.

306.7.3 WARNING SHOTS

An officer shall not use a firearm to fire a warning shot (Washington State Office of the Attorney General Model Use of Force Policy).

306.8 FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR DUTIES

The range will be under the exclusive control of the Firearms Instructor. All members attending will follow the directions of the Firearms Instructor. The Firearms Instructor will maintain a roster of all members attending the range and will submit the roster to the Lieutenant after each range date.

Sedro-Woolley Police Department

Policy Manual

Firearms

Failure of any officer to sign in and out with the Firearms Instructor may result in non-participation or non-qualification.

The range shall remain operational and accessible to department members during hours established by the Department.

The Firearms Instructor has the responsibility of making periodic inspections, at least once a year, of all duty weapons carried by officers of this department to verify proper operation. The Firearms Instructor has the authority to deem any department-issued or personally owned firearm unfit for service. The member will be responsible for all repairs to the member's personally owned firearm; it will not be returned to service until inspected and approved by the Firearms Instructor.

The Firearms Instructor has the responsibility for ensuring each member meets the minimum requirements during training shoots and, on at least a yearly basis, can demonstrate proficiency in the care, cleaning and safety of all firearms the member is authorized to carry.

The Firearms Instructor shall keep accurate records of all trainings, qualifications, repairs, maintenance, remedial trainings or other records as directed by the Lieutenant.

306.9 FLYING WHILE ARMED

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has imposed rules governing law enforcement officers flying armed on commercial aircraft. The following requirements apply to officers who intend to be armed while flying on a commercial air carrier or flights where screening is conducted (49 CFR 1544.219):

- (a) Officers wishing to fly while armed must be flying in an official capacity, not for vacation or pleasure, and must have a need to have the firearm accessible, as determined by the Department based on the law and published TSA rules.
- (b) Officers must carry their Sedro-Woolley Police Department identification card, bearing the officer's name, a full-face photograph, identification number, the officer's signature and the signature of the Chief of Police or the official seal of the Department and must present this identification to airline officials when requested. The officer should also carry the standard photo identification needed for passenger screening by airline and TSA officials (e.g., driver license, passport).
- (c) The Sedro-Woolley Police Department must submit a National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS) message prior to the officer's travel. If approved, TSA will send the Sedro-Woolley Police Department an NLETS message containing a unique alphanumeric identifier. The officer must present the message on the day of travel to airport personnel as authorization to travel while armed.
- (d) An official letter signed by the Chief of Police authorizing armed travel may also accompany the officer. The letter should outline the officer's need to fly armed, detail the officer's itinerary, and include that the officer has completed the mandatory TSA training for a law enforcement officer flying while armed.

Sedro-Woolley Police Department

Policy Manual

Firearms

- (e) Officers must have completed the mandated TSA security training covering officers flying while armed. The training shall be given by the department-appointed instructor.
- (f) It is the officer's responsibility to notify the air carrier in advance of the intended armed travel. This notification should be accomplished by early check-in at the carrier's check-in counter.
- (g) Any officer flying while armed should discreetly contact the flight crew prior to take-off and notify them of the officer's assigned seat.
- (h) Discretion must be used to avoid alarming passengers or crew by displaying a firearm. The officer must keep the firearm concealed on the officer's person at all times. Firearms are not permitted in carry-on luggage and may not be stored in an overhead compartment.
- (i) Officers should try to resolve any problems associated with flying armed through the flight captain, ground security manager, TSA representative or other management representative of the air carrier.
- (j) Officers shall not consume alcoholic beverages while aboard an aircraft, or within eight hours prior to boarding an aircraft.

306.10 CARRYING FIREARMS OUT OF STATE

Qualified, active, full-time officers of this department are authorized to carry a concealed firearm in all other states subject to the following conditions (18 USC § 926B):

- (a) The officer shall carry the officer's Sedro-Woolley Police Department identification card whenever carrying such firearm.
- (b) The officer is not the subject of any current disciplinary action.
- (c) The officer may not be under the influence of alcohol or any other intoxicating or hallucinatory drug.
- (d) The officer will remain subject to this and all other department policies (including qualifying and training).

Officers are cautioned that individual states may enact local regulations that permit private persons or entities to prohibit or restrict the possession of concealed firearms on their property, or that prohibit or restrict the possession of firearms on any state or local government property, installation, building, base or park. Federal authority may not shield an officer from arrest and prosecution in such locally restricted areas.

Active permits from other states are subject to all requirements set forth in 18 USC § 926B.

Medical Aid and Response

432.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy recognizes that members often encounter persons who appear to be in need of medical aid and establishes a law enforcement response to such situations.

432.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Sedro-Woolley Police Department that all officers and other designated members be trained to provide emergency medical aid and to facilitate an emergency medical response.

432.3 FIRST RESPONDING MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Whenever practicable, members should take appropriate steps to provide initial medical aid (e.g., first aid, CPR and use of an automated external defibrillator (AED)) in accordance with their training and current certification levels. This should be done for those in need of immediate care and only when the member can safely do so.

Prior to initiating medical aid, the member should contact Dispatch and request response by emergency medical services (EMS) as the member deems appropriate.

Members should follow universal precautions when providing medical aid, such as wearing gloves and avoiding contact with bodily fluids, consistent with the Communicable Diseases Policy. Members should use a barrier or bag device to perform rescue breathing.

When requesting EMS, the member should provide Dispatch with information for relay to EMS personnel in order to enable an appropriate response, including:

- (a) The location where EMS is needed.
- (b) The nature of the incident.
- (c) Any known scene hazards.
- (d) Information on the person in need of EMS, such as:
 - 1. Signs and symptoms as observed by the member.
 - 2. Changes in apparent condition.
 - 3. Number of patients, sex, and age, if known.
 - 4. Whether the person is conscious, breathing, and alert, or is believed to have consumed drugs or alcohol.
 - 5. Whether the person is showing signs of extreme agitation or is engaging in violent irrational behavior accompanied by profuse sweating, extraordinary strength beyond their physical characteristics, and imperviousness to pain.

Members should stabilize the scene whenever practicable while awaiting the arrival of EMS.

Members should not direct EMS personnel whether to transport the person for treatment.

Medical Aid and Response

Injured persons shall be monitored while in law enforcement custody (Washington State Office of the Attorney General Model Use of Force Policy).

432.4 TRANSPORTING ILL AND INJURED PERSONS

Except in extraordinary cases where alternatives are not reasonably available, members should not transport persons who are unconscious, who have serious injuries or who may be seriously ill. EMS personnel should be called to handle patient transportation.

Officers should search any person who is in custody before releasing that person to EMS for transport.

An officer should accompany any person in custody during transport in an ambulance when requested by EMS personnel, when it reasonably appears necessary to provide security, when it is necessary for investigative purposes or when so directed by a supervisor.

Members should not provide emergency escort for medical transport or civilian vehicles.

432.5 PERSONS REFUSING EMS CARE

If a person who is not in custody refuses EMS care or refuses to be transported to a medical facility, an officer shall not force that person to receive care or be transported. However, members may assist EMS personnel when EMS personnel determine the person lacks mental capacity to understand the consequences of refusing medical care or to make an informed decision and the lack of immediate medical attention may result in serious bodily injury or the death of the person.

In cases where mental illness may be a factor, the officer should consider proceeding with an emergency detention in accordance with the Emergency Detentions Policy.

If an officer believes that a person who is in custody requires EMS care and the person refuses, the officer should encourage the person to receive medical treatment. The officer may also consider contacting a family member to help persuade the person to agree to treatment or who may be able to authorize treatment for the person.

If the person still refuses, the officer will require the person to be transported to the nearest medical facility. In such cases, the officer should consult with a supervisor prior to the transport.

Members shall not sign refusal-for-treatment forms or forms accepting financial responsibility for treatment.

432.6 SICK OR INJURED ARRESTEE

If an arrestee appears ill or injured, or claims illness or injury, he/she should be medically cleared prior to booking. If the officer has reason to believe the arrestee is feigning injury or illness, the officer should contact a supervisor, who will determine whether medical clearance will be obtained prior to booking.

Medical Aid and Response

If the jail or detention facility refuses to accept custody of an arrestee based on medical screening, the officer should note the name of the facility person refusing to accept custody and the reason for refusal, and should notify a supervisor to determine the appropriate action.

Arrestees who appear to have a serious medical issue should be transported by ambulance. Officers shall not transport an arrestee to a hospital without a supervisor's approval.

Nothing in this section should delay an officer from requesting EMS when an arrestee reasonably appears to be exhibiting symptoms that appear to be life threatening, including breathing problems or an altered level of consciousness, or is claiming an illness or injury that reasonably warrants an EMS response in accordance with the officer's training.

432.7 MEDICAL ATTENTION RELATED TO USE OF FORCE

Specific guidelines for medical attention for injuries sustained from a use of force may be found in the Use of Force, Handcuffing and Restraints, Control Devices and Techniques, and Conducted Energy Device policies.

432.8 AIR AMBULANCE

Generally, when on-scene, EMS personnel will be responsible for determining whether an air ambulance response should be requested. An air ambulance may be appropriate when there are victims with life-threatening injuries or who require specialized treatment (e.g., gunshot wounds, burns, obstetrical cases), and distance or other known delays will affect the EMS response.

The Patrol Lieutenant should develop guidelines for air ambulance landings or enter into local operating agreements for the use of air ambulances, as applicable. In creating those guidelines, the Department should identify:

- Responsibility and authority for designating a landing zone and determining the size of the landing zone.
- Responsibility for securing the area and maintaining that security once the landing zone is identified.
- Consideration of the air ambulance provider's minimum standards for proximity to vertical obstructions and surface composition (e.g., dirt, gravel, pavement, concrete, grass).
- Consideration of the air ambulance provider's minimum standards for horizontal clearance from structures, fences, power poles, antennas or roadways.
- Responsibility for notifying the appropriate highway or transportation agencies if a roadway is selected as a landing zone.
- Procedures for ground personnel to communicate with flight personnel during the operation.

One department member at the scene should be designated as the air ambulance communications contact. Headlights, spotlights and flashlights should not be aimed upward at the air ambulance. Members should direct vehicle and pedestrian traffic away from the landing zone.

Medical Aid and Response

Members should follow these cautions when near an air ambulance:

- Never approach the aircraft until signaled by the flight crew.
- Always approach the aircraft from the front.
- Avoid the aircraft's tail rotor area.
- Wear eye protection during landing and take-off.
- Do not carry or hold items, such as IV bags, above the head.
- Ensure that no one smokes near the aircraft.

432.9 AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) USE

A semi-automatic external defibrillator or AED should only be used by members who have completed a course approved by the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) that includes instruction in CPR and the use of an AED (RCW 70.54.310).

432.9.1 AED USER RESPONSIBILITY

Members who are issued AEDs for use in department vehicles should check the AED at the beginning of the shift to ensure it is properly charged and functioning. Any AED that is not functioning properly will be taken out of service and given to the Lieutenant who is responsible for ensuring appropriate maintenance.

Following use of an AED, the device shall be cleaned and/or decontaminated as required. The electrodes and/or pads will be replaced as recommended by the AED manufacturer.

Any member who uses an AED shall contact Dispatch as soon as possible and request response by EMS (RCW 70.54.310).

432.9.2 AED REPORTING

Any member using an AED will complete an incident report detailing its use. Any data from usage shall be made available, upon request, to EMS or other health care providers (RCW 70.54.310).

432.9.3 AED TRAINING AND MAINTENANCE

The Lieutenant should ensure appropriate training is provided to members authorized to use an AED.

The Lieutenant is responsible for ensuring AED devices are appropriately maintained and tested consistent with the manufacturer's operational guidelines, and will retain records of all maintenance in accordance with the established records retention schedule (RCW 70.54.310).

432.10 ADMINISTRATION OF OPIOID OVERDOSE MEDICATION

Members may administer opioid overdose medication in accordance with protocol specified by the health care practitioner who prescribed the overdose medication for use by the member (RCW 69.41.095).

Sedro-Woolley Police Department

Policy Manual

Medical Aid and Response

432.10.1 OPIOID OVERDOSE MEDICATION USER RESPONSIBILITIES

Members who are qualified to administer opioid overdose medication, such as naloxone, should handle, store and administer the medication consistent with their training. Members should check the medication and associated administration equipment at the beginning of their shift to ensure they are serviceable and not expired. Any expired medication or unserviceable administration equipment should be removed from service and given to the Lieutenant.

Any member who administers an opioid overdose medication should contact Dispatch as soon as possible and request response by EMS.

432.10.2 OPIOID OVERDOSE MEDICATION REPORTING

Any member administering opioid overdose medication should detail its use in an appropriate report.

The Lieutenant will ensure that the Records Supervisor is provided enough information to meet applicable state reporting requirements.

432.10.3 OPIOID OVERDOSE MEDICATION TRAINING

The Lieutenant should ensure training is provided to members authorized to administer opioid overdose medication.

432.11 FIRST AID TRAINING

Subject to available resources, the Lieutenant should ensure officers receive periodic first aid training appropriate for their position.

Use of Force

300.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy is intended to provide clarity to officers and promote safety for all by ensuring that all available and appropriate de-escalation techniques are used when possible, force is used appropriately only when necessary, and the amount of force used is proportional to the threat or resistance the officer encounters as well as the seriousness of the law enforcement objective that is being served.

While there is no way to specify the exact amount or type of reasonable force to be applied in any situation, every officer of this department is expected to use these guidelines to make such decisions in a professional, impartial, and reasonable manner.

In addition to those methods, techniques, and tools set forth below, the guidelines for the reasonable application of force contained in this policy shall apply to all policies addressing the potential use of force, including but not limited to the Control Devices and Techniques and Conducted Energy Device policies.

This policy incorporates the Washington State Office of the Attorney General Model Use of Force Policy.

300.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Chokehold - The intentional application of direct pressure to a person's trachea or windpipe for the purpose of restricting another person's airway (RCW 10.116.020).

Deadly force - The intentional application of force through the use of firearms or any other means reasonably likely to cause death or serious physical injury (RCW 9A.16.010).

De-escalation tactics - Actions used by a peace officer that are intended to minimize the likelihood of the need to use force during an incident (RCW 10.120.010). Using force is not a de-escalation tactic.

Feasible - Reasonably capable of being done or carried out under the circumstances to successfully achieve the arrest or lawful objective without increasing risk to the officer or another person.

Flight - An act or instance of running away in an effort to leave and intentionally evade law enforcement.

Immediate threat of serious bodily injury or death - Based on the totality of the circumstances, it is objectively reasonable to believe that a person has the present and apparent ability, opportunity, and intent to immediately cause death or serious bodily injury to the peace officer or another person (RCW 10.120.020).

Imminent - Ready to take place; impending. Note that imminent does not mean immediate or instantaneous.

Sedro-Woolley Police Department

Policy Manual

Use of Force

Necessary - Under the totality of the circumstances, a reasonably effective alternative to the use of force or deadly force does not appear to exist, and the type and amount of force or deadly force used is a reasonable and proportional response to effect the legal purpose intended or to protect against the threat posed to the officer or others (RCW 10.120.010).

Neck restraint - Any vascular compression or similar restraint, hold, or other tactic in which pressure is applied to the neck for the purpose of constricting blood flow (RCW 10.116.020).

Physical force (referred to as "force" in this policy) - Any act reasonably likely to cause physical pain or injury or any other act exerted upon a person's body to compel, control, constrain, or restrain the person's movement. Physical force does not include pat-downs, incidental touching, verbal commands, or compliant handcuffing where there is no physical pain or injury (RCW 10.120.010).

Totality of the circumstances - All facts known to the officer leading up to, and at the time of, the use of force, and includes the actions of the person against whom the officer uses such force, and the actions of the officer (RCW 10.120.010).

300.2 POLICY

The use of force by law enforcement personnel is a matter of critical concern, both to the public and to the law enforcement community. Officers are involved on a daily basis in numerous and varied interactions and, when warranted, may use reasonable force in carrying out their duties.

Officers must have an understanding of, and true appreciation for, their authority and limitations. This is especially true with respect to overcoming resistance while engaged in the performance of law enforcement duties.

It is the fundamental duty of law enforcement to preserve and protect all human life (RCW 10.120.010). Officers shall respect and uphold the dignity of all persons and use their authority in a bias-free manner.

The proper use of force is essential to ensure impartial policing and build trust in the community. While there are circumstances where individuals will not comply with the law unless compelled or controlled by officers through the use of force, officers must remain mindful that they derive their authority from the community and that unreasonable force degrades the legitimacy of that authority (Washington State Office of the Attorney General Model Use of Force Policy).

Vesting officers with the authority to use reasonable force and to protect the public welfare requires monitoring, evaluation, and a careful balancing of all interests.

Nothing in this policy limits or restricts an officer's authority or responsibility to perform lifesaving measures or community caretaking functions or prevents an officer from responding to requests for assistance or service (RCW 10.120.020).

300.2.1 DUTY TO INTERVENE AND REPORT

Any officer present and observing another law enforcement officer or a member attempting to use or using force that is clearly beyond that which is objectively reasonable under the circumstances

Sedro-Woolley Police Department

Policy Manual

Use of Force

shall, when in a position to do so, intervene to prevent the use of unreasonable force (RCW 10.93.190).

Any officer who observes another law enforcement officer or a member attempting to use or using force that is potentially beyond that which is objectively reasonable under the circumstances shall report these observations to a supervisor as soon as feasible (RCW 10.93.190).

300.2.2 PERSPECTIVE

When observing or reporting force used by a law enforcement officer, each officer should take into account the totality of the circumstances and the possibility that other law enforcement officers may have additional information regarding the threat posed by the subject.

300.2.3 ADDITIONAL STATE REQUIREMENTS ON THE DUTY TO INTERVENE AND REPORT

An officer shall not be disciplined for or retaliated against in any way for intervening in good faith or for reporting in good faith the unreasonable use of force by another law enforcement officer (RCW 10.93.190) (see the Anti-Retaliation Policy).

300.2.4 CRITICAL DECISION MAKING

Use of critical decision making can help officers achieve the expectations outlined in this manual. When safe and feasible, when making or considering whether to make contact with a member of the public, officers should (Washington State Office of the Attorney General Model Use of Force Policy):

- (a) Begin assessment and planning with available facts before arriving at the scene.
- (b) Request available resources, as needed, such as a crisis intervention team or other appropriate specialty unit or professionals.
- (c) Collect information when on scene.
- (d) Assess situations, threats, and risks.
- (e) Identify options for conflict resolution.
- (f) Determine a reasonable course of action.
- (g) Review and re-assess the situation as it evolves.

Nothing in this policy precludes officers from taking quick action when faced with a life-threatening situation, such as an active shooter. When safe and feasible, officers shall not unnecessarily jeopardize their own safety or the safety of others through tactical decisions that unreasonably place themselves or others at risk including but not limited to (Washington State Office of the Attorney General Model Use of Force Policy):

- (a) Immediately approaching a person without proper evaluation of the situation.
- (b) Leaving insufficient space between an officer and the person.
- (c) Not providing time for a person to comply with commands.
- (d) Unnecessarily escalating a situation.

Use of Force

300.3 USE OF FORCE

Officers shall use only the least amount of force that reasonably appears necessary given the facts and circumstances perceived by the officer at the time of the event to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose. Officers shall use reasonable care when determining whether to use and when using any physical force or deadly force against another person (RCW 10.120.020).

The reasonableness of force will be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene at the time of the incident. Any evaluation of reasonableness must allow for the fact that officers are often forced to make split-second decisions about the amount of force that reasonably appears necessary in a particular situation, with limited information and in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving.

Given that no policy can realistically predict every possible situation an officer might encounter, officers are entrusted to use well-reasoned discretion in determining the appropriate use of force in each incident.

It is also recognized that circumstances may arise in which officers reasonably believe that it would be impractical or ineffective to use any of the tools, weapons, or methods provided by this department. Officers may find it more effective or reasonable to improvise their response to rapidly unfolding conditions that they are confronting. In such circumstances, the use of any improvised device or method must nonetheless be reasonable and utilized only to the degree that reasonably appears necessary to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose.

While the ultimate objective of every law enforcement encounter is to avoid or minimize injury, nothing in this policy requires an officer to retreat or be exposed to possible physical injury before applying reasonable force.

300.3.1 ALTERNATIVE TACTICS - DE-ESCALATION

When possible, officers shall use all reasonably available and appropriate de-escalation tactics prior to using force (RCW 10.120.020).

Depending on the circumstances, officers may have a number of de-escalation tactics to choose from which include but are not limited to (Washington State Office of the Attorney General Model Use of Force Policy):

- (a) Employing tactical positioning and repositioning to maintain the benefit of distance and cover, such as backing away from the person to re-assess and determine which tactics to use.
- (b) Placing barriers or using existing structures to provide a shield or other protection between officers and a person.
- (c) Attempting to slow down or stabilize the situation to allow for the consideration and arrival of additional resources that may increase the likelihood of a safe resolution.
- (d) Requesting and using available support and resources, such as a crisis intervention team, a designated crisis responder, other behavioral health providers, or back-up officers, including more experienced officers or supervisors.

Sedro-Woolley Police Department

Policy Manual

Use of Force

- (e) Using clear instructions and verbal persuasion.
- (f) Employing verbal and non-verbal communication techniques to calm a person (e.g., speaking slowly, regulating tone and body language, uncrossing one's arms, minimizing hand gestures, reducing bright, flashing lights and sirens).
- (g) Attempting to communicate in non-verbal ways when verbal instructions would be inadequate (e.g., when the person and officer speak different languages, the person is unable to hear or understand instructions).
- (h) Communicating in a way that demonstrates respect for people's dignity (e.g., clearly explaining the officer's actions and expectations, listening to the person's questions and concerns and responding respectfully, being neutral and fair when making decisions).
- (i) When there are multiple officers, designating one officer to communicate in order to avoid competing or confusing commands.
- (j) Exhibiting patience while using all available and appropriate tactics and resources to provide as much time as needed to resolve the incident without using force.

300.3.2 PERMISSIBLE USES OF FORCE

An officer may use force upon another person to the extent necessary under these circumstances to (RCW 10.120.020):

- (a) Protect against a criminal offense when there is probable cause that the person has committed, is committing, or is about to commit the offense.
- (b) Effect an arrest.
- (c) Effect a lawful detention based on reasonable suspicion.
- (d) Prevent an escape as defined under chapter 9A.76 RCW.
- (e) Take a person into custody, transport a person for evaluation or treatment, or provide other assistance under RCW 10.77; RCW 71.05; or RCW 71.34.
- (f) Take a minor into protective custody when authorized or directed by statute.
- (g) Execute or enforce a court order authorizing or directing an officer to take a person into custody.
- (h) Execute a search warrant.
- (i) Execute or enforce an oral directive issued by a judicial officer in the courtroom or a written order where the court expressly authorizes an officer to use force to execute or enforce the directive or order.
- (j) Prevent a person from fleeing or stop a person who is actively fleeing a lawful temporary investigative detention, provided that the person has been given notice that the person is being detained and is not free to leave.
- (k) Take a person into custody when authorized or directed by statute.
- (l) Protect against an imminent threat of bodily injury to the officer, another person, or the person against whom force is being used.

Sedro-Woolley Police Department

Policy Manual

Use of Force

Officers shall terminate the use of force as soon as the necessity for such force ends (RCW 10.120.020).

300.3.3 FACTORS USED TO DETERMINE THE REASONABLENESS OF FORCE

When determining whether to apply force and evaluating whether an officer has used reasonable force, a number of factors should be taken into consideration, as time and circumstances permit. These factors include but are not limited to (RCW 10.120.020):

- (a) Immediacy and severity of the threat to officers or others.
- (b) The conduct of the individual being confronted, as reasonably perceived by the officer at the time.
- (c) Officer/subject factors (e.g., age, size, relative strength, skill level, injuries sustained, level of exhaustion or fatigue, the number of officers available vs. subjects).
- (d) The effects of suspected drug or alcohol use.
- (e) The individual displays signs of mental, behavioral, intellectual, developmental, or physical impairments or disabilities, including individuals who reasonably appear suicidal.
- (f) The individual's ability to understand and comply with officer commands.
- (g) Proximity of weapons or dangerous improvised devices.
- (h) The degree to which the individual has been effectively restrained and the individual's ability to resist despite being restrained.
- (i) The availability of other reasonable and feasible options and their possible effectiveness.
- (j) Seriousness of the suspected offense or reason for contact with the individual.
- (k) Training and experience of the officer.
- (l) Potential for injury to officers, suspects, and others.
- (m) Whether the individual appears to be resisting, attempting to evade arrest by flight, or is attacking the officer.
- (n) The risk and reasonably foreseeable consequences of escape.
- (o) The apparent need for immediate control of the individual or a prompt resolution of the situation.
- (p) Whether the conduct of the individual being confronted no longer reasonably appears to pose an imminent threat to the officer or others.
- (q) Prior contacts with the individual or awareness of any propensity for violence.
- (r) The individual is visibly pregnant or claims to be pregnant.
- (s) The individual is a minor, appears to be a minor, or claims to be a minor.
- (t) The individual is known to be a vulnerable adult or appears to be a vulnerable adult as defined by RCW 74.34.020.

Sedro-Woolley Police Department

Policy Manual

Use of Force

- (u) The individual has limited English proficiency.
- (v) The individual is in the presence of a child.
- (w) Any other exigent circumstances.

300.3.4 PAIN COMPLIANCE TECHNIQUES

Pain compliance techniques may be effective in controlling a physically or actively resisting individual. Officers may only apply those pain compliance techniques for which they have successfully completed department-approved training. Officers utilizing any pain compliance technique should consider:

- (a) The degree to which the application of the technique may be controlled given the level of resistance.
- (b) Whether the individual can comply with the direction or orders of the officer.
- (c) Whether the individual has been given sufficient opportunity to comply.

The application of any pain compliance technique shall be discontinued once the officer determines that compliance has been achieved.

300.3.5 RESTRICTIONS ON RESPIRATORY RESTRAINTS

Officers of this department are not authorized to use respiratory restraints, also known as chokeholds or neck restraints; exemption to that is explained under deadly force applications section 300.4. (RCW 10.116.020; 10.120.020).

300.3.6 USE OF FORCE TO SEIZE EVIDENCE

In general, officers may use reasonable force to lawfully seize evidence and to prevent the destruction of evidence. However, officers are discouraged from using force solely to prevent a person from swallowing evidence or contraband. In the instance when force is used, officers should not intentionally use any technique that restricts blood flow to the head, restricts respiration or which creates a reasonable likelihood that blood flow to the head or respiration would be restricted. Officers are encouraged to use techniques and methods taught by the Sedro-Woolley Police Department for this specific purpose.

300.3.7 IDENTIFICATION, WARNING, AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLY PRIOR TO THE USE OF FORCE

When safe and feasible, prior to the use of force, officers should (Washington State Office of the Attorney General Model Use of Force Policy):

- (a) Identify themselves as law enforcement officers.
 - 1. Identification is unnecessary when the officer has objectively reasonable grounds to believe the person is aware of this fact.
- (b) Attempt to determine whether the person has a special need, mental condition, physical limitation, developmental disability, language barrier, or other factor that may impact the person's ability to understand and comply with officer commands.
- (c) Provide clear instructions and warnings.

Sedro-Woolley Police Department

Policy Manual

Use of Force

- (d) Warn a person that force will be used unless the person's resistance ceases.
- (e) Give the person a reasonable opportunity to comply with the warning that force may be used.

300.4 DEADLY FORCE APPLICATIONS

When reasonable, officers should, prior to the use of deadly force, make efforts to identify themselves as peace officers and to warn that deadly force may be used, unless an officer has objectively reasonable grounds to believe the person is aware of those facts.

Use of deadly force is only justified when the officer reasonably believes it is necessary in the following circumstances (RCW 10.120.020):

- (a) An officer may use deadly force to protect the officer or others from what the officer reasonably believes is an immediate threat of serious physical injury or death.
- (b) An officer may use deadly force to stop a fleeing subject when the officer has probable cause to believe that the individual has committed, or intends to commit, a felony involving the infliction or threatened infliction of serious bodily injury or death, and the officer reasonably believes that there is an immediate threat of serious bodily injury or death to any other person if the individual is not immediately apprehended. Under such circumstances, a verbal warning should precede the use of deadly force, where feasible.

300.4.1 MOVING VEHICLES

Shots fired at or from a moving vehicle involve additional considerations and risks, and are rarely effective.

An officer may not fire a weapon upon a moving vehicle unless necessary to protect against an imminent threat of serious bodily injury resulting from the operator's or a passenger's use of a deadly weapon. A vehicle is not considered a deadly weapon unless the operator is using the vehicle as a deadly weapon and no other reasonable means to avoid potential serious harm are immediately available to the officer. (RCW 10.116.060).

When feasible, officers shall attempt to move out of the path of a moving vehicle rather than discharge their weapon at the operator.

Officers shall not shoot at any part of a vehicle in an attempt to disable the vehicle, unless necessary and can be articulated by the officer.

An officer shall not discharge a firearm from a moving vehicle, unless a person is immediately threatening the officer or another person with deadly force.

300.4.2 DRAWING AND POINTING A FIREARM

- (a) An officer should only draw a firearm in the low-ready position (i.e., unholstered but out of the officer's visual field) when the officer makes reasonable observations based on the totality of the circumstances that the situation may evolve to the point where deadly force would be justified.
- (b) An officer should only point a firearm at a person when deadly force is justified.

Sedro-Woolley Police Department

Policy Manual

Use of Force

- (c) When it is determined that the use of deadly force is not necessary, the officer should, as soon as safe and feasible, lower, holster, or secure the firearm.
- (d) Pointing a firearm at a person is a reportable use of force and its justification and circumstances shall be documented in accordance with procedures set by the statewide use of force data collection program (RCW 10.118.030).

300.4.3 RESTRICTED USE

Officers shall not use a firearm in the following circumstances (Washington State Office of the Attorney General Model Use of Force Policy):

- (a) As an impact weapon except when deadly force is justified.
- (b) When it appears likely that an innocent person may be injured by the officer discharging the firearm in the direction of an innocent person.
- (c) When discharging or pointing a firearm at a person who presents a danger only to themselves and does not have the apparent ability, opportunity, and intent to immediately cause death or serious bodily injury to the officer or another person.
- (d) When discharging or pointing a firearm at a person who presents a danger only to property and does not have the apparent opportunity or intent to immediately cause death or serious bodily injury to the officer or another person.

300.4.4 DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS

Officers are only permitted to discharge a firearm at a person in situations where deadly force is justified. Each discharge of the firearm must be justified. When feasible, officers shall give a verbal warning that a firearm will be discharged. Prior to the decision to use a firearm, officers should consider field of fire, backdrop, bystanders, potential for ricochet, and other risks of life (Washington State Office of the Attorney General Model Use of Force Policy).

300.5 REPORTING THE USE OF FORCE

Any reportable use of force by a member of this department shall be documented promptly, completely, and accurately in an appropriate report, depending on the nature of the incident. The officer should articulate the factors perceived and why he/she believed the use of force was reasonable under the circumstances.

To collect data for purposes of training, resource allocation, analysis, and related purposes, the Department may require the completion of additional report forms, as specified in department policy, procedure, or law. See the Report Preparation Policy for additional circumstances that may require documentation.

300.5.1 USE OF FORCE DOCUMENTATION

Officers shall document all Use of Force and fill the Use of Force Report Card. The card will contain:

- (a) Case number
- (b) Officer who used force

Sedro-Woolley Police Department

Policy Manual

Use of Force

- (c) Type of device, equipment, weapon or pain compliance technique used
- (d) Type of deployment
- (e) Whether the actions gained compliance
- (f) Age and race of subject involved

300.5.2 NOTIFICATIONS TO SUPERVISORS

Supervisory notification shall be made as soon as practicable following the application of force in any of the following circumstances and are defined by this department as reportable uses of force:

- (a) The application caused a visible injury.
- (b) The application would lead a reasonable officer to conclude that the individual may have experienced more than momentary discomfort.
- (c) The individual subjected to the force complained of injury or continuing pain.
- (d) The individual indicates intent to pursue litigation.
- (e) Any application of the Conducted Energy Device (CED) or control device.
- (f) Any application of a restraint device other than handcuffs, shackles, or belly chains.
- (g) The individual subjected to the force was rendered unconscious.
- (h) An individual was struck or kicked.
- (i) An individual alleges unreasonable force was used or that any of the above has occurred.

300.5.3 NOTIFICATION TO INDIAN AFFAIRS

When the use of force by an officer results in the death of a person who is an enrolled member of a federally recognized Indian tribe, notification shall be made to the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs within a reasonable period of time, but not more than 24 hours after the department has good reason to believe the person was an enrolled member. Notice shall include sufficient information for the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs to attempt to identify the deceased person and tribal affiliation (RCW 10.114.021).

300.5.4 NOTIFICATION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING COMMISSION (CJTC)

Notification shall be made to CJTC within 15 days of learning of the occurrence of any death or serious injury caused by the use of force by an officer (RCW 43.101.135).

300.5.5 REPORTING TO WASHINGTON STATEWIDE USE OF FORCE DATA PROGRAM

The Department shall submit reports regarding use of force incidents as provided by RCW 10.118.030 to the Washington statewide use of force data program in the format and time frame established by the program (RCW 10.118.030).

300.6 MEDICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Once it is reasonably safe to do so, medical assistance shall be obtained for any person who exhibits signs of physical distress, has sustained visible injury, expresses a complaint of injury

Use of Force

or continuing pain, or was rendered unconscious. Any individual exhibiting signs of physical distress after an encounter should be continuously monitored until the individual can be medically assessed. Individuals should not be placed on their stomachs for an extended period, as this could impair their ability to breathe (RCW 10.93.190).

Based upon the officer's initial assessment of the nature and extent of the individual's injuries, medical assistance may consist of examination by an emergency medical services provider or medical personnel at a hospital or jail. If any such individual refuses medical attention, such a refusal shall be fully documented in related reports and, whenever practicable, should be witnessed by another officer and/or medical personnel. If a recording is made of the contact or an interview with the individual, any refusal should be included in the recording, if possible.

The on-scene supervisor or, if the on-scene supervisor is not available, the primary handling officer shall ensure that any person providing medical care or receiving custody of a person following any use of force is informed that the person was subjected to force. This notification shall include a description of the force used and any other circumstances the officer reasonably believes would be potential safety or medical risks to the subject (e.g., prolonged struggle, extreme agitation, impaired respiration).

Individuals who exhibit extreme agitation, violent irrational behavior accompanied by profuse sweating, extraordinary strength beyond their physical characteristics, and imperviousness to pain, or who require a protracted physical encounter with multiple officers to be brought under control, may be at an increased risk of sudden death. Calls involving these persons should be considered medical emergencies. Officers who reasonably suspect a medical emergency should request medical assistance as soon as practicable and have medical personnel stage away.

See the Medical Aid and Response Policy for additional guidelines.

300.7 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

A supervisor should respond to a reported application of force resulting in visible injury, if reasonably available. When a supervisor is able to respond to an incident in which there has been a reported application of force, the supervisor is expected to:

- (a) Obtain the basic facts from the involved officers. Absent an allegation of misconduct or excessive force, this will be considered a routine contact in the normal course of duties.
- (b) Ensure that any injured parties are examined and treated.
- (c) When possible, separately obtain a recorded interview with the individual upon whom force was applied. Any statements provided must be included in a report and provided to the Prosecuting Attorney's office as a part of a normal case file.
- (d) Once any initial medical assessment has been completed or first aid has been rendered, ensure photographs have been taken of any areas involving visible injury or complaint of pain, as well as overall photographs of uninjured areas. These photographs should be retained until all potential for civil litigation has expired.

Sedro-Woolley Police Department

Policy Manual

Use of Force

- (e) Identify any witnesses not already included in related reports.
- (f) Review and approve all related reports.
- (g) Determine if there is any indication that the individual may pursue civil litigation.
 - 1. If there is an indication of potential civil litigation, the supervisor should complete and route a notification of a potential claim through the appropriate channels.
- (h) Evaluate the circumstances surrounding the incident and initiate an administrative investigation if there is a question of policy noncompliance or if for any reason further investigation may be appropriate.

In the event that a supervisor is unable to respond to the scene of an incident involving the reported application of force, the supervisor is still expected to complete as many of the above items as circumstances permit.

Supervisors shall review each use of force by any personnel within their command to ensure compliance with this policy and to address any training issues.

When an incident results in death, serious bodily harm, or great bodily harm, the supervisor shall immediately contact the Office of Independent Investigations pursuant to the procedures established by the Office of Independent Investigation (RCW 43.102.120).

300.8 TRAINING

All officers and supervisors shall receive training consistent with this policy and related use of force policies at least annually. Training should (Washington State Office of the Attorney General Model Use of Force Policy):

- Be a combination of classroom and scenario-based learning.
- Include community partners, when relevant and feasible.
- Incorporate cultural competency to understand disproportionately impacted communities, and how racialized experiences of policing and the criminal justice system may impact interactions with police.

This policy should be incorporated into defensive tactics curricula.

Officers shall receive training and subsequent periodic training on (RCW 43.101.450; RCW 43.101.495; RCW 10.120.010; RCW 10.120.020):

- (a) Guidelines regarding vulnerable populations, including but not limited to children, elderly, pregnant persons, and individuals with physical, mental, or intellectual disabilities.
- (b) De-escalation tactics, including reasonably effective alternatives to force including applicable legal requirements.
- (c) Duty to intervene.
- (d) Exercising reasonable care in determining when to use force.

Sedro-Woolley Police Department

Policy Manual

Use of Force

- (e) Evaluation of whether certain applications of force are reasonable and proportional to the threat or resistance.
- (f) The Washington State Office of the Attorney General Model Use of Force Policy.

300.9 USE OF FORCE ANALYSIS

At least annually, the Patrol Lieutenant or subject matter expert should prepare an analysis report on use of force incidents. The report should be submitted to the Chief of Police. The report should not contain the names of officers, suspects, or case numbers, and should include:

- (a) The identification of any trends in the use of force by members.
- (b) Training needs recommendations.
- (c) Equipment needs recommendations.
- (d) Policy revision recommendations.

Handcuffing and Restraints

302.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines for the use of handcuffs and other restraints during detentions and arrests.

Because restraint devices are designed to compel, control, constrain, or restrain a person's movement, use of these devices is physical force and all considerations governing uses of physical force detailed in this policy and the Use of Force Policy apply to their use (Washington State Office of the Attorney General Model Use of Force Policy). However, physical force does not include compliant handcuffing where there is no complaint of physical pain or injury (RCW 10.120.010).

302.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include (Washington State Office of the Attorney General Model Use of Force Policy):

Compression asphyxia - An inadequate oxygen level in the blood and/or an excessive increase of carbon dioxide in the blood causing unconsciousness or death brought on by mechanically limiting expansion of the lungs through compressing of the chest and/or abdomen, interfering with breathing.

Positional asphyxia - An inadequate oxygen level in the blood and/or an excessive increase of carbon dioxide in the blood causing unconsciousness or death brought on by a person being placed in a body position which compresses the person's airway and does not allow the person to breathe freely.

302.2 POLICY

The Sedro-Woolley Police Department authorizes the use of restraint devices in accordance with this policy, the Use of Force Policy and department training. Restraint devices shall not be used to punish, to display authority or as a show of force.

302.3 USE OF RESTRAINTS

Only members who have successfully completed Sedro-Woolley Police Department-approved training on the use of restraint devices described in this policy are authorized to use these devices.

When deciding whether to use any restraint, officers should carefully balance officer safety concerns with factors that include but are not limited to:

- The circumstances or crime leading to the arrest.
- The demeanor and behavior of the arrested person.
- The age and health of the person.
- Whether the person is known to be pregnant.

Sedro-Woolley Police Department

Policy Manual

Handcuffing and Restraints

- Whether the person has a hearing or speaking disability. In such cases, consideration should be given, safety permitting, to handcuffing to the front in order to allow the person to sign or write notes.
- Whether the person has any other apparent disability.

Restrained persons shall be monitored while in law enforcement custody (Washington State Office of the Attorney General Model Use of Force Policy).

302.3.1 RESTRAINT OF DETAINEES

Situations may arise where it may be reasonable to restrain a person who may, after brief investigation, be released without arrest. Unless arrested, the use of restraints on detainees should continue only for as long as is reasonably necessary to ensure the safety of officers and others. When deciding whether to remove restraints from a detainee, officers should continuously weigh the safety interests at hand against the continuing intrusion upon the detainee.

302.3.2 RESTRAINT OF PREGNANT PERSONS

Persons who are known to be pregnant should be restrained in the least restrictive manner available and reasonable under the circumstances, but in no case shall leg irons or waist chains be used. Handcuffs behind the body should not be used unless the officer has a reasonable suspicion that the person may resist, attempt escape, injure herself or others, or damage property (RCW 70.48.500).

When the person is in labor no restraints of any kind shall be used. This does not prohibit a treating physician licensed under Title 18 RCW from requesting the use of hospital restraints for the medical safety of the person (RCW 70.48.500).

302.3.3 RESTRAINT OF JUVENILES

A juvenile under 14 years of age should not be restrained unless they are suspected of a dangerous felony or when the officer has a reasonable suspicion that the juvenile may resist, attempt escape, injure themselves, injure the officer or damage property.

Members who are school resource officers should only use restraints on a student participating in school-sponsored instruction or activity when there is an imminent likelihood of serious harm and pursuant to the school policy for students and staff (RCW 28A.600.485).

302.3.4 NOTIFICATIONS

Whenever an officer transports a person with the use of restraints other than handcuffs, the officer shall inform the jail staff upon arrival at the jail that restraints were used. This notification should include information regarding any other circumstances the officer reasonably believes would be potential safety concerns or medical risks to the person (e.g., prolonged struggle, extreme agitation, impaired respiration) that may have occurred prior to, or during, transportation to the jail.

302.4 APPLICATION OF HANDCUFFS OR PLASTIC CUFFS

Handcuffs, including temporary nylon or plastic cuffs, may be used only to restrain a person's hands to ensure officer safety.

Sedro-Woolley Police Department

Policy Manual

Handcuffing and Restraints

Although recommended for most arrest situations, handcuffing is discretionary and not an absolute requirement of the Department. Officers should consider handcuffing any person they reasonably believe warrants that degree of restraint. However, officers should not conclude that in order to avoid risk every person should be handcuffed regardless of the circumstances.

In most situations handcuffs should be applied with the hands behind the person's back. When feasible, handcuffs should be double-locked to prevent tightening, which may cause undue discomfort or injury to the hands or wrists.

In situations where one pair of handcuffs does not appear sufficient to restrain the person or may cause unreasonable discomfort due to the person's size, officers should consider alternatives, such as using an additional set of handcuffs or multiple plastic cuffs.

Handcuffs should be removed as soon as it is reasonable or after the person has been searched and is safely confined within a detention facility.

302.5 APPLICATION OF SPIT RESTRAINTS

Spit restraints are a woven mesh temporary protective device designed to prevent the wearer from biting and/or transferring or transmitting fluids (saliva and mucous) to others.

Spit restraints may be placed upon persons in custody when the officer reasonably believes the person will bite or spit, either on a person or in an inappropriate place. They are generally used during the application of a physical restraint, while the person is restrained, or during or after transport.

Prior to the application of a spit restraint, Officers should warn the person and provide a reasonable amount of time to comply with Officers' commands. If applied, officers should remove the spit restraint as soon as the threat of spitting or biting has ended, or the officer observes that the spit restraint is no longer necessary. After application of spit restraint and when safe to do so, officers should move the person into a seated or side recovery position and shall monitor the person until the spit restraint is removed.

For individuals in mental health crisis, application of a spit restraint may provoke and elevated level of distress. Officers should provide verbal reassurance and assess the situation to remove the spit restraint as soon as appropriate.

Officers utilizing spit restraints should ensure that the spit restraint is fastened properly to allow for adequate ventilation and that the restrained person can breathe normally. Officers should provide assistance during the movement of a restrained person due to the potential for impairing or distorting that person's vision. Officers should avoid commingling those wearing spit restraints with others and detainees.

Spit restraints should not be used in situations where the restrained person is bleeding profusely from the area around the mouth or nose, or if there are indications that the person has a medical condition, such as difficulty breathing or vomiting. In such cases, prompt medical care should be obtained. If the person vomits while wearing a spit restraint, the spit restraint should be promptly

Handcuffing and Restraints

removed and discarded. Persons who have been sprayed with oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray should be thoroughly decontaminated including hair, head, and clothing, prior to application of a spit restraint.

Those who have been placed in a spit restraint should be continually monitored and shall not be left unattended until the spit restraint is removed. Spit hoods shall be discarded after each use.

Only officers who have successfully completed agency-approved training on application of a spit restraint are authorized to use one.

Officers shall only use agency-issued spit restraints. Application of a spit restraint is considered a use of force and must be documented.

302.6 APPLICATION OF AUXILIARY RESTRAINT DEVICES

Auxiliary restraint devices include transport belts, waist or belly chains, transportation chains, leg irons and other similar devices. Auxiliary restraint devices are intended for use during long-term restraint or transportation. They provide additional security and safety without impeding breathing, while permitting adequate movement, comfort and mobility.

Only department-authorized devices may be used. Any person in auxiliary restraints should be monitored as reasonably appears necessary.

302.7 APPLICATION OF LEG RESTRAINT DEVICES

Leg restraints (e.g., hobble restraints) may be used to restrain the legs of a violent or potentially violent person when it is reasonable to do so during the course of detention, arrest, or transportation. Only restraint devices approved by the department shall be used.

In determining whether to use the leg restraint, officers should consider:

- (a) Whether the officer or others could be exposed to injury due to the assaultive or resistant behavior of a person.
- (b) Whether it is reasonably necessary to protect the person from his/her own actions (e.g., hitting his/her head against the interior of the patrol vehicle, running away from the arresting officer while handcuffed, kicking at objects or officers).
- (c) Whether it is reasonably necessary to avoid damage to property (e.g., kicking at windows of the patrol vehicle).

302.7.1 GUIDELINES FOR USE OF LEG RESTRAINTS

When applying leg restraints, the following guidelines should be followed:

- (a) If practicable, officers should notify a supervisor of the intent to apply the leg restraint device. In all cases, a supervisor shall be notified as soon as practicable after the application of the leg restraint device.
- (b) Once applied, absent a medical or other emergency, restraints should remain in place until the officer arrives at the jail or other facility or the person no longer reasonably appears to pose a threat.

Sedro-Woolley Police Department

Policy Manual

Handcuffing and Restraints

- (c) Once secured, the person should be placed in a seated or upright position, secured with a seat belt, and shall not be placed on the person's stomach for an extended period, as this could reduce the person's ability to breathe.
- (d) The restrained person shall be continually monitored by an officer while in the leg restraint (Washington State Office of the Attorney General Model Use of Force Policy). The officer should ensure that the person does not roll onto and remain on the person's stomach.
- (e) The officer should look for signs of labored breathing and take appropriate steps to relieve and minimize any obvious factors contributing to this condition.
- (f) When transported by emergency medical services, the restrained person should be accompanied by an officer when requested by medical personnel. The transporting officer should describe to medical personnel any unusual behaviors or other circumstances the officer reasonably believes would be potential safety or medical risks to the person (e.g., prolonged struggle, extreme agitation, impaired respiration).

Officers shall not connect a leg restraint to handcuffs or other types of restraints (i.e., hog tie an individual) (Washington State Office of the Attorney General Model Use of Force Policy).

302.8 REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

If a person is restrained and released without an arrest, the officer shall document the details of the detention and the need for handcuffs or other restraints.

If a person is arrested, the use of handcuffs or other restraints shall be documented in the related report.

Officers shall document the following information in reports, as appropriate, when restraints other than handcuffs are used on a person (Washington State Office of the Attorney General Model Use of Force Policy):

- (a) The factors that led to the decision to use restraints.
- (b) Supervisor notification and approval of restraint use.
- (c) The types of restraint used.
- (d) The amount of time the person was restrained.
- (e) How the person was transported and the position of the person during transport.
- (f) Observations of the person's behavior and any signs of physiological problems.
- (g) Any known or suspected drug use or other medical problems.

302.8.1 SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

Members working as school resource officers shall prepare a report pursuant to RCW 28A.600.485 and provide a copy to the school administrator whenever a student is restrained in a room or other enclosure or restrained by handcuffs or other restraint devices during school-sponsored instructions or activities.

Handcuffing and Restraints

302.9 TRAINING

Subject to available resources, the Lieutenant should ensure that officers receive periodic training on the proper use of handcuffs and other restraints, including:

- (a) Proper placement and fit of handcuffs and other restraint devices approved for use by the Department.
- (b) Response to complaints of pain by restrained persons.
- (c) Options for restraining those who may be pregnant without the use of leg irons, waist chains, or handcuffs behind the body.
- (d) Options for restraining amputees or those with medical conditions or other physical conditions that may be aggravated by being restrained.

302.10 POSITIONAL ASPHYXIATION AND COMPRESSION ASPHYXIATION

Consistent with training, officers shall take the following actions to reduce the risk of positional asphyxiation and compression asphyxiation (Washington State Office of the Attorney General Model Use of Force Policy):

- (a) As soon as safe and feasible after handcuffing or otherwise restraining a person taken to the ground, roll the person to the side and move the person to an upright position that does not impede the mechanism of normal breathing, except if the person is unconscious. This requirement is especially important when the person is handcuffed in the prone position.
 - 1. An exception is if the person is conscious and expresses a desire to be placed in a different position, the officers shall place the person in that position unless doing so poses a substantial risk of safety to the individual, officers, or others.
- (b) Do not put prolonged pressure on the chest, neck, or back, including by sitting, kneeling, or standing.
- (c) Continuously monitor the person's condition while being restrained, as death can occur suddenly and develop beyond the point of viable resuscitation within seconds. Monitoring includes but is not limited to assessing the adequacy of the individual's breathing, color, and any impairment as verbalized by the individual.
- (d) Whenever possible during team restraint when manpower limitations allow, the ranking officer shall designate a safety officer. The safety officer shall monitor the health and welfare of the person until:
 - 1. Responsibility is transferred to a health care professional (e.g., emergency medical technician (EMT), paramedic); or
 - 2. The person is placed in a seated position in a transport vehicle and verbalizes to the safety officer that the person feels okay, and the person appears to the safety officer to be well and speaking normally.
- (e) If the safety officer becomes aware of an issue with the person's breathing, color, or any impairment, the safety officer shall inform the ranking officer.
- (f) Do not transport a restrained person in the prone position.