

# Control Devices

## 302.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

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

## 302.2 POLICY

In order to control individuals who are violent or who demonstrate the intent to be violent, the North Liberty Police Department authorizes officers to use control devices in accordance with the guidelines in this policy and the Use of Force Policy. The Chief of Police may also authorize other positions or individual department members to use specific control devices.

## 302.3 ISSUING, CARRYING AND USING CONTROL DEVICES

Control devices described in this policy may be carried and used by members of this department only if the device has been issued by the Department or approved by the Chief of Police or the authorized designee.

Only those members who have successfully completed department-approved training on this policy and 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 person 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.

After any control device is utilized the person should not be unattended and first aid will be provided. If requested or needed, advanced medical care will be made available through use of medical first responders, ambulance crews, or an ER visit.

## 302.4 RESPONSIBILITIES

### 302.4.1 SHIFT SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The Shift Supervisor may authorize the use of a control device by selected department members who may not currently be issued or carrying the control device or those in specialized assignments who have successfully completed the required training.

### 302.4.2 LEAD TASER INSTRUCTOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The Lead Taser Instructor shall control the inventory and issuance of all control devices and shall ensure that all damaged, inoperative, outdated or expended control devices or munitions are properly disposed of, repaired or replaced.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 designated instructor for a particular control device. The inspection shall be documented.

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Training on control devices will be incorporated into department training and use of force scenarios. Certified instructors will be lead trainings on each device.

#### **302.4.3 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 Rangemaster or certified instructor for disposition. Documentation shall also be forwarded through the chain of command, when appropriate, explaining the cause of damage.

#### **302.5 ASP BATON GUIDELINES**

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

When issued a department approved expandable ASP 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 assignments or at the direction of their supervisors.

##### **302.5.1 ASP BATON USES**

An expandable baton may be used if empty hand control techniques have failed or are not possible under the circumstances. When the use of the baton is warranted, employees will attempt to strike the suspect's arms or legs. Employees will not purposely strike or jab subjects on the head, neck, sternum, spine, heart, lower abdomen, groin or kidneys, unless faced with a deadly force situation. This department also recognizes that a flashlight may be substituted for the baton when the situation warrants the use and the officer is being attacked or assaulted.

There are two modes for the expandable baton for strikes. Open and Closed Mode. Closed mode is a close-contact technique used to provide safe separation. Open mode is for longer range techniques to provide additional safe separation and increases the officer's ability to disengage, if needed.

There are 4 different strikes for the baton.

- (a) **Weapon Strike-** is performed by swinging the baton at a 45 degree angle.
- (b) **Rapid Response Strike-** is used in a sudden assault when there is little time or warning. Swing the baton in a 45 degree arc with full extension allows the baton to open while enroute to its target.
- (c) **Reaction Strike-** allows for a quick recover to a weapon side. The strike performs a clearance, moving the subject away from the officer.

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- (d) Straight Strike- is a short range technique used to create distance. A straight strike is used when an assailant closed the gap despite warnings or other strikes.

### 302.6 TEAR GAS GUIDELINES

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

When practicable, fire and emergency medical services 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.

This department does not possess or directly deploy tear gas at this time, however if allied agencies are requested to respond, this section will apply.

### 302.7 OLEORESIN CAPSICUM (OC) GUIDELINES

As with other control devices, OC spray and pepper projectiles may be considered for use to bring under control an individual or group 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 department members or the public.

#### 302.7.1 OC SPRAY

Uniformed members issued department approved OC spray shall carry the device in its holster on the equipment belt. Plainclothes and non-field members may carry OC spray as authorized, in accordance with the needs of their assignments or at the direction of their supervisors.

#### 302.7.2 DEPLOYMENT AND RESPONSIBILITY

OC spray may be:

- (a) Used within the manner of the use of force policy and the manufacturer's recommendations
- (b) Discharged according to manufacturer's recommendations, training protocol, and dependent on environmental conditions.
  - 1. Officers must remain aware that OC delivery systems are most effective at distances of twelve (12) feet or less.
  - 2. Deploying OC at distances under three (3) feet may increase the risk of injury to the subject's eyes and mucous membranes.
- (c) Sprayed at a person in accordance with this policy.
- (d) Aimed at the face, affecting the eyes, nose and mouth.

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- (e) Sprayed at multiple subjects fighting to subdue their actions when verbal dialog has failed.
- (f) Used on animals that are molesting people or other animals.

Officers, as soon as possible and practicable, are responsible for:

- (a) Verbally informing the person, witnesses, or other officers, in the area, of their intended use of OC spray.
- (b) If after two seconds on target for an OC deployment and the OC spray does not have the intended effect, officers are to try an alternative method.
- (c) Allowing 5-10 seconds for the OC spray to take effect and the contaminated area to be clear before handcuffing the suspect.
- (d) Officers will notify dispatch and their supervisor of the use of OC spray.
- (e) Officers will complete the Use of Force report prior to the end of their shift and forward the report to the supervisor on duty or their immediate supervisor.

#### 302.7.3 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 suspect poses an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death to the officer or others.

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 an individual 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.

Each deployment of a pepper projectile system shall be documented. This includes situations where the launcher was directed toward an individual, 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 or a product demonstration, is exempt from the reporting requirement.

This department does not directly deploy this system at this time, however, if allied agencies with these capabilities are requested, this section will apply.

#### 302.7.4 TREATMENT FOR OC EXPOSURE

Persons who have been sprayed with or otherwise affected by the use of OC should be promptly provided with clean water to cleanse the affected areas and removed from the contaminated area as soon as practicable. Affected person will remain in the presents of officers. Persons OC sprayed should not be restrained on their stomach with their hands and feet behind their back. If a

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subject is wearing contact lenses, officers will assist the subject with decontamination, as contact lenses may complicate the decontamination process. Officers will not remove the subject's contact lenses and will summon emergency medical care if the subject needs the contact lenses removed.

While a person may remove his or her own lenses, officers should caution the subject against doing so without medical supervision. Subjects should recover from the effects of OC spray within 30-45 minutes, but intense sensation of burning skin can last after exposure until the OC spray is washed off. Those who complain of further severe effects shall be examined by appropriate medical personnel.

### **302.8 KINETIC ENERGY PROJECTILE GUIDELINES**

This department is committed to reducing the potential for violent confrontations. Kinetic energy projectiles, when used properly, 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.

This department does not possess or directly deploy kinetic energy projectiles at this time, however, if allied agencies with these capabilities are requested, assisting personnel will follow their policy and training.

#### **302.8.1 DEPLOYMENT AND USE**

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 individuals 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 him/herself or others.
- (c) The suspect is engaged in riotous behavior or is throwing rocks, bottles or other dangerous projectiles at officers, other department members and/or other people.
- (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.

### **302.9 TRAINING FOR CONTROL DEVICES**

The Administration Lieutenant shall ensure that those members who are authorized to carry a control device have been properly trained and certified to carry the specific control device and are retrained or recertified as necessary.

- (a) Proficiency training shall be monitored and documented by a certified control-device weapons or tactics instructor.
- (b) All training and proficiency for control devices will be documented in the member's training file.

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- (c) Members who fail to demonstrate proficiency with the control device or knowledge of the Use of Force Policy will be provided remedial training. If a member cannot demonstrate proficiency with a control device or knowledge of the Use of Force Policy after remedial training, the member will be restricted from carrying the control device and may be subject to discipline.

#### **302.10 REPORTING USE OF CONTROL DEVICES**

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

[See attachment: Use of Force Report I.pdf](#)

## **Attachments**

## **Use of Force Report I.pdf**

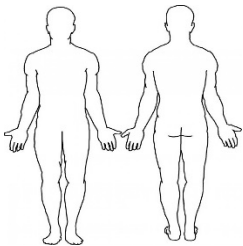




## North Liberty Police Department Use of Force Report

Date / /	Time:	Location:			Case Number:	
Subjects Name		DOB / /	Height	Weight	Phone Number	
<b>Reason The Use of Force Was Necessary (check all that apply)</b>						
<input type="checkbox"/> To Effect An Arrest <input type="checkbox"/> To Defend Self <input type="checkbox"/> Prevent Escape <input type="checkbox"/> To Defend Another Officer/Person						
<input type="checkbox"/> Protective Custody <input type="checkbox"/> To Dispatch Animal <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____						
List Most Serious Offense(s) At Time Force Was Used						
Was the Subject Injured? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		Was Reporting Officer Injured? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Describe Injuries:		Medical Treatment Provided To/By		Photos Taken By
Subjects That Resisted		Officers Present		Supervisor Notified/Time/By Whom		
At the Time of the Arrest, the Subject Was: <input type="checkbox"/> Suspected to be Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs <input type="checkbox"/> Mentally Impaired/Emotionally Disturbed <input type="checkbox"/> Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs <input type="checkbox"/> Other:						
<b>Officer's Perception of Individual's Actions (Use Narrative to Describe Perceived Threat(s) Posted By Individual):</b>						
<input type="checkbox"/> Passive Resistance-Dead weight or non-compliance to Officer's lawful verbal direction, but offering no actively resistive movement						
<input type="checkbox"/> Active or Escape Resistance-Actions such as pushing, pulling, evasive arm movement, flailing, flight, muscle tension, etc. to avoid control. (Does not include attempts to harm the officer)						
<input type="checkbox"/> Assaultive-Agitated, combative state, physically assaultive actions and/or behavior that poses threat of injury to another (e.g., punching, kicking, clenching of fists, etc)						
<input type="checkbox"/> Life Threatening/Serious Bodily Injury-Actions that may result in death or serious bodily injury						
<input type="checkbox"/> Presence <input type="checkbox"/> Full Uniform <input type="checkbox"/> Partial Uniform <input type="checkbox"/> Plain Clothes Note: Officers not in full uniform, describe means of visual police identification (e.g., raid vest or jacket, displayed badge/ID, etc)						
<input type="checkbox"/> Verbal Commands (Describe Details in Narrative Report)						
<input type="checkbox"/> Compliance Techniques (Describe Details in Narrative Report) (Force used to gain control-restraint, come-alongs, takedowns-use of hands, arms, feet, legs)						
<input type="checkbox"/> Chemical Spray/Chemical Agent (Describe Details in Narrative Report) Number of Bursts: _____ Duration of Bursts: _____ Distance From Subject: _____ Impact Location: _____ Time Between Application/decontamination: _____						
<input type="checkbox"/> Impact Weapon/Temporary Incapacitation (Describe Details in Narrative Report)						
<input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Control Device (Describe Details in Narrative Report) <input type="checkbox"/> Laser Only <input type="checkbox"/> Spark Check <input type="checkbox"/> Drive Stun <input type="checkbox"/> Probe Deployment    Impact Location _____ Number of Cycles _____ Taser Unit # _____ Serial # _____ Cartridge Serial # _____ Distance From Subject _____						
<input type="checkbox"/> Point A Firearm (Describe the Details in the Narrative)						
<input type="checkbox"/> Deadly Force-Firearm or other (Describe the Details in the Narrative)						
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Foot Pursuit <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle Pursuit <input type="checkbox"/> Stop Sticks <input type="checkbox"/> Shield <input type="checkbox"/> MRAP Used <input type="checkbox"/> TAC						
Restraint Method Used <input type="checkbox"/> Hand or Flex Cuffs <input type="checkbox"/> Leg Restraints <input type="checkbox"/> Body Guard <input type="checkbox"/> Spit Shield <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other:						
Officer Reporting:				Shift Supervisor(s):		
Other Witness(es)/Person(s) Present At Scene:				Shift Officers:		
Audio-Visual Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (If no explain)				Supervisor(s) Who Responded to Scene:		

Death Occured <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If no, was subject(s) injured? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (Complete Diagram below)	Officer(s) Taking Photos	Total Photos	Recordings <input type="checkbox"/> In Car <input type="checkbox"/> BWC
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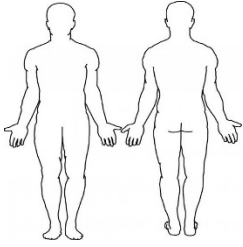
Describe the Extent of Subject's Injuries and Place on the diagram: **Subject #1 Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Describe the Extent of Officer's Injuries and Place on the Diagram: **Officer #1 Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Witness(es) or Person(s) With Knowledge	Address	Phone
1		
2		
3		
4		

Officer's Narrative: Did officer prepare a detailed incident report describing the facts and circumstances leading to use of force? ☐ Yes ☐ No  
 If no, explain:

**Supervisory/Command Review**

Reporting Supervisor (Name and Badge #)	Date and Time of Supervisor Response	Location
Officer Who Used Force (Name and Badge #)	Was Subject(s) Injured? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Was Officer(s) Injured? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Supervisor's Narrative (Document steps taken to review and evaluate officer's use of force)

A/V Evidence Available <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Reviewed By Supervisor/Date _____	A/V Evidence Available <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Reviewed By Officer/Date _____	A/V Evidence Available <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Reviewed By LT/Date _____
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Lieutenant Review Narrative (Confirm proper and complete investigation was conducted)

Officer Review (Print/Sign) Date _____	Supervisory Review (Print/Sign) Date _____	Lieutenants Review (Print/Sign) Date _____
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**Supervisory/Command: Review and Critique Use of Force with Involved Officer(s)**  
**Note Findings Above and Forward Completed Packet to Chief of Police**

Use of force requires an ON-SCENE review, including a narrative report from the responding supervisor. This is REQUIRED for incidents involving Chemical Spray, ECD probe deployment or drive stun; any incident resulting in injury or complaint of injury; or any other time deemed appropriate by a supervisor.