

Longmont Police Services Division
Policy - 601

Use of Force / Use of Force Reporting

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601.01 Use of Force - Policy

The sanctity of human life is highly valued and given the highest priority within the Police Services Division's value system. The Police Services Division also values constitutional principles and recognizes the authority of federal, state and local laws. Police Services Division members are authorized by law to use reasonable and appropriate force when needed to carry out the responsibility of protecting the public welfare and to defend themselves (18-1-707, Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.), as amended). Police Services Division members are not authorized to use excessive force against any person, including those engaged in nonviolent civil rights demonstrations. The Police Services Division recognizes that a careful balancing of individual human rights and public interest is required when the police use force.

It is the policy of the Police Services Division that members use only that force which is objectively reasonable given the totality of the circumstances of an incident [Graham v. Connor, 490 U.S. 386 (1989)]. As such, and in order to be accountable to the public we serve, uses of force by members in carrying out their duties must be reviewed through the chain of command and recorded by the Professional Standards Unit. The amount and type of force used is to be reviewed so that a determination can be made whether or not it was reasonable and appropriate.

Any member that witnesses another member using excessive force must intervene to stop the force being used and immediately report it to a supervisor as required by C.R.S. 18-8-802, as amended.

Graham v Connor – Three part test

Graham v Connor was ultimately reviewed by the U.S. Supreme Court and established the “Objectively Reasonableness” standard for the use of force in an arrest and/or seizure of a person under the 4th Amendment.

Because reasonableness is not capable of precise definition or mechanical application, when reviewing an excessive force claim, a reviewer should give attention to the facts and circumstances of each particular case, including:

1. The severity of the crime at issue
2. Whether the suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of the officers or others
3. Whether the suspect is actively resisting arrest or attempting to evade arrest by flight.

If unreasonable or inappropriate use of force is suspected, the incident will be investigated in accordance with Policy 302 (Professional Standards Unit).

All use of force instructors shall be certified law enforcement officers.

Whenever practical, first aid should be rendered to subjects/suspects who have been injured due to police use of force to include, if necessary, requesting emergency medical services.

601.02 Definitions

1. Danger – The possibility that a person or thing is likely to cause injury, pain, harm, or loss.
2. Deadly Physical Force - Any force, the intended, natural and probable consequence of which is to produce death, and which does, in fact, produce death.
3. Excessive Force – as defined by C.R.S. 18-8-803 (2) and 18-1-707, as amended.
4. Firearms and Weapons - See C.R.S. 18-1-901 and 18-12-101, as amended.
5. Less Lethal Force - Force that is designed to temporarily incapacitate, confuse, delay or restrain an adversary with a reduced possibility of causing serious bodily injury or death.
6. Lethal Force - Any force, the intended, natural and probable consequence of which is to produce serious bodily injury or death.
7. Safety Priorities – The Longmont Department of Public Safety and the Police Services Division prioritizes decision-making based on Safety Priorities. Any

prioritization of our efforts should be based primarily on the person's ability to remove themselves from a dangerous situation. For example, hostages have little or no ability to remove themselves from the dire situation they may be in. Conversely, suspects have the most ability to remove themselves or affect the outcome of the situation through surrender. So, a hostage still has the highest priority, based on the fact that they are in the most peril with the least amount of control. When contemplating an action, remember to evaluate who would benefit or suffer most. These are guiding factors.

1. Hostages/Innocents
2. Officers
3. Suspects
4. Property Damage
5. Evidence

Members will consider these safety priorities when deciding on a course of action requiring the use of force.

8. Impaired mental condition – as defined by 16-8-102 (2.7), as amended.
9. Mental Disease or Defect – as defined by 16-8-102 (4.7), as amended.
10. Police Officer - Sworn Colorado Certified Peace Officers, as defined by C.R.S. 16-2.5-101, as amended.
11. Threat – An act or expressed intention to inflict some level of pain, injury, damage, or other hostile action, including serious bodily injury or death, on someone.
12. Serious Injury – Could be, but not limited to, an injury sustained by a person as a result of an assault, crime of violence or intentional, reckless or unintentional act involving a motor vehicle or deadly weapon, which resulted in unconsciousness, possibility of fractures, significant blood loss, visible bruising and swelling, lacerations, nerve, muscle or tendon damage; severe burns, injury to any internal organ; or hospitalization. This is not a definition defined by C.R.S.; it is used as an instructive aid for members who are using force.

601.03 Use of Force - General Provisions

1. All use of force must comply with this policy and applicable Federal and State law, including, but not limited to, C.R.S. 18-1-707, as amended.
2. Members shall use only as much force as reasonably necessary and appropriate to accomplish their lawful purposes. The use of physical force must end when its

lawful purpose is accomplished. Members will only use a degree of force consistent with the minimization of injury to others.

3. Members, in carrying out their duties, shall apply nonviolent means, when possible, before resorting to the use of physical force. A member may use physical force only if nonviolent means would be ineffective in effecting an arrest, preventing an escape, or preventing an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death to the peace officer or another person.
4. When members have used physical force, members will ensure that assistance and medical aid are rendered to any injured or affected persons as soon as practical.
5. In instances of physical force that results in serious bodily injury or death, a member of the police department will notify their supervisor, who will ensure that any identified relatives or next of kin of the person is notified as soon as practical.
6. When passively-resisting persons who are not armed with a weapon are to be taken into custody, including custody situations solely to prevent self-harm, then any force that may eventually be needed to overcome resistance which continues to be passive should be employed so that the risk of injury or harm to the person is minimized. Before the use of force, members should make reasonable attempts to de-escalate the situation.
7. Members will not use deadly force to apprehend a person who is suspected of only a minor or nonviolent offense and does not pose an immediate threat to the peace officer or another person
8. If circumstances allow, and the risk to the safety of the member or others is minimal or manageable, members should use verbal persuasion and give commands to the suspect/subject(s) to obey lawful police orders before the application of any force. Additionally, members should make reasonable efforts to ensure commands are clearly audible and give the subject/suspect(s) an opportunity to comply.

The need for force, as well as the type, level, amount, and method of force used, must be based on objective factors, which can be articulated as being reasonable and necessary and not simply that the officer feared for their safety or the safety of others. In addition, as an event unfolds, these same factors must be continually evaluated and adjustments made as warranted. The use of force may need to be escalated, reduced or stopped.

9. All Police Services Division members or volunteers who are authorized to use any use of force option shall complete training on this policy before beginning the

Field Training Program.

10. Only the use of force options authorized by this policy and taught during training may be utilized by a member to apply force unless the member is in a position requiring an alternative technique or weapon. It is the member's responsibility to justify any such deviation from the techniques and weapons authorized by the Police Services Division.
11. Members should not intentionally target the head with a baton, Electronic Control Device (ECD), or less-lethal impact munition unless deadly force is authorized.
12. Except for legal uses, training, educational presentations, inspections, cleaning and maintenance, employees shall not draw or display their personally owned or Police Services Division issued firearms or weapons (lethal or less-lethal) to the general public unless circumstances cause the employee to believe that it may be necessary to lawfully use the firearm or weapon in accordance with the provisions of this policy.
13. When feasible, officers should warn subjects of the impending use of force, and include a clear verbal warning of their intent to use firearms or other deadly physical force, allowing for sufficient time for the warning to be observed, unless doing so would unduly place the officer, or others, at risk of injury or create a risk of death.
14. With the exception of protecting yourself or another person who is in imminent danger of being killed or receiving serious bodily injury, a chokehold, or applying pressure to a person's neck to stop the flow of blood to the brain via the carotid arteries, as defined in C.R.S. 18-1-707, are prohibited.
15. Discharge of Firearms or use of deadly physical force
 - a. An officer may discharge a firearm:
 - i. In accordance with the applicable laws of the state of Colorado;
 - ii. A peace officer is justified in using deadly physical force to make an arrest only when all other means of apprehension are unreasonable given the circumstance and;
 - a) The arrest is for a felony involving conduct including the use or threatened use of deadly physical force;
 - b) The suspect poses an immediate threat to the peace officer or another person;
 - c) The force employed does not create a substantial risk of injury to other persons.

Notwithstanding any other provision in section 18-1-707 (4.5) of the Colorado Revised Statute a peace officer is justified in using deadly force if the peace officer has an objectively reasonable belief that a lesser degree of force is inadequate and the peace officer has objectively reasonable grounds to believe, and does believe that they are or another person is in imminent danger of being killed or receiving serious bodily injury.

- iii. At the driver of a vehicle who has used or is using the vehicle as a weapon in an attempt to kill, or seriously injure others.
 - iv. To destroy an animal that appears to be suffering from an apparent fatal wound or sickness, but only after making reasonable attempts to locate and receive permission from the animal's owner (See SOP 116 – Handling and Euthanasia of Animals);
 - v. At any animal that he reasonably believes is mad or vicious and cannot otherwise be prevented from attempting to kill or seriously injure any person or another animal;
- b. An officer is prohibited from discharging a firearm:
- i. To fire warning shots;
In situations involving a suspect(s) who is attempting to escape in a vehicle and is not using the vehicle as a deadly weapon. In these situations, officers should not use their bodies to block the vehicle and should attempt to move to a position of safety, when possible.

13. Less Lethal Force and Use of Chemical Agents

While the provisions regarding the use of force as outlined in 601.03 (1) through 601.03 (13) apply equally to the use of less-lethal force, the following provisions also apply to less lethal force:

- a. Members are authorized to use approved less-lethal force techniques, and weapons for the resolution of incidents as follows:
 - i. To prevent an imminent breach of the peace, or prevent suicide or self-inflicted injury.
 - ii. In making lawful arrests, searches and seizures, overcoming resistance to such arrests, searches or seizures, preventing escapes from custody, and in making investigative detention of a person whom the member reasonably suspects is committing, has committed or is about to commit a crime (C.R.S. 16-3-103).
 - iii. In self-defense or in the defense of another against unlawful force.
 - iv. To prevent or interrupt an intrusion or interference with the lawful possession of premises.

- v. To prevent a crime against property.
 - vi. Other instances where the member can demonstrate that less-lethal force was lawfully used.
- b. When less-lethal weapons are deployed in situations involving a deadly weapon(s), a backup officer is to directly accompany the less-lethal weapon user and be designated to utilize lethal force, if necessary, consistent with law and Department of Public Safety policies and procedures and Police Services Division policies and procedures.
- c. In response to a protest or demonstration, **unless there has been a declaration of a Public Safety Order declaring an event a riot**, members are prohibited from:
- i. Discharging kinetic impact projectiles and all other non- or less-lethal projectiles in a manner that targets the head, pelvis or back;
 - ii. Discharging kinetic impact projectiles indiscriminately into a crowd; or
 - iii. Using chemical agents or irritants, including pepper spray and tear gas, prior to issuing an order to disperse in a sufficient manner to ensure the order is heard and repeated if necessary, followed by sufficient time and space to allow compliance with the order.
- d. A riot is defined by CRS 18-9-101 (2) as a public disturbance involving an assemblage of three or more persons which by tumultuous and violent conduct creates grave danger of damage or injury to property or persons or substantially obstructs the performance of any government function.

14. Administrative Leave

- a. Any member whose application of force causes death or serious bodily injury (as defined by C.R.S. 18-1-901, as amended) to any person may be placed on administrative leave pursuant to section 3.04.465 of the Longmont Municipal Code.
- b. Members shall not be compelled to complete a written report before being placed on Administrative Leave. However, in accordance with SOP 126 – Officer-Involved Shootings and Other Incidents of Serious Injury, and in order to facilitate the commencement/furtherance of an investigation, members shall verbally provide the following information:
 - i. Suspect description, location, direction of travel if they left the scene or have accomplices, and a description of any weapons.
 - ii. The need for medical assistance for officers, suspects or innocent victims,
 - iii. Boundaries of the scene and where the evidence may be that needs to be

secured.

- c. Members who have been interviewed by the Boulder County Investigations Teams following an Officer-Involved Shooting (or use of force resulting in Death or Serious Bodily Injury) will complete a supplemental report in the Police Services report writing system to capture their use of force data only. The narrative section of this report will read "Interviewed by BCIT." This should be done as soon as practical after their return to duty.

601.04 Use of Force Reporting

1. All members shall follow the reporting requirements as outlined in C.R.S. 18-8-802 as revised. Specifically, any member who observes another peace officer using force, which may deviate from this policy or law, must report such use of force to a police supervisor as soon as possible. The report must be both orally and in writing using an In-House Incident Report, which will be forwarded through the chain of command to the Professional Standards Unit (PSU). Failure to do so may subject the employee not only to disciplinary action but also to criminal prosecution.
2. Documentation of a use of force shall be completed and submitted through the chain of command for review by each member who uses force under the following circumstances:
 - a. When injury or death occurs.
 - b. When an intentional or unintentional discharge of a firearm occurs.
 - c. When a member points a firearm or less-lethal weapon at another person.
 - d. Whenever a motor vehicle is used as a method in which to apply force, e.g., ramming, roadblock, etc.
 - e. When a K-9 bites or otherwise injures a suspect/subject.
 - i. If the suspect is present and the K9 is released to apprehend them, a UOF report will be completed whether an injury occurs or not. The mere presence of a K-9 at the scene of an arrest or the tracking of a suspect is not considered a use of force.
 - f. When a member uses any impact weapon (baton, flashlight, or another implement) in a manner that applies force to another or uses the baton as leverage.
 - g. When a member fires a Less Lethal Impact Munition at an individual or individuals.
 - h. When a member uses physical force on another person. However, escort techniques and handcuffing, which do not rely on pain compliance, are exempt from this requirement.
 - i. When a member deploys a Ripp Hobble.

- j. When a member points or fires an ECD at another person.
- k. When a member deploys a chemical aerosol spray on another person.
- l. When a member deploys chemical munitions.
- m. When a member deploys a Noise/Flash Diversionary Device in the immediate proximity of a suspect/subject.
- n. Other incidents as deemed necessary by the member's supervisor.

This reporting requirement does not apply to situations where force is practiced during training. In addition, when dispatching an animal per SOP 116 – Handling and Euthanasia of Animals, use of force documentation is not required, but an In-House Incident Report must be completed.

3. In addition to documenting the use of force, members must verbally notify a police supervisor as soon as possible whenever use of force incident involves:
 - a. The discharge of a firearm, or less-lethal weapon.
 - b. Serious bodily injury as defined by C.R.S 18-1-901 (3) (p), as amended.
 - c. Unconsciousness,
 - d. Death,
 - e. Any injury to a juvenile, or
 - f. Whenever a person claims that a serious bodily injury was caused by police actions.

Under any of these circumstances, a police supervisor shall respond to the scene of the incident if practical. Except as noted below, the supervisor shall initiate an investigation, which should include, but may not be limited to, a recorded interview of any injured subjects, recorded interviews of any available witnesses, a neighborhood/area canvass to locate other witnesses, and photographs of the scene and any injuries. As required by the state law, as soon as practical, the supervisor will make reasonable attempts to notify any identified relatives or next of kin that the person was injured. All involved officers should be directed to complete a report, including those required to document the use of force. The supervisor will then collect, review, and process all investigative reports and materials per 601.04 (6).

The exception to the above is when an incident involves a member(s) using deadly force or for other incidents involving in-custody deaths. Those will be investigated by an independent investigative body, e.g., Boulder County Investigation Team, Weld County DA's office, etc.

4. Anyone who directs another member to use force against a person or a group of persons must also complete a use of force report.
5. Off-duty officers who take action in their capacity as a peace officer and use force requiring the use of force documentation shall notify the on-duty watch

commander of the incident as soon as possible.

6. Whenever possible, photographs of all visible injuries from all involved persons resulting from police use of force incident should be taken for evidence.
7. Members who discharge a firearm or an ECD in situations other than during a use of force against a person incident shall complete an In-House Incident Report and, if applicable, a Case Report and submit the report(s) through the chain of command for review. Exceptions to this requirement are training and for when firearms are used during lawful sporting or recreational activities.
8. It is the responsibility of the member's first-line supervisor to review the involved members' actions, including asking follow up questions or reviewing statements, audio/video recordings, if necessary, and then offer a conclusion as to compliance with applicable policies and procedures, training, city administrative regulations, Longmont Municipal ordinances, state statutes, established case law and/or applicable federal law.

Reviews are to be comprehensive. In judging whether a member's actions were reasonable, supervisors must also consider the risk of bodily harm the member's actions posed to the suspect and the community in light of the need to apprehend and arrest the suspect. In addition, supervisors should consider the use of force from the perspective of a reasonable officer, rather than with 20/20 hindsight, and remember the dynamics of split-second judgments in circumstances that are tense, uncertain and rapidly evolving.

It is the responsibility of the member's chain of command, to include the Professional Standards Unit Sergeant, to review the first-line supervisors recommendations and review the members' actions, including asking follow up questions or reviewing statements, and then offer a conclusion as to compliance with applicable policies and procedures, training, city administrative regulations, Longmont Municipal ordinances, state statutes, established case law and/or applicable federal law. It is only necessary for the member's chain of command to review audio/video recordings if the member's chain of command is notified of a concern or in the opinion of the reviewer, the reports do not thoroughly support the use of force.

9. The justification for the use of any physical force must be limited to what reasonably appears to be the facts, known or perceived, at the time, the decision to use force was made. Facts, unknown to the member, no matter how compelling, cannot be considered in later determining whether the use of force was justified. In addition, the member's decisions and actions leading up to the decision to use force must also be considered.
10. The following steps, where appropriate, are to be taken when the member's chain of command has completed their review and submitted their findings:

- a. If the use of force is found to be within policy, the use of force documentation is to be forwarded to the Professional Standards Unit (PSU). PSU will review the use of force review to ensure it is complete and that the findings are within policy. PSU will also collect data from the use of force event for inclusion in the quarterly/annual Use of Force Report. If, after review, PSU believes the use of force violated policy, PSU will advise the Chief of Public Safety.
- b. If the use of force is found to be outside of policy, the Deputy Public Safety Chief will (1) ensure that the most appropriate non-disciplinary corrective action is taken or (2) will forward the matter to PSU and the Chief of Public Safety for consideration on whether or not a Professional Standards Investigation is initiated.
- c. If the review process indicates training concerns, whether individual-based or division wide-based, the Deputy Public Safety Chief and/or PSU will forward those concerns to the appropriate use of force options training coordinator. The training coordinator will address and/or rectify the training issue.
- d. If the review process indicates policy, procedure, tactical or equipment concerns, the Deputy Public Safety Chief and/or PSU will ensure those concerns are addressed with the appropriate personnel.

601.05 Use of Force Options – Additional Provisions

1. Categorical types and levels of force

- Officer/Member Presence (clearly identifiable as a police officer/public safety member)
- Verbal Commands (clear and deliberate, designed to evoke compliance)
- Empty hand techniques other than strikes, OC, CN, CS
- Strikes, kicks, elbows, knees, and ECD
- Intermediate Weapons (strike with impact weapon to non-vital areas, K-9 bite, Less Lethal Impact Munitions.
- Lethal Force (high levels of force with the likelihood of causing serious bodily injury or death)

Variables

There are many variables to consider when determining whether or not a force response is appropriate and, if so, to what level. These include, but are not limited to, weather, time of day, environment, age of suspect/subject, stature or strength of officer versus suspect/subject, fatigue, injury, number of officers present versus number of suspect/subjects present, the suspect/subject being under the influence of drugs or intoxicants and the mental capacity/impairment of the suspect/subject. Additionally, the severity of the crime, whether the subject/suspect poses an immediate threat to the safety of the member(s) or others and whether the suspect/subject is actively resisting arrest or attempting to

evade arrest by flight, are also considerations when determining a force response.

2. All commissioned officers, Range Safety Officers and Fire personnel assigned as SWAT Team Medics and Bomb Squad Technicians shall be trained and demonstrate proficiency in the following Use of Force Options:
 - a. Duty handgun
 - b. Defensive Tactics (modified for Range Safety Officers)
3. Community Service Officers with field duties shall be trained and demonstrate proficiency in the following Use of Force Options:
 - a. Chemical Aerosol Sprays
 - b. Electronic Control Devices
 - c. Defensive Tactics
4. Community Service Officers Patrol, Crime Scene Investigators, Property & Evidence Custodians, Student Intern Officers, and CVP members shall be trained and demonstrate proficiency in the Use of Force Option - Chemical Aerosol Sprays.
5. All Police Officers of the rank of Sergeant and below and Fire personnel assigned as SWAT Team Medics and Bomb Squad Technicians shall be trained and demonstrate proficiency in the following Use of Force Options (except as noted):
 - a. Duty handgun
 - b. Chemical Aerosol Sprays (Fire Bomb Squad Technicians are exempt)
 - c. Electronic Control Devices
 - d. Defensive Tactics
 - e. Expandable Baton (Fire Bomb Squad Technicians are exempt)
 - f. Tactical Rifle (Optional for non-uniformed assignments)
 - g. Less Lethal Impact Munitions (LLIMS) (Optional for non-uniformed assignments)
6. While SWAT Team Medics are required to train on and become familiar with lethal and less-lethal weaponry [601.05 (5) and 601.05 (6)], they are only required to meet qualification standards on those weapons designated by the SWAT Team Commander.
7. The Chief of Public Safety will designate a Training Coordinator for each use of force option. This member will coordinate training, certification, and schedule with Training & Personnel.
8. Members who are required to attend and participate in use of force re-certifications or training, as well as demonstrate acceptable proficiency in a use of force option but fail to do so, will have their chain of command notified by the

Training Coordinator for the specific training subject and appropriate action will be taken.

601.06 Use of Force Option – Defensive Tactics

Following training by certified defensive tactics instructors and demonstrated proficiency, Longmont Police Officers, Fire personnel assigned as SWAT Team Medics and Bomb Squad Technicians and Community Service Officers are authorized to use an array of Defensive Tactics disciplines. In addition, and following training and demonstrated proficiency, Range Safety Officers are authorized to utilize limited defensive tactics as authorized by the Defensive Tactics Training Coordinator.

1. Training

- a. All Longmont Police Officers and Community Service Officers with field duties will receive defensive tactics training before beginning their respective Field Training and Evaluation Program or post-hiring training program. Annual defensive tactics training is also required.
- b. All Fire personnel assigned as SWAT Team Medics or Bomb Squad Technicians will receive defensive tactics training before being allowed to carry a sidearm while carrying out their SWAT Team/Bomb Squad duties. Annual defensive tactics training is also required.
- c. All Range Safety Officers will undergo modified defensive tactics training on an annual basis. Their training will be developed by the Defensive Tactics Training Coordinator to specifically meet the needs of the Range.

2. Issuance of Expandable Batons

- a. All Longmont Police Officers and Community Service Officers with field duties will be issued an expandable baton and shall carry their assigned baton while in uniform either on their person or accessible in their assigned vehicle at all times.
- b. The carrying of an expandable baton is optional for personnel working a plainclothes assignment and SWAT Team members during official SWAT functions. Note: Fire personnel assigned as SWAT Team Medics and Bomb Squad Technicians are trained on but do not carry the expandable baton.

601.07 Use of Force Option - Chemical Aerosol Spray

Following training by certified instructors and demonstrated proficiency, members are authorized to use and deploy Chemical Aerosol Sprays as approved by the department.

1. The Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team will maintain an inventory of various chemical agents and aerosol spray products. The team's Less Lethal

Munitions Specialists, team leaders, and team commander will determine the specific products maintained.

2. Chemical aerosol spray canisters will be replaced as specified by the manufacturer.
3. Longmont Police Officers, SWAT Team Medics (Fire), Community Service Officers, Crime Scene Investigators, Property & Evidence Custodians, Community Service Officers (CSO) Patrol, Citizen Volunteer Patrol (CVP) members and Student Intern Officers (SIO) will be issued duty belt sized Chemical Aerosol Spray canisters upon successful completion of an approved training program.
4. Carrying of a Chemical Aerosol Spray
 - a. All personnel wearing their official uniform are required to carry their issued chemical aerosol spray holstered on their person.
 - b. The carrying of a chemical aerosol spray is optional for personnel working a plainclothes assignment and SWAT Team members during official SWAT functions.
 - c. Off-duty personnel may carry their assigned chemical aerosol spray canister at their discretion.
5. Miscellaneous
 - a. Chemical aerosol sprays and chemical agents shall only be carried and used by members who have successfully completed training in their use. Annual refresher training is required.
 - b. Levels of Exposure:
 - i. Level One - direct contamination with the chemical agent
 - ii. Level Two - indirect or secondary exposure to the chemical agent
 - iii. Level Three - area contamination with the chemical agent
 - c. Any person who receives a level one exposure to a chemical aerosol spray and is taken into custody should be decontaminated, medically cleared, and closely and continuously monitored for 1½ hours.

601.08 Use of Force Option- Less Lethal Impact Munitions (LLIMS)

Following training by certified instructors and demonstrated proficiency, sworn Longmont Police Officers and SWAT Team Medics (Fire) are authorized to use and deploy Less Lethal Impact Munitions (LLIMS) as approved by the Police Services Division.

1. Definitions
 - a. Less Lethal Impact Munitions (LLIMS) are extended range impact projectiles

designed to safely incapacitate a potentially dangerous person(s) from a distance that minimizes the danger to the officers involved. Projectiles are fired, launched, or otherwise propelled for the purpose of causing blunt trauma, which is used to encourage compliance and overcome resistance with a reduced likelihood of causing serious bodily injury or death. Blunt trauma injuries are commonly consistent with handheld impact weapons, such as a straight baton, explainable baton. LLIMS can be deployed through various weapons platforms including the 12-gauge shotgun, 37mm smooth bore gas gun, 40 mm rifled guns and grenades.

- b. Patrol Less Lethal Shotguns are 12 gauge shotguns designated for use strictly with LLIMS. These shotguns will be specifically marked to designate they are for less lethal use only.

2. Basic Provisions

- a. Only those LLIMS approved by the Police Services Division shall be used.
- b. A list of authorized LLIMS will be maintained by the SWAT Team Less Lethal Specialists.
- c. Only personnel who have successfully completed Police Services Division-approved LLIMS training are authorized to use LLIMS. Members are only authorized to use those specific LLIMS in which they have successfully completed approved training and demonstrated proficiency.
- d. Successful completion of the user certification course must include passing a written examination and qualification with the approved LLIMS.
- e. Members authorized to carry and deploy LLIMS will complete annual refresher training and qualifications with the LLIMS.
- f. Officers who are certified in the use of LLIMS are required to carry a LLIMS weapon system, if available while working on a Patrol assignment.
- g. LLIMS Less Lethal shotguns stored in vehicles shall have a magazine fully loaded and the chamber empty.
- h. Upon taking possession of a vehicle or carrying Less Lethal shotguns, members will verify that they are only loaded with LLIMS. If the vehicle is checked out at the S&JC, the clearing barrel procedures shall be followed.
- i. Lethal buckshot, birdshot, or slugs will never be carried with, or loaded into, the Patrol Less Lethal Shotguns. At the end of a member's shift, the member will unload the less lethal shotgun and store all four less-lethal rounds in the storage bag and hang the bag from the less lethal shotgun barrel.
- j. Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team members are authorized to use and deploy highly specialized less-lethal weapons and munitions in which they are trained and certified to use.
- k. LLIMS will be replaced as recommended by the manufacturer.

3. Deployment

- a. Members will announce over the radio of the arrival and deployment of LLIMS. SWAT Team members deployed on a SWAT mission are exempt from this requirement.
- b. All persons struck by LLIMS and taken into custody shall be examined at a qualified medical facility and medically cleared.

601.09 Use of Force Option- Electronic Control Device (ECD)

Following training by certified instructors and demonstrated proficiency, members are authorized to use and deploy less-lethal Electronic Control Devices (ECD's) as approved by the Police Services Division.

1. Definitions

- a. Electronic Control Devices (ECDs) are less-lethal weapons that conduct electrical energy to overcome resistance and stop aggression. They are designed to safely incapacitate potentially dangerous person(s) from a distance that minimizes the danger to the officers and suspects involved.
- b. ECD Cycle - For this policy, a cycle is a single trigger pull causing the ECD to activate for a predetermined amount of time as set by the manufacturer.

2. Basic Provisions

- a. Only those ECDs approved by the Police Services Division shall be used.
- b. A list of authorized ECDs will be maintained by the Patrol ECD Specialists.
- c. Only those members who have successfully completed approved training shall carry or deploy an ECD.
- d. Members authorized to carry and deploy ECD's will complete annual refresher training and qualifications.
- e. Members shall carry their assigned ECD on their support side.
- f. All personnel of the rank of Sergeant and below is required to carry an ECD when wearing their official uniform.
- g. The carrying of an ECD is optional for personnel working a plainclothes assignment and SWAT Team members during official SWAT functions.
- h. Off-duty personnel may carry an ECD within the carry provisions noted above.

3. Deployment

- a. ECD's may be used in response to an imminent or threatened assault of a member of police services or an arrest or detention involving a serious injury incident(s) or,

When there is probable cause to arrest a person for a serious injury incident, and the suspect/subject refuses to comply with orders, or is attempting to evade arrest by flight or,

When the person is exhibiting a level of resistance, either of which creates a risk of imminent or immediate threat or danger to an officer or another.

- b. Police Services recognizes that a person, depending on their size, nature of their refusal, and their failure to comply with lawful orders, even on lower-level crimes, can pose an imminent risk to an officer(s) attempting a lawful arrest or lawful detention. In those arrests or detentions, if the officer reasonably believes other means of control and persuasion would not be effective and attempts would increase the risk of injury to the officer and/or suspect/subject, they may use an ECD.
 - c. If practical, prior to the use of an ECD, a member should attempt:
 - i. Verbal commands to submit to arrest, which includes telling them what you want them to do
 - ii. Verbal warning of the imminent deployment of the ECD
 - iii. Pointing the ECD at the subject
 - d. When an ECD is deployed, the suspect/subject shall be subjected to the fewest number of cycles as reasonably necessary to accomplish a lawful objective. Also, see 601.09 (4).
 - e. ECDs shall not be used on persons who are subdued, under control, and obeying police orders.
4. The following ECD restrictions apply except in situations where a member is facing high levels of resistance, or there are high levels of risk, and in the member's judgment there is an imminent risk of serious injury or death to anyone unless the ECD is deployed:
- 1. ECD's are NOT to be deployed on persons who:
 - i. are very young
 - ii. are very old
 - iii. are reasonably believed to be pregnant
 - iv. have obvious infirmities (fragility, feebleness)
 - v. are driving a moving vehicle
 - vi. are in an elevated position in which the resulting fall could increase the likelihood of serious bodily injury.
 - b. Members should expose a person to only one ECD at a time. Members may choose to reactivate the ECD or use a second ECD if it is apparent a previous deployment is ineffective.
 - c. No person shall be knowingly exposed to more than three (3) ECD cycles, as defined by 601.09 (1) (b).
 - d. No person shall be exposed to a single cycle longer than the manufacturer's preset standard cycle.
 - e. As ECDs used in the drive stun mode are meant to gain submission through

pain compliance, members are to discontinue drive stun applications if they are not effective.

5. Only members certified to use ECDs or qualified medical personnel should remove any ECD probes that have penetrated the subject.
6. When ECDs and cartridges are deployed at a person, fired cartridges, probes, wires, and, if possible, several AFIDs will be retained as evidence. Probes should be handled with appropriate PPE. Members should do their best to collect these items without breaking the wires.

If the probes are embedded in a sensitive area, members may break the wires before transport. However, it is still required to collect the probes at the hospital after qualified medical personnel has removed them.

- a. The cartridge, wires, probes, and AFIDs should be collected as instructed in training. The cartridge serial number should be noted before collection. As a rule, the cartridge, wire, probes, and AFIDs should be gathered up and placed inside a paper bag. The seven-inch wide paper bags provided by evidence work best and should be carried in the patrol cars.
 - b. Any loose wire from the cartridge wire bay should not be pulled out because the remaining wire in the wiring bay can be used to determine distances if necessary.
 - c. In the event of multiple ECD deployments, the cartridges, wires, and probes should be bagged and boxed individually.
 - d. Before being booked into Property & Evidence, the cartridges, wires, probes, and any collected AFIDs should be secured in the cardboard pistol boxes located in the evidence booking room. When placing the paper bag into the pistol evidence box, take care not to crush the bag to avoid a needle stick.
 - e. The cartridge serial number and a description of the evidence should be noted in the Property & Evidence report.
7. All persons exposed to an ECD and taken into custody shall be examined at a qualified medical facility and medically cleared.
 8. Members shall document all injuries associated with the use of an ECD.
 9. Except for training deployments, when an ECD is used on another person, members shall ensure the ECD use data has been uploaded and stored to evidence.com, as soon as practical. Once downloaded, members are responsible for notifying their supervisor that the data has been uploaded to evidence.com.

601.10 Use of Force Option – Police K-9

Following training at selected K-9 vendors or K-9 training academies, K-9 Officers are

authorized to use and deploy a Police Service K-9 as approved by the Police Services.

1. Definitions

- a. Deployment – Any time the Police Service K-9 is used to perform a law enforcement function for which the K-9 has been specifically trained or certified to complete. This does not include training sessions, breaks, demonstrations, or similar activities.
- b. Application – The use of a Police Service K-9 as a means of force other than the K-9's mere presence, specifically a K-9 Bite or K-9 Caused Injury, as defined below.
- c. K-9 Bite – For reporting purposes, a K-9 bite shall be defined as any gripping of a person's body by the dog's mouth, irrespective of injury.
- d. K-9 Caused Injury – Any injury caused by a K-9 that is not a bite. This includes knocking a person down, scratches, or abrasions.
- e. Audible Alert – Trained barking or similar signal, given by the Police Service K-9 to indicate that he or she has located either a person or a person's odor when that person is nearby.
- f. K-9 Arrest – An arrest where a Police Service K-9 was a significant and essential component of that arrest. Examples may include when the Police Service K-9 was intentionally used as force against a suspect (as described above), when the Police Service K-9 located a hiding suspect and when the Police Service K-9's presence was primarily and clearly the reason the suspect submitted to arrest.

2. Basic Provision

The Police Service K-9 may be used as a means of force when based on the totality of circumstances known to the K-9 Officer at the time; it appears objectively reasonable to do so.

3. Deployment

- a. The use of a Police Service K-9 provides Officers with a tactical advantage when searching for criminal suspects. This advantage is an invaluable tool in the rapid detection of criminal suspects and protection of Officers, all to ensure the safety of the community. Therefore, a primary function of the deployment of a Police Service K-9 is to locate suspects. However, depending upon the circumstances, the application of the Police Service K-9 for protection and safety purposes may be required.
- b. Standard Operating Procedure 214 – Police K-9 Unit addresses all other

aspects of the Police K-9 Program. SOP 214 includes, but is not limited to, the utilization of K-9 Teams, types of deployments, training, certifications, reporting K-9 use, reporting injuries, requests for assistance and requests for public demonstrations.

- c. The Police K-9 will not be deployed without the handler first warning of its imminent deployment unless there is an imminent risk to the member or the public.
- c. Police Service K-9 Application
 - i. Intentional K-9 Apprehension: If a Police Service K-9 makes a K-9 bite after being directed by the handler, the Police Service K-9 must be recalled or otherwise restrained as soon as the suspect is in custody or no longer poses a reasonable threat.
 - ii. Non-intentional K-9 Apprehension: If a Police Service K-9 makes a non-intentional K-9 bite, the dog must be recalled or otherwise restrained immediately.
- d. K-9 teams are not deployed as regular patrol units; however, they can become involved in many different tactical/patrol situations. In a case where the handler is in imminent danger, the Police Service K-9 is trained to protect the K-9 Officer, and when necessary, should be used.
- e. All cases involving a K-9 bite will be documented by the K-9 Officer, articulating each fact or circumstance that gave rise to the bite to include situations where safety to Officers or others was a concern. Documentation may include, but is not limited to, a detailed account of the actions of the suspect, a detailed description of the location where the suspect was hiding or believed to be hiding, lighting conditions, and the Officer's prior experience with similar circumstances. Photos of the scene and the suspect, including any injuries, will also be taken.
- f. If, during a search, the Police Service K-9 gives a positive alert identifying a suspect's location, if possible all members of the search team will take positions of advantage. The K-9 Officer will consider all reasonable options available at that time. The K-9 Officer may recall the Police Service K-9 and gain physical control of the Police Service K-9, if tactically sound and safe to do so. Tactical considerations may preclude recalling of the Police Service K-9 until the search team members have taken positions of cover. The Police Service K-9 presence may be used as a tactical tool in appropriate circumstances, ensuring appropriate arrest and control tactics are used to apprehend the suspect as safely as possible.
- g. K-9 teams will not be used for crowd control at peaceful demonstrations. K-9 teams will not normally be used for crowd control unless it is necessary to protect life during a riot or other major unauthorized gathering that cannot be

controlled by other means. Whenever possible, the K-9 Sergeant or a Patrol Commander should be consulted before the deployment of K-9 Teams in these situations.

601.11 Use of Force Option – Firearms

Members are authorized to use and deploy firearms as approved by the Police Services Division and subject to the provisions of applicable Federal law, State law, and Longmont Police SOP 125 – Firearms Standards and Training. Members shall follow the Firearms Safety rules at all times.

1. Basic Firearms Safety Rules

- i. All weapons shall be handled as if loaded.
- ii. Never let the muzzle cover anything you are not willing to shoot.
- iii. Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on target and you are prepared to shoot.
- iv. Be aware of your target and what is beyond.

2. Additional Firearm Safety Rules

- i. Never give or take a firearm from anyone unless it is unloaded; the action is open and is presented grip first.
- ii. Be sure the barrel is not obstructed before loading.
- iii. Inspect all ammunition before loading it into a weapon and or magazine to ensure it has not been damaged and is compatible with the weapon.
- iv. Never draw or re-holster a gun with the finger inside the trigger guard.
- v. Avoid touching the muzzle on the ground at all times.
- vi. When collecting firearms as evidence, follow evidence-booking procedures as outlined in SOP 405 – Acquired and In Custody Property.

3. Basic Provisions

- a. Police Officers are authorized to carry Police Services Division-approved firearms.
- b. Fire personnel assigned as SWAT Team Medics and Bomb Squad Technicians are authorized to carry Police Services Division-approved firearms while on duty as a Team/Squad members.
- c. Commissioned Police Officers who have successfully completed the Police Services Division's Field Training and Evaluation Program are authorized to carry a concealed firearm and utilize the firearm, if necessary, under the color of their authority as a Longmont officer while off duty. This policy does not limit Longmont Police members from carrying a concealed firearm if they have a

legal concealed weapons permit and are not in violation of any other city policies, state, and or federal laws.

- d. All sworn police officers shall carry a handgun on their person while on duty, in uniform or driving a marked police vehicle. The Chief of Public Safety or designee may exempt personnel from this requirement. Any exemption shall be in writing and filed in the member's personnel file. A written waiver is not required for:
 - i. Members when working in an undercover capacity and approved by a supervisor.
 - ii. Members attending training or conducting background investigations while not in uniform.
- e. Officers operating a patrol vehicle while on duty shall carry a rifle and less-lethal weapon, unless -approved by a supervisor.
- f. Specialty Weapons - Only those members trained in their use and in a manner consistent with that training or as approved by a watch commander, command officer or SWAT Team supervisor, shall use automatic weapons, rifles, tranquilizer guns, and chemical munitions weaponry.
- g. Members who are carrying a firearm when not in uniform are required to carry their Police Services Division-issued police identification card and police badge on their person. The member's badge shall be worn in a manner that is readily visible during those times when either the weapon or holster is exposed. Exception: personnel acting in an undercover or special operations capacity are exempt from this provision when authorization has been obtained from a command level supervisor.
- h. Alcohol and Drugs
 - i. Members shall adhere to the City of Longmont Administrative Regulation A-29: Establishing a Drug-Free Workplace Policy.
 - ii. Exception: Upon authorization from a supervisor, personnel acting in an undercover capacity are exempt from A-29, section 2.00, and 2.02.