

Inver Grove Heights Police Policy Manual		Subject: <b>Control Devices and Techniques</b>		
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**I. PURPOSE:**

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

**II. POLICY:**

In order to control subjects who are violent or who demonstrate the intent to be violent, the Inver Grove Heights Police Department authorizes officers to use control devices in accordance with the guidelines in this policy and the Use of Force Policy.

**III. 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 officers who have successfully completed a department approved training 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 and tactically appropriate, 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 to minimize injuries and unintentional targets.

**IV. RESPONSIBILITIES:**

A. Training Coordinator Responsibilities

1. The Training Coordinator may authorize the use of a control device by selected personnel or members of specialized units who have successfully completed the required training.

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B. Use of Force Coordinators Responsibilities

1. The Use of Force Coordinator shall control the inventory and issuance of all control devices and shall ensure that all damaged, inoperative, outdated or expended control devices or munitions are properly disposed of, repaired or replaced.
2. Every control device will be periodically inspected by the Use of Force Coordinator or the shift supervisor. The inspection shall be documented.

C. Shift Supervisor Responsibilities

1. The Shift Supervisor may authorize the use of a control device by selected personnel or members of specialized units who have successfully completed the required training.

D. User Responsibilities

1. All normal maintenance, charging or cleaning shall remain the responsibility of the personnel using the various approved devices.
2. Any damaged, inoperative, outdated or expended control devices or munitions, along with documentation explaining the cause of the damage, shall be returned to the Use of Force Coordinator for disposition. Damage to City property forms shall also be prepared and forwarded through the chain of command, when appropriate, explaining the cause of damage.

V. **BATON GUIDELINES:**

- A. The need to immediately control a suspect must be weighed against the risk of causing serious injury. A baton may be used by an officer only when it is reasonably apparent that a lesser degree of force would be inadequate to control the situation.
- B. The head, neck, throat, spine, heart, kidneys and groin should only be intentionally targeted when the officer reasonably believes the suspect poses an imminent threat of great bodily harm or death to the officer or others.
- C. Primary targets are the major muscle masses such as the forearms, thighs, or calves. These locations have a high potential for control and lesser potential for damage.
- D. Secondary targets are the joints or bones. These targets, the elbows, wrists, and knees, have a high probability of creating soft or connective tissue damage or bone fractures when struck with an impact weapon.
- E. When carrying a baton, uniformed personnel shall carry the baton in its 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.

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## **VI. CHEMICAL AGENT GUIDELINES:**

### **A. Tear Gas**

1. Chemical munitions may be used for crowd control, crowd dispersal or against barricaded suspects based on the circumstances. Only the Command Staff, Incident Commander or Tactical Response Team Commander may authorize the delivery and use of chemical munitions, and only after evaluating all conditions known at the time and determining that such force reasonably appears justified and necessary.
2. When appropriate, fire personnel should be alerted or summoned to the scene before the deployment of chemical munitions to control any fires and to assist in providing medical aid or gas evacuation if needed.

### **B. Oleoresin Capsicum (OC)**

1. As with other control devices, oleoresin capsicum (OC) 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 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.
2. Anytime OC/CS spray is used for controlling an offender, the application of the chemical aerosol will end when the offender discontinues resistance or aggression.
3. Uniformed personnel carrying OC/CS spray shall carry the device in its holster on the equipment belt. Plainclothes 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.

### **C. Treatment for OC Spray Exposure**

1. Persons who have been sprayed with or otherwise affected by the use of OC/CS should be treated for decontamination as soon as practical. Decontamination includes, increase air flow on effected person, vents, fans, or copious amounts of cool water. Those persons who complain of further severe effects shall be examined by appropriate medical personnel.

### **D. Post-Application Notice**

1. 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 cleanup will be at the owner's expense.
2. Information regarding the method of notice and the individuals notified should be included in related reports.

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3. This does not include secondary contamination occurring when applying chemical aerosol to a subject.

## **VII. KINETIC ENERGY PROJECTILE GUIDELINES:**

- A. 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. Department members must have received training and be currently approved by the department's Use of Force Coordinator in the deployment of impact munitions.
- B. Only department approved impact munitions shall be carried and deployed. Approved munitions may be used to compel an individual to cease his/her actions when such munitions present a reasonable option.
- C. Officers are not required or compelled to use impact munitions instead 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 take priority over the safety of subjects engaged in criminal or suicidal behavior.
- D. Use must be approved by a supervisor. Circumstances appropriate for deployment include, but are not limited to, situations in which:
  1. The suspect is armed with a weapon, and the tactical circumstances allow for the safe application of impact munitions.
  2. The suspect has made credible threats to harm himself/herself or others.
  3. The suspect is engaged in riotous behavior or is throwing rocks, bottles or other dangerous projectiles at people and/or officers.
  4. There is probable cause to believe that the suspect has already committed a crime of violence and is refusing to comply with lawful orders.
- E. Deployment Considerations
  1. Before discharging projectiles, the officer should consider such factors as:
    - a) Distance and angle to the target.
    - b) Type of munitions employed.
    - c) Type and thickness of the 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.
- F. 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

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- 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.
- G. Officers should keep in mind the manufacturer's recommendations and their training regarding effective distances and target areas. 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.
  - H. The need to immediately incapacitate the subject must be weighed against the risk of causing serious injury or death. The head and neck should not be intentionally targeted, except when the officer reasonably believes the suspect poses an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death to the officer or others.
  - I. The projectile is to be disposed of properly. Photographs of probe sites.
  - J. Medical Treatment
    - 1. Absent extenuating circumstances, officers must examine impact area. Impact area and any additional injuries should be photographed.
    - 2. All persons who have been struck by kinetic energy projectiles shall be offered medical assistance and closely monitored by the officer to determine any need for medical attention or changes in condition prior to booking. Officers should remain vigilant about excited delirium and other health factors.
    - 3. 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 may be pregnant.
      - b) The person reasonably appears to be in need of medical attention or condition has changed.
      - c) The person requests medical treatment.
  - K. Any individual exhibiting signs of distress shall be transported by ambulance to a medical facility for examination.
  - L. 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.
  - M. The transporting officer shall inform any person providing medical care or receiving custody that the individual has been struck by kinetic energy projectiles.

#### **VIII. AUTHORIZED LESS LETHAL FIREARMS:**

- A. No less lethal firearms will be carried that have not been thoroughly inspected by the Use of Force Coordinator or designee. Except in an emergency or as directed by a

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supervisor, no less lethal firearm shall be carried by a member who has not qualified with that less lethal firearm.

B. Less lethal Firearms

1. The following less lethal firearm is approved for on-duty use by officers of this department:
  - a) The authorized Department issued less lethal is the LMT 40mm launcher.

**IX. TRAINING:**

- A. The Training Manager shall ensure that all personnel 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. Officers will receive training on the use of issued control devices and this policy, including the learning objectives as provided by POST, at least annually (MN Statute 626.8452, Subd. 3).
1. Proficiency training shall be monitored and documented by a certified, control-device weapons or tactics instructor.
  2. All training and proficiency for control devices will be documented in the officer's training file.
  3. 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.

**X. REPORTING USE OF CONTROL DEVICES AND TECHNIQUES:**

- A. Any application of a control device or technique listed in this policy shall be documented promptly, completely and accurately in an appropriate report (incident, supplemental, aggression/resistance form, etc.) pursuant to the Use of Force Policy.