



POLICY & PROCEDURE

City of Neillsville Police Department (NVPD)

SUBJECT: **USE OF FORCE**

SCOPE: All Sworn Personnel

DISTRIBUTION: Policy & Procedures Manual

REFERENCE: WI State Statutes: 66.0511, 939.22(14), 939.45, 939.48, and Chapter 941; DAAT Incident Response and Disturbance Resolution Model

NUMBER: _____

ISSUED: _____

EFFECTIVE: _____

RESCINDS

AMENDS

INDEX AS: Control Devices
DAAT (Defense and Arrest Tactics)
Deadly Force
De-escalation
Firearms
Foot Pursuits
Less Lethal Weapons
Non-Deadly Force
Ramming with Police Vehicles
Rendering Medical Aid, Use of Force
Use of Force
Use of Force Reporting
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PURPOSE: The purpose of this Policy & Procedure is to establish policies and procedures for the Neillsville Police Department regarding the use of force and identifying the responsibilities of officers using force or after it has been used; to provide guidance to officers when persons become injured due to the use of force by an officer, and to provide guidelines for officers for the reporting and review of any officer-involved critical incident.

This Policy & Procedure consists of the following numbered sections:

- I. POLICY
- II. DEFINITIONS
- III. DEFENSIVE AND ARREST TACTICS (DAAT)
- IV. USE OF FIREARMS
- V. USE OF VEHICLES - BLOCKADES, BARRIERS, AND RAMMING
- VI. USE OF NON-DEADLY FORCE
- VII. USE OF RESTRAINTS
- VIII. FOOT PURSUITS
- IX. RENDERING MEDICAL AID
- X. REPORTING THE USE OF FORCE

I. POLICY

- A. It is the policy of the Neillsville Police Department to value and preserve human life therefore, officers shall use only the force, including less-lethal force that is reasonably objective to gain control, while protecting the lives of the officer or others. Officers may include in their decision to use this force option, information known to the officer(s) at the time of the incident or conduct or statements by the subject or a prior history of resistive or assaultive behavior. Deadly force shall never be resorted to until every other reasonable means of apprehension or defense has been exhausted and SHOULD only be used as a last resort.
1. All sworn Officers are required to follow the State of Wisconsin's Law Enforcement Training and Standards system of Defensive and Arrest Tactics when making all use of force decisions.
 2. Officers shall use only force that is reasonably necessary to effectively bring an incident under control while protecting the lives of the officer and others.
 3. Any person injured through the use of force by one of its officers, shall receive medical aid for such injuries.
 4. It is the responsibility of any officer who uses physical force or any of the enumerated weapons, items or devices indicated below to complete an Incident Report on the incident involved and to specifically note the circumstances necessitating, and manner of, such use of force.
 5. All cases where force is used shall be reviewed by the Chief of Police on a documented semi-annual basis.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. **DEADLY FORCE:** The intentional use of a firearm or other instrument, the use of which would result in a high probability of death or great bodily harm. [Or technique]
- B. **DEFENSIVE AND ARREST TACTICS (DAAT):** A system of verbalization skills coupled with physical alternatives.
- C. **DE-ESCALATION:** Taking action or communicating verbally or non-verbally during a potential force situation in an attempt to stabilize the situation and reduce the threat without the use of force or with a reduction in the force necessary.
- D. **CONDUCTED ENERGY WEAPON (CEW):** A less-lethal force weapon that causes electro-muscular disruption to a combative, violent, or potentially combative, violent subject. The use of this device is intended to incapacitate the subject with minimal potential for causing death or great bodily harm.

- E. GREAT BODILY HARM: “Bodily injury which creates a substantial risk of death, or which causes serious permanent disfigurement, or which causes a permanent or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ or other serious bodily injuries.” WI State Statute 939.22(14)
- F. NON-DEADLY FORCE: That amount of force that does not meet the definition of deadly force, but which is an amount of force that, in normal circumstances, can cause bodily harm.
- G. POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER: An anxiety disorder that can result from exposure to short-term severe stress, or the long-term buildup of repetitive and prolonged milder stress.
- H. REASONABLE FORCE: That force which an ordinary, prudent, and intelligent person with the same knowledge of the particular situation as the officer would deem necessary.

III. DEFENSE AND ARREST TACTICS

- A. The Department adopts the Defensive and Arrest Tactics System (DAAT). This is a system designed for all police officers for the primary purpose of self-defense. This system includes the Incident Response and Disturbance Resolution Models which provide general guidelines that define the degree and type of force to be used in controlling suspects. All Officers shall be trained in the DAAT system per State of Wisconsin Training and Standard Bureau standards.
 - 1. An officer shall only use that amount of force that is objectively reasonable to gain control in the performance of his/her law enforcement duties.
 - 2. Under no circumstances shall an officer continue to use force (except mere physical restraint) against an individual who has ceased to resist.
 - 3. When an individual only offers passive resistance to arrest, the officer shall bodily remove and transport such an individual with as much regard to the individual’s safety and welfare as reasonable, practical, and possible.
 - 4. When utilizing the Disturbance Resolution Model, the officer must use only that force that is reasonably necessary for reacting to other people’s behavior by escalating or de-escalating through the Intervention Options.
 - 5. Use of Force Training will be conducted annually and will include various control techniques.
- B. Incident Response Model: all officers shall follow the most current version of the Incident Response Model adopted by the State of Wisconsin DAAT Advisory Committee 06-07-2017.

- C. Disturbance Resolution Model: all officers shall follow the most current version of the Disturbance Resolution Model adopted by the State of Wisconsin DAAT Advisory Committee 06-07-2017.

IV. USE OF FIREARMS

- A. Sworn personnel are authorized to carry and use weapons under the authority and powers granted to them by Wisconsin State Statutes and exemptions granted under various statutes found in WI. Statutes: Chapter 941. Officers must also follow the requirements outlined in Policy & Procedure / Firearms and Ammunition.
- B. Officers may display Department authorized firearms when they have reasonable suspicions to believe that the use of deadly force may be necessary. Officers need not be under attack, but only be reasonably apprehensive that the situation may lead to circumstances outlined in the Use of Deadly Force section of this Order. Department authorized firearms should not be displayed under any other circumstances.
 - 1. This section is intended to allow the officer to have the firearm ready in circumstances such as answering a silent alarm or confronting a suspect whom there is reasonable suspicions to believe may be armed, or any other situation which may cause the officer to have a reasonable fear for his/her life.
- D. Whenever safety permits and time allows, officers shall identify themselves and state their intent to shoot before using a firearm. Officers are to fire their weapons to stop an assailant from completing a potentially deadly act. The primary target is the central nervous system, to stop the threat and to minimize danger to innocent bystanders.
- E. Firearms shall not be discharged when it appears likely that an innocent person may be injured unless failure to discharge will result in the greater danger exception. The greater danger exception allows you to shoot without target isolation if the consequence of not stopping the threat would be worse than the possibility of hitting an innocent person.
- F. Warning shots should not be fired.
- G. Officers should not discharge a firearm at or from a moving motor vehicle except as the last measure of self-defense of oneself or another, and only then if the officer believes that the suspect has or is intent upon causing death or great bodily harm to oneself or another person.

If this decision is made, consideration must be given to the safety of innocent bystanders and possibly innocent passengers in the vehicle.

H. An officer may also discharge a firearm under the following circumstances:

1. During range practice or competitive sporting events.
2. To destroy an animal that represents a threat to public safety, or as a humanitarian measure where the animal is seriously injured.

I. Before being authorized to carry a firearm on duty for the Department, officers must meet the following three requirements:

1. Officers shall receive training in the safe handling and operation of Department issued or personally owned authorized firearms. Officers must demonstrate their understanding of Department Policy & Procedures and state laws about deadly weapons and the use thereof.
2. Officers must be certified by the State of Wisconsin in the use of firearms.
3. Officers must qualify with a Department Range Officer.

V. USE OF VEHICLES-BLOCKADES, BARRIERS, AND RAMMING

A. The following may only be employed by an officer if, and only if, the use of deadly force would be authorized:

1. The use of blockades or roadblocks constructed by placing obstacles (including but not limited to police vehicles) of such density and mass upon a roadway that any vehicle colliding with them would be so severely decelerated that its occupants would likely suffer death or serious injury.
2. Ramming of a suspect/evader vehicle by a police vehicle.
3. Forcing a suspect/evader off the roadway or highway and/or into another object by the use of a police vehicle.
4. Also refer to Policy & Procedure 6.03: Vehicle Pursuits.

VI. USE OF NON-DEADLY FORCE

A. An officer shall use only the amount of force that is reasonably necessary to perform his/her duties. The amount of force that may be employed is determined by the circumstances of a situation, including, but not limited to:

An officer shall use only the minimum amount of force that is reasonably necessary to perform his/her duties. The amount of force that may be employed is determined by the circumstances of a situation, including, but not limited to:

1. The nature of the incident of offense.
 2. The behavior of the subject against whom force is to be used, actions by third parties who may be present.
 3. Physical conditions.
 4. The feasibility or availability of alternative actions.
- B. The reasonableness of the force used will be judged in the light of the circumstances as they appeared to the officer at the time, he/she acted, and not as they appear from a subsequent, more thorough knowledge of the circumstances.
- C. Under no circumstances may an officer continue to use force (except for physical restraint) against an individual who has ceased to resist, escape, or otherwise violate the law.

The officer making an arrest has the right to use only that amount of force reasonably necessary to affect the arrest and maintain control of the arrested individual.

- D. Officers may use reasonable force to:
1. Overcome an offender's resistance to or threat to resist a lawful arrest.
 2. Prevent the escape of an offender or arrested person.
 3. Protect a third person from bodily harm or death.
 4. Protect himself/herself from bodily harm or death.
- E. When an individual offers only passive resistance to arrest, an officer shall take such person into custody and transport such individual with as much regard to the individual's safety and welfare as is reasonable, practical, and possible.
- F. Officers shall not mistreat persons who are in their custody. Officers shall handle such persons following the law and Department policies. The use of excessive and unwarranted force or brutality will not be tolerated under any circumstances and regardless of rank, will subject the officer to disciplinary action, up to including termination.
- G. An officer who witnesses another officer using force above that permitted by law, training, and/or this Policy & Procedure, must immediately intervene and stop the prohibited use of force. The officer shall also report such use of force to a supervisor immediately. If the offending officer is their supervisor, then the reporting officer will report the incident to the next supervisor in the chain of command. Subsequent written notification to the Chief of Police shall be made

before the end of shift and include the date, time, and place of the occurrence, the identity if known, and description of the participants, and a description of the events and the force used.

H. Use of Less Lethal Weapons. Refer to Policy & Procedure / Use of Less Lethal Weapons.

I. Use of Force to Enter Private Property (Also refer to Policy & Procedure / Arrest Procedures).

1. In lawfully entering the land of another to make a felony arrest (not for a misdemeanor or ordinance arrest), an officer may use force reasonably believed necessary against persons on that land. An officer may use force to break a fence, enclosure dwelling or other building.

2. Before forced entry into a building, the officer should knock on the door three times with fifteen seconds in between each knock, announcing that he/she is a police officer unless such announcement is known to be futile.

He/she should announce that he/she is there to make an arrest and demand that the person inside opens the door. Only after a reasonable time should the officer enter the door without it being opened from the inside. If an officer does break-in, he/she should try to do as little damage as possible.

3. There are exceptions to the above policies where police officers may enter without announcement and demand to make a lawful arrest. This occurs when an officer has good reason to believe that an announcement may:

a) Help the suspect to escape.

b) Endanger persons.

c) Destroy the evidence.

4. When executing a search warrant, officers should first secure the area, and then enter the property.

VII. USE OF RESTRAINTS

A. It should be understood that for the protection of both the person being restrained and the officer, the use of restraints, such as handcuffs, reduces the likelihood of a struggle resulting in a possible injury to the offender, the officer, or both.

B. An officer may use restraining devices to:

1. Maintain control of a subject.

2. Prevent escape.
 3. Protect him/herself or others.
- C. An officer should never use restraining devices as punishment.
- D. It is the policy of the Department that all persons placed in protective custody or under arrest shall be properly handcuffed.
- E. It is the policy of the Department to use handcuffs or restraining devices during all transportation.

The following use procedures are provided:

1. The officer should use Department approved restraints.
2. Handcuffs should be applied to the person's wrists behind his/her back unless not physically possible, or other factors exist, such as:
 - a) Other restraining equipment is in use, i.e., belly chains.
 - b) Conditions exist that make it unreasonable or impossible to place handcuffs behind the subject's back. In all such cases, the officer should detail in his/her written report the unusual circumstances that existed and what alternative restraining device or techniques was used.
3. Handcuffs should be double locked upon placement on the person to negate any attempted tampering by the person and to assure that accidental tightening of the cuffs cannot occur.
4. Handcuffs should be closed to firm contact with the offender's skin, but not so tightly as to produce pain, although one may expect comments as to discomfort.
5. Handcuffs should not intentionally be closed so tightly as to cause physical injury to the person.
6. Handcuffs (or any other restraining device) should be removed from the person upon arrival at a secure area within the Department, Jail, or upon transfer of custody to a responsible party. This procedure will not be affected should such removal be likely to result in physical harm to the offender, officers, or another person.
7. Handcuffs should not be used when it appears likely that the person's wrists or hands are too small, or for some other reason which would negate the

restraining effects of handcuffs. In such circumstances, flex cuffs or other restraints will be used.

8. The use of neck restraints and/or “chokeholds” by personnel of the Neillsville Police Department is strictly prohibited unless the situation requires the use of deadly force that would be justified.
9. The use of handcuffs should not be viewed as an absolute provision of safety. Officers should continue to exercise all due care as to the safety and custody of prisoners.

F. Handcuffing Prisoners Being Transported.

1. **Before** any transportation of persons in custody, they should be searched for weapons.
2. Subjects should be handcuffed behind the back. The following factors, among others, may be taken into consideration in choosing alternate means of restraints:
 - a) Other restraining equipment is in use, i.e., belly chains. Handcuffs may be used in front of the body when the prisoner is wearing a garment with a belt through which the handcuffs may be laced to securely pin the hands to prevent flailing about.
 - b) Conditions exist that make it unreasonable or impossible to place handcuffs behind the subject's back. In all such cases, the officer should detail in his/her written report the unusual circumstances that existed and what alternative restraining device or techniques was used.
3. Prisoners should be so placed in the police cruiser that seat belts may be secured about the prisoner to enhance their safety during transportation. An exception is when hands and feet are restrained separately, and the subject has been placed on his/her stomach.

The use of handcuffs should not be viewed as an absolute provision of safety. Officers should continue to exercise all due care as to the safety and custody of prisoners.

G. Exceptions to Handcuff Requirements.

1. Officers should always handcuff unless the officer can articulate exceptional circumstances. Officer discretion may be used in the following circumstances when deciding not to handcuff.
2. Persons who are temporarily incapacitated, such as by a serious wound to the lower arms, hands, etc., or a woman in an advanced stage of pregnancy, etc.

3. Juveniles who are either very young and as such determines that the use of handcuffs is not an appropriate action.

All officers shall receive defensive tactics training following Wisconsin Training and Standards guidelines.

VIII. FOOT PURSUITS

A. An officer's decision to pursue on foot shall be made with an awareness and appreciation for the risk to the officer and others who may be exposed. In deciding whether to initiate or continue a foot pursuit, officers shall also consider the following risk factors:

1. The severity of the incident and/or offense to which the officer is responding.
2. Officer/suspect factors regarding skill level, age, size, and strength of the fleeing suspect.
3. Availability of immediate assistance.
4. Geography familiarization and orientation.
5. The necessity of the pursuit is based upon whether the identity of the suspect is known or can be determined permitting apprehension at a later time.
6. Whether the person being pursued poses a threat or harm to the public beyond the act of fleeing the officer, if not immediately apprehended.
7. When the foot pursuit enters a building, structure, confined spaces, wooded or otherwise isolated areas without sufficient backup; the officer should consider setting up a perimeter and waiting for additional officers.
8. Consider perimeter and await backup officers.

B. The foot pursuit should be discontinued when the following risk factors develop:

1. The threat of harm to the officer or the fleeing suspect outweighs the necessity for immediate apprehension.
2. Complete and/or extended inability to maintain radio contact with the communications center.
3. Riotous or unsafe environment.

4. Identity of the fleeing suspect is obtained.
5. Termination of pursuit is directed by a supervisor.

IX. RENDERING MEDICAL AID

A. Treatment of Persons Injured Through the Use of Force

1. Persons subject to the use of force shall be observed to detect obvious changes in their physical or mental condition and administer first aid if required.
2. Summon appropriate medical aid, if necessary.
3. If necessary, or requested by the injured subject, the injured person/s is/are to be transported by ambulance to the most quickly acceptable medical facility for proper treatment.
4. During the time awaiting treatment and during the treatment activities, the officer should maintain security.
5. The injured person is to remain handcuffed during treatment unless the handcuffs interfere with such treatment. Should medical treatment require the removal of handcuffs, the officer should request that restraints be used by hospital personnel.

If a medical treatment requires the removal of handcuffs and hospital restraints are not authorized or utilized, the officer/s should maintain close physical proximity to the subject and determine the appropriate level of control and/or restraint use with hospital personnel and security staff based on officer/subject factors, degree of subject's injuries, the possibility of behavior changes of intoxicated and/or drug-impaired subjects, and the subject's level of cooperation with officers and hospital personnel.

6. The officer is to remain with the injured person at all times during the hospital stay unless the injury is so serious that escape is not physically possible.
7. If it is determined that the injured person needs to be admitted to the hospital for additional treatment or a hospital stay, the officer will contact his/her immediate supervisor and coordinate efforts with hospital personnel to determine what level of monitoring will be required.
8. If the injured person is to be released from the Emergency Department following medical evaluation and treatment the officer will notify the appropriate detention facility of the nature of the subject's injuries as well as providing them with any medical discharge instructions or paperwork, if applicable.

X. REPORTING THE USE OF FORCE

- A. A report will be required when an officer is forced to use any of the following:
 - 1. Firearms: discharging or pointing of any firearm.
 - 2. Conducted Energy Weapon (CEW).
 - 3. Baton use in striking, blocking, or pushing of any person.
 - 4. Chemical agents: use of any chemical agent.
 - 5. Physical force: striking, punching, pushing, or restraining any person.
 - 6. Oleoresin capsicum: use of any pepper gas aerosol.
- B. The officer-involved shall advise his/her supervisor in person or by phone of the use of force and the underlying facts justifying his/her use of force as soon as possible.
- C. The officer-involved shall make a written report/statement as to the underlying facts and the reasonableness, as perceived by the officer, justifying his/her use of force.
- D. If the discharge of the weapon or use of force causes injury or death or great bodily harm, the supervisor shall verbally notify the Chief of Police or designee as soon as possible.
- E. The supervisor, as soon as possible during the investigation, shall forward all reports of the investigation to the Chief of Police.
- F. A Firearms Discharge Report shall be completed regarding any incident involving the intentional or accidental discharge of a firearm, except on an approved firearms range for firearms practice, training, competition, qualification, dispatch of sick/injured animal, or legal hunting purposes.
- G. Whenever an officer uses force in the performance of his/her duty, he/she shall indicate in the report of the incident the use of the force and the circumstances and justification for its use.
- H. All use of force reports shall be filed with the Chief or designee.
- I. Post use of forced removal from duty.
 - 1. An officer(s) whose actions or use of force results in a death or serious physical injury shall be placed on administrative leave by the Chief of Police or his/her

designee during the investigation of the incident and/or until the incident investigation or administrative review is completed.

- a) The officer's weapon will be taken, and a replacement will be issued.
- b) The officer shall be available for Departmental interviews and statements regarding the incident and subject to recall to duty. The officer will be able to contact their Union Representative and peer support will be offered to them.

J. Post use of force review

- 1. At least twice every year the Chief or designee shall conduct a documented review of the use of force reports to determine any policy issues, training or weapons/equipment deficiencies, or disciplinary matters that require attention or any type of future action.

K. The Department will forward information related to the National Use-Of-Force Data Collection-FBI program to the Wisconsin Department of Justice. Additional information regarding this program can be found at the Wisconsin DOJ, Bureau of Justice Information and Analysis.

James B. Mankowski
Chief of Police

This Policy & Procedure cancels and supersedes all written directives relative to the subject matter contained herein.