

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HUMBOLDT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

POLICY 3090
BUSINESS, NON-INSTRUCTIONAL

HUMBOLDT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICE OFFICER USE OF FORCE POLICY

The Humboldt County School District recognizes and respects the value and integrity of each human life. The Humboldt County School District, having vested the Humboldt County School District Police Officer with the lawful authority to use force to protect student welfare, is cognizant that a careful balance of all human interests is required. Therefore, it is the policy of this District that the Humboldt County School District Police Officer will only employ the minimum force necessary to accomplish a lawful purpose. However, the Humboldt County School District Police Officer may resort to more severe use of force to overcome either increasing resistance or an increasingly dangerous threat to student and/or staff safety. The Humboldt County School District Police Officer using any type of force is accountable for its use.

Authority:

NRS 202.365, NRS 202.230, NRS 200.200, NRS 200.140, NRS 171.122, NRS 281.275, U. S. Supreme Court decision Tennessee vs. Garner.

DEFINITIONS:

A. Force:

The exertion of power in causing a person or thing to act, move, or comply against his/her or its resistance and may refer to physical strength or to any impelling motive.

B. Deadly Force:

That force which is intended to cause death or grave bodily injury, or which creates some specified degree of risk that a reasonable and prudent person would consider likely to cause death or grave bodily injury.

1. Grave bodily injury means bodily injury which creates a substantial risk of death or is likely to cause serious permanent disfigurement, loss or extended impairment of the function of any body member or organ.

C. Non-deadly Force:

Force employed which is neither intended nor likely to cause death or serious physical injury.

D. Presence:

The act of being in an individual or individuals' immediate vicinity under color of authority.

E. Verbal Persuasion:

Verbal commands or requests are used to obtain compliance, to control or give direction.

F. Empty Hand Control:

Restraint techniques and tactics may be used to establish physical control over an individual who may constitute an immediate threat to the safety of the Humboldt County School District Police Officer or others or is resisting lawful authority.

G. Chemical Agents:

Chemical agents may be used when the Humboldt County School District Police Officer is unable to establish physical control of an individual or when an attempt to physically control may constitute an immediate threat to the Humboldt County School District Police Officer or others. This applies to the use of pepper sprays.

H. Taser Device:

Taser devices may be used when the Humboldt County School District Police Officer is unable to establish physical control of an individual, or if an attempt to physically control an individual may constitute an immediate threat to the safety of the Humboldt County School District Police Officer or others. The Taser will not be used simultaneously with any chemical agent.

I. Impact Weapon:

May be used to establish physical control of an individual. These weapons include the side handle baton and straight stick.

J. Firearms (As defined in the NRS):

Means authorized duty or off duty firearm; also includes any force if employed in a manner likely to cause death or grave bodily injury.

K. Excessive Force:

Force is excessive when its application is inappropriate to the circumstances. Each situation must be evaluated according to its particular circumstances.

1. The following four considerations could determine whether force was excessive.

a. Need for use of force.

b. Relationship between the need and the amount of force used.

- c. Extent of any injuries inflicted.
- d. Whether the force was applied in good faith effort to maintain and restore order or maliciously for the purpose of causing harm.

L. Reasonable Belief:

The facts or circumstances, which are known, or should be known, by the Humboldt County School District Police Officer at the time of the incident are such as to cause an ordinary and prudent person to act or think in a similar way under similar circumstances.

PROCEDURES

A. Authorization to carry firearms and non-deadly weapons:

1. The Humboldt County School District Police Officer authorized to carry firearms and less lethal equipment shall be armed while on-duty whether in uniform or civilian attire. Weapons and ammunition not authorized by this agency are expressly prohibited at all times.
2. The Humboldt County School District Police Officer may carry an authorized weapon while off-duty. The Humboldt County School District Police Officer shall not be disciplined for failure to take action and should, whenever possible, request on-duty personnel respond to a situation requiring police services. The off-duty Humboldt County School District Police Officer who anticipates consuming alcoholic beverages is advised not to carry a firearm. A Humboldt County School District Police Officer found intoxicated and carrying a weapon is subject to disciplinary action.
3. The off-duty Humboldt County School District Police Officer using force while exercising his police powers shall be subject to all provisions of this policy and assigned to on- duty status.

B. Levels of Force:

The Humboldt County School District Police Officer is confronted with many different situations where the use of force becomes necessary. The selection of a particular option cannot be dictated in the abstract, but must be that which the Humboldt County School District Police Officer reasonably believes is necessary based upon the facts and circumstances confronting the Humboldt County School District Police Officer at that given moment. The Humboldt County School District Police Officer will utilize his/her training to evaluate each situation and apply the option of force necessary to overcome the offered resistance.

Alternative Force Levels/Options

1. Presence
2. Verbal Persuasion
3. Empty Hand Control
4. Chemical Agent*

5. Taser Device
6. Impact Weapon

*The use of chemical agents or taser devices in-lieu of empty hand control shall be based on good judgment and the totality of the circumstances: i.e., availability of backup, suspect demeanor and/or emotional state.

C. Parameters for Use of Non-Deadly Force:

1. Where use of force is needed, the Humboldt County School District Police Officer shall assess the incident in order to determine which non-deadly technique or weapon will best de-escalate the incident and bring it under control in a safe manner.
2. The Humboldt County School District Police Officer is authorized to use approved non-deadly force techniques and equipment for resolutions of incidents to:
 - a. Protect him or another from physical harm.
 - b. Restrain or subdue a resisting individual.
 - c. Bring an unlawful situation safely and effectively under control.

The Humboldt County School District Police Officer is not permitted to use a non-deadly weapon unless currently qualified in its proficient use.

3. The following non-deadly weapons are authorized:
 - a. Chemical Agents applies to the use of Pepper Sprays. In all cases where a chemical agent is used the Humboldt County School District Police Officer shall complete a detailed and accurate report concerning the circumstances relating to its use. Any use of a chemical agent must also be reported to the Superintendent. It is the Humboldt County School District Police Officer responsibility to see that proper first aid is administered whenever a chemical agent is applied to a person. After a chemical agent is used, proper first aid is to wash the person's face with clear, cold water as soon as possible after control of the person is established. No other medication is to be used.
 - b. Impact Weapon applies to the use of authorized baton of either the side handle or straight type. The use of a flashlight as a non-deadly weapon is strongly discouraged. Should it become necessary to use the flashlight for defensive purposes it is to be used in the same manner as a baton. The Humboldt County School District Police Officer is to avoid strikes to the head, armpit, neck, sternum, spine, groin or kidneys unless confronted with a deadly force situation. Striking a handcuffed prisoner is expressly prohibited.
 - c. Taser device applies to the authorized use of any Taser. In all cases

where the Taser is used, the Humboldt County School District Police Officer will follow the reporting procedures outlined in Section E of this policy. Additionally, the darts should be removed by personnel at the scene. If the darts are in a sensitive area, medical personnel may be summoned to either remove the darts or transport the subject to a hospital. At the time of discharge, the darts will be removed and disposed of in accordance with handling biohazard materials. The cartridge and AFIDS will be collected and placed into evidence. The Taser Serial number and cartridge serial number along with locations of impact on the suspect will be noted in the report.

D. Parameters for use of Deadly Force:

1. The Humboldt County School District Police Officer is authorized to use Deadly Force to:
 - a. Protect himself or others from what is reasonably believed to be an immediate threat of death or serious bodily harm.
 - b. Prevent the escape of a fleeing felon whom the Humboldt County School District Police Officer has probable cause to believe will pose a significant threat to human life should escape occur.
 - c. Justifiably kill an animal:
 1. In self-defense.
 2. To prevent substantial bodily harm to the Humboldt County School District Police Officer or another, or
 3. As a humanitarian measure where the animal is seriously injured and no other means are practical or available in a timely manner.
2. The Humboldt County School District Police Officer is not authorized to discharge his firearm:
 - a. As a warning shot.
 - b. If it appears likely that an innocent person may be injured.
 - c. From a moving vehicle except as a last resort or;
 - d. At a moving vehicle, unless it is absolutely necessary to do so to protect against imminent threat to the life of the Humboldt County School District Police Officer or others.

As such the Humboldt County School District Police Officer,

1. Shall attempt to move out of the path of an oncoming vehicle rather than attempting to disable the vehicle by discharging his firearm and,

2. Shall not discharge his firearm at a fleeing vehicle or its driver.
3. The Humboldt County School District Police Officer shall not draw or exhibit his firearms unless for maintenance, training, or when circumstances create a reasonable belief that it may be necessary to use his firearm in conformance with this policy.

E. Reporting uses of Force:

The use of force reporting procedures will be followed in all cases where the Humboldt County School District Police Officer applies a use of force weapon or technique resulting in an apparent or claimed injury, and in all cases involving the use of impact weapons, taser devices, chemical agents, and firearms.

The Humboldt County School District Police Officer's responsibilities:

1. The involved Humboldt County School District Police Officer will notify the Superintendent as soon as possible and no later than the end of work day.
2. Each involved witness will submit a supplement report or statement which will be attached to the first report.
3. The Superintendent will notify the Board of Trustees of the incident and injury sustained by the Humboldt County School District Police Officer or suspect.
4. The Humboldt County School District Police Officer who initiated the use of force will submit a detailed first report and use of force notification form prior to the end of his work day.

F. Official Response/Review:

1. Deadly Force Incident:
 - a. The Humboldt County School District will conduct an administrative investigation of the incident.
 - b. Where the Humboldt County School District Police Officer's use of force causes death, the Humboldt County School District Police Officer shall be placed on Administrative Leave after completing all internal investigative requirements, and until it is determined by a mental health professional that the Humboldt County School District Police Officer is ready to return to duty.
 - c. The Humboldt County School District may request the Department of Public Safety for the State of Nevada to conduct the criminal investigation.

Adopted 1/10/06

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