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## Use of Deadly Force

### 304.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to establish policy and procedures for the investigation of an incident in which a person is injured or dies as the result of an officer's use of deadly force or dies as a result of another action of an officer.

In other incidents not covered by this policy, the Chief of Police may decide that the investigation will follow the process provided in this policy.

### 304.2 POLICY

The policy of the Minnetonka Police Department is to ensure that use of deadly force incidents are investigated in a thorough, fair and impartial manner.

### 304.3 TYPES OF INVESTIGATIONS

Use of deadly force incidents involve several separate investigations. The investigations may include:

- A criminal investigation of the suspect's actions.
- A criminal investigation of the involved officer's actions.
- An administrative investigation as to policy compliance by involved officers.
- A civil investigation to determine potential liability.

### 304.4 CONTROL OF INVESTIGATIONS

Investigators from surrounding agencies may be assigned to work on the criminal investigation of use of deadly force incidents. This may include at least one investigator from the agency that employs the involved officer.

Jurisdiction is determined by the location of the shooting or death and the agency employing the involved officer. The following scenarios outline the jurisdictional responsibilities for investigating use of deadly force incidents.

#### 304.4.1 CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION OF SUSPECT ACTIONS

The investigation of any possible criminal conduct by the suspect is controlled by the agency in whose jurisdiction the suspect's crime occurred. For example, the Minnetonka Police Department would control the investigation if the suspect's crime occurred in Minnetonka.

If multiple crimes have been committed in multiple jurisdictions, identification of the agency that will control the investigation may be reached in the same way as with any other crime. The investigation may be conducted by the agency in control of the criminal investigation of the involved officer, at the discretion of the Chief of Police and with concurrence from the other agency.

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#### 304.4.2 CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION OF OFFICER ACTIONS

The control of the criminal investigation into the involved officer's conduct during the incident will be determined by the employing agency's protocol. When an officer from this department is involved, the criminal investigation will be handled according to the Criminal Investigation section of this policy.

Requests made of this department to investigate a shooting or death involving an outside agency's officer shall be referred to the Chief of Police or the authorized designee for approval.

#### 304.4.3 ADMINISTRATIVE AND CIVIL INVESTIGATION

Regardless of where the incident occurs, the administrative and civil investigation of each involved officer is controlled by the respective employing agency.

#### 304.4.4 POST ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATIONS

The Minnesota POST Board may require an administrative investigation based on a complaint alleging a violation of a statute or rule that the board is empowered to enforce. A use of deadly force incident may result in such an allegation. Any such complaint assigned to this department shall be completed and a written summary submitted to the POST executive director within 30 days of the order for inquiry (Minn. Stat. § 214.10, Subd. 10).

### **304.5 INVESTIGATION PROCESS**

The following procedures are guidelines used in the investigation of an officer-involved shooting or death.

#### 304.5.1 UNINVOLVED OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon arrival at the scene of a use of deadly force incident, the first uninvolved MPD officer will be the officer-in-charge and will assume the responsibilities of a supervisor until properly relieved. This officer should, as appropriate:

- (a) Secure the scene and identify and eliminate hazards for all those involved.
- (b) Take reasonable steps to obtain emergency medical attention for injured individuals.
- (c) Request additional resources from the Department or other agencies.
- (d) Coordinate a perimeter or pursuit of suspects.
- (e) Check for injured persons and evacuate as needed.
- (f) Brief the supervisor upon arrival.

#### 304.5.2 SUPERVISOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Upon arrival at the scene, the first uninvolved MPD supervisor should ensure completion of the duties as outlined above, plus:

- (a) Attempt to obtain a brief overview of the situation from any uninvolved officers.
- (b) The supervisor may administratively order any MPD officer to immediately provide public safety information necessary to secure the scene, identify injured parties and pursue suspects.

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- (a) Public safety information shall be limited to such things as outstanding suspect information, direction of any shots fired, perimeter of the incident scene, identity of known or potential witnesses and any other pertinent information. A public safety order is contained within the department's mobile app.
- (b) The initial on-scene supervisor should not attempt to order any involved officer to provide any information other than public safety information.
- (c) Take command of and secure the incident scene with additional MPD members until properly relieved by another supervisor or other assigned personnel or investigator.
- (d) As soon as practicable, ensure that involved officers are transported (separately, if feasible) to a suitable location for further direction.
  - (a) Each involved MPD officer should be given an administrative order not to discuss the incident with other involved officers or MPD members pending further direction from a supervisor.

#### 304.5.3 INVOLVED OFFICERS

The following shall be considered for the involved officer:

- (a) Any request for legal or union representation will be accommodated.
  - 1. Involved MPD officers shall not be permitted to meet collectively or in a group with an attorney or any representative prior to providing a formal interview or report.
  - 2. Requests from involved non-MPD officers should be referred to their employing agency.
- (b) Discussions with licensed attorneys will be considered privileged as attorney-client communications.
- (c) Discussions with agency representatives/employee groups will be privileged only as to the discussion of non-criminal information.
- (d) A licensed psychotherapist shall be provided by the Department to each involved MPD officer. A licensed psychotherapist may also be provided to any other affected MPD members, upon request.
  - 1. Interviews with a licensed psychotherapist will be considered privileged.
  - 2. An interview or session with a licensed psychotherapist may take place prior to the member providing a formal interview or report. However, the involved members shall not be permitted to consult or meet collectively or in a group with a licensed psychotherapist prior to providing a formal interview or report.
  - 3. A separate fitness-for-duty exam may also be required (see the Fitness for Duty Policy).
- (e) Communications between the involved officer and a peer support member, peer support counselors, and critical incident stress management team members are addressed in the Wellness Program Policy.

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Care should be taken to preserve the integrity of any physical evidence present on the involved officer's equipment or clothing, such as blood or fingerprints, until investigators or lab personnel can properly retrieve it.

Each involved MPD officer shall be given reasonable paid administrative leave following a use of deadly force incident. It shall be the responsibility of the division director to make schedule adjustments to accommodate such leave.

#### **304.6 CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION**

The Prosecuting Attorney's Office is responsible for the criminal investigation into the circumstances of any use of deadly force incident.

If available, investigative personnel from this department may be assigned to partner with investigators from outside agencies or the Prosecuting Attorney's Office to avoid duplicating efforts in related criminal investigations.

Once public safety issues have been addressed, criminal investigators should be given the opportunity to obtain a voluntary statement from involved officers and to complete their interviews. The following shall be considered for the involved officer:

- (a) MPD supervisors and Professional Standards Division personnel should not participate directly in any voluntary interview of MPD officers. This will not prohibit such personnel from monitoring interviews or providing the criminal investigators with topics for inquiry.
- (b) If requested, any involved officer will be afforded the opportunity to consult individually with a representative of the officer's choosing or an attorney prior to speaking with criminal investigators. However, in order to maintain the integrity of each involved officer's statement, involved officers shall not consult or meet with a representative or an attorney collectively or in groups prior to being interviewed.
- (c) If any involved officer is physically, emotionally, or otherwise not in a position to provide a voluntary statement when interviewed by criminal investigators, consideration should be given to allowing a reasonable period for the officer to schedule an alternate time for the interview.
- (d) Any voluntary statement provided by an involved officer will be made available for inclusion in any related investigation, including administrative investigations. However, no administratively coerced statement will be provided to any criminal investigators unless the officer consents.

##### **304.6.1 REPORTS BY INVOLVED MPD OFFICERS**

In the event that suspects remain outstanding or subject to prosecution for related offenses, this department shall retain the authority to require involved MPD officers to provide sufficient information for related criminal reports to facilitate the apprehension and prosecution of those individuals.

While the involved MPD officer may write the report, it is generally recommended that such reports be completed by assigned investigators, who should interview all involved officers as victims/witnesses. Since the purpose of these reports will be to facilitate criminal prosecution, statements

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of involved officers should focus on evidence to establish the elements of criminal activities by suspects. Care should be taken not to duplicate information provided by involved officers in other reports.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to deprive an involved MPD officer of the right to consult with legal counsel prior to completing any such criminal report.

Reports related to the prosecution of criminal suspects will be processed according to normal procedures but should also be included for reference in the investigation of the use of deadly force incident.

#### **304.6.2 WITNESS IDENTIFICATION AND INTERVIEWS**

Because potential witnesses to an officer's use of deadly force may become unavailable or the integrity of their statements compromised with the passage of time, a supervisor should take reasonable steps to promptly coordinate with criminal investigators to utilize available law enforcement personnel for the following:

- (a) Identification of all persons present at the scene and in the immediate area.
  - 1. When feasible, a recorded statement should be obtained from those persons who claim not to have witnessed the incident but who were present at the time it occurred.
  - 2. Any potential witness who is unwilling or unable to remain available for a formal interview should not be detained absent reasonable suspicion to detain or probable cause to arrest. Without detaining the individual for the sole purpose of identification, attempts to identify the witness prior to his/her departure should be made whenever feasible.
- (b) Witnesses who are willing to provide a formal interview should be asked to meet at a suitable location where criminal investigators may obtain a recorded statement. Such witnesses, if willing, may be transported by a member of the Department.
  - 1. A written, verbal or recorded statement of consent should be obtained prior to transporting a witness. When the witness is a minor, consent should be obtained from the parent or guardian, if available, prior to transportation.
- (c) Promptly contacting the suspect's known family and associates to obtain any available and untainted background information about the suspect's activities and state of mind prior to the incident.

#### **304.7 ADMINISTRATIVE INVESTIGATION**

In addition to all other investigations associated with a use of deadly force incident, this department will conduct an internal administrative investigation of involved MPD officers to determine conformance with department policy. This investigation will be conducted under the supervision of the Professional Standards Division and will be considered a confidential officer personnel file.

Interviews of members shall be subject to department policies and applicable laws (Personnel Complaints Policy; Minn. Stat. § 626.89).

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- (a) Any officer involved in a use of deadly force incident may be requested or administratively compelled to provide a blood sample for alcohol/drug screening in accordance with the drug and alcohol testing guidelines in the Drug- and Alcohol-Free Workplace Policy adopted under the authority of Minn. Stat. § 181.950 to Minn. Stat. § 181.957. Absent consent from the officer, such compelled samples and the results of any such testing shall not be disclosed to any criminal investigative agency.
- (b) If any officer has voluntarily elected to provide a statement to criminal investigators, the assigned administrative investigator should review that statement before proceeding with any further interview of that involved officer.
  - 1. If a further interview of the officer is deemed necessary to determine policy compliance, care should be taken to limit the inquiry to new areas with minimal, if any, duplication of questions addressed in the voluntary statement. The involved officer shall be provided with a copy of his/her prior statement before proceeding with any subsequent interviews.
- (c) In the event that an involved officer has elected not to provide criminal investigators with a voluntary statement, the assigned administrative investigator shall conduct an administrative interview to determine all relevant information (Minn. Stat. § 626.89).
  - (a) Although this interview should not be unreasonably delayed, care should be taken to ensure that the officer's physical and psychological needs have been addressed before commencing the interview.
  - (b) The interview must be taken at the MPD or at a place agreed to by the interviewer and the involved officer.
  - (c) The interview must be of reasonable duration and provide the involved officer reasonable periods for rest and personal necessities. When practicable, the interview must be held during the involved officer's regularly scheduled work shift. If not, the involved officer must be compensated at his/her current pay rate.
  - (d) If requested, the officer shall have the opportunity to select an uninvolved representative or an attorney, or both, to be present during the interview. However, in order to maintain the integrity of each individual officer's statement, involved officers shall not consult or meet with a representative collectively or in groups prior to being interviewed.
  - (e) Administrative interviews shall be recorded electronically or otherwise by the investigator. The officer may also record the interview. A complete copy or transcript of the interview must be provided to the involved officer upon written request without charge or undue delay.
  - (f) The officer shall be informed of the nature of the investigation. If an officer refuses to answer questions, he/she should be given his/her *Garrity* rights and ordered to provide full and truthful answers to all questions. The officer shall be informed in writing or on the record that the interview will be for administrative purposes only and that the statement cannot be used criminally.
  - (g) The Professional Standards Division shall compile all relevant information and reports necessary for the Department to determine compliance with applicable policies.

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- (h) Any indications of potential policy violations shall be determined in accordance with standard disciplinary procedures.

#### **304.8 CIVIL LIABILITY RESPONSE**

A member of this department may be assigned to work exclusively under the direction of the legal counsel for the Department to assist in the preparation of materials deemed necessary in anticipation of potential civil litigation.

All materials generated in this capacity shall be considered attorney work product and may not be used for any other purpose. The civil liability response is not intended to interfere with any other investigation but shall be given reasonable access to all other investigations.

#### **304.9 MEDIA RELATIONS**

Any media release shall be prepared with input and concurrence from the supervisor and department representative responsible for each phase of the investigation.

No involved MPD officer shall make any comment to the media unless he/she is authorized by the Chief of Police or a Division Director.

Department members receiving inquiries regarding use of deadly force incidents occurring in other jurisdictions shall refrain from public comment and will direct those inquiries to the agency having jurisdiction and primary responsibility for the investigation.

#### **304.10 REPORTING**

If an officer discharges a firearm in the course of duty, the Chief of Police shall notify the Commissioner of Public Safety within 30 days of the reason for and the circumstances surrounding the discharge of the firearm (Minn. Stat. § 626.553).