



VIA TRANSIT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Standard Operating Procedures



Section 305 – Intermediate Weapons

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Office(s) with Secondary Responsibilities:		Number of Pages:	5
Forms Referenced in Procedure:	Use of Force	Related Procedures:	ALL

.01 INTRODUCTION / AUTHORITY

- A. All VIA Metropolitan Transit Police officers shall be trained to use Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray, approved batons and Advanced Tasers as intermediate weapons. The use of intermediate weapons by officers will be authorized following their successful completion of the initial training and certification requirements of each respective weapon. Officers will be trained and demonstrate proficiency on each authorized intermediate weapon at least once every two years.
- B. While performing official duties, officers are required to carry at least two (2) approved intermediate weapons
 - 1. The department issued Advanced Taser; and
 - 2. Either an approved impact weapon or a chemical agent or both.
- C. Officers assigned to non-operational law enforcement activity or undercover work are not required to carry intermediate weapons.

.02 JUSTIFICATION

- A. Intermediate weapons may be used as an intermediate force option to temporarily incapacitate an assailant. They may be used in situations where empty-hand techniques are not sufficient to control disorderly or violent subjects, but where deadly force is not justified. They may be used in those situations where:
 - 1. A subject is threatening himself, an officer, or another person with physical force and other means of controlling the subject are unreasonable or could cause injury to the officer(s), the subject(s) or others;
 - 2. In cases where Officer / Subject factors indicate the officer(s), offender(s) or others would be endangered by the use of physical force;
 - 3. Other means of lesser or equal force have been ineffective and the threat still exists to the officer(s), subject(s), and others.
- B. Intermediate weapons are not be used punitively or for purposes of coercion. They are to be used only as a way of averting a potentially injurious or dangerous situation.
- C. Intermediate weapons are not a substitute for deadly force and should not be used in those situations.
- D. All uses of intermediate weapons must be reasonable and necessary.

.03 OLEORESIN CAPSICUM (OC Spray)

- A. Officers may only use OC Sprays approved by the Chief of Transit Police.
- B. The carrying of OC Sprays by VIA Metropolitan Transit Police Officers will only be authorized following the successful completion of training.



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- C. The use of OC Sprays must be discontinued after a subject has been subdued or incapacitated.
- D. The appropriate target location for the deployment of Chemical Agents is the eyes or as near possible to the eyes.

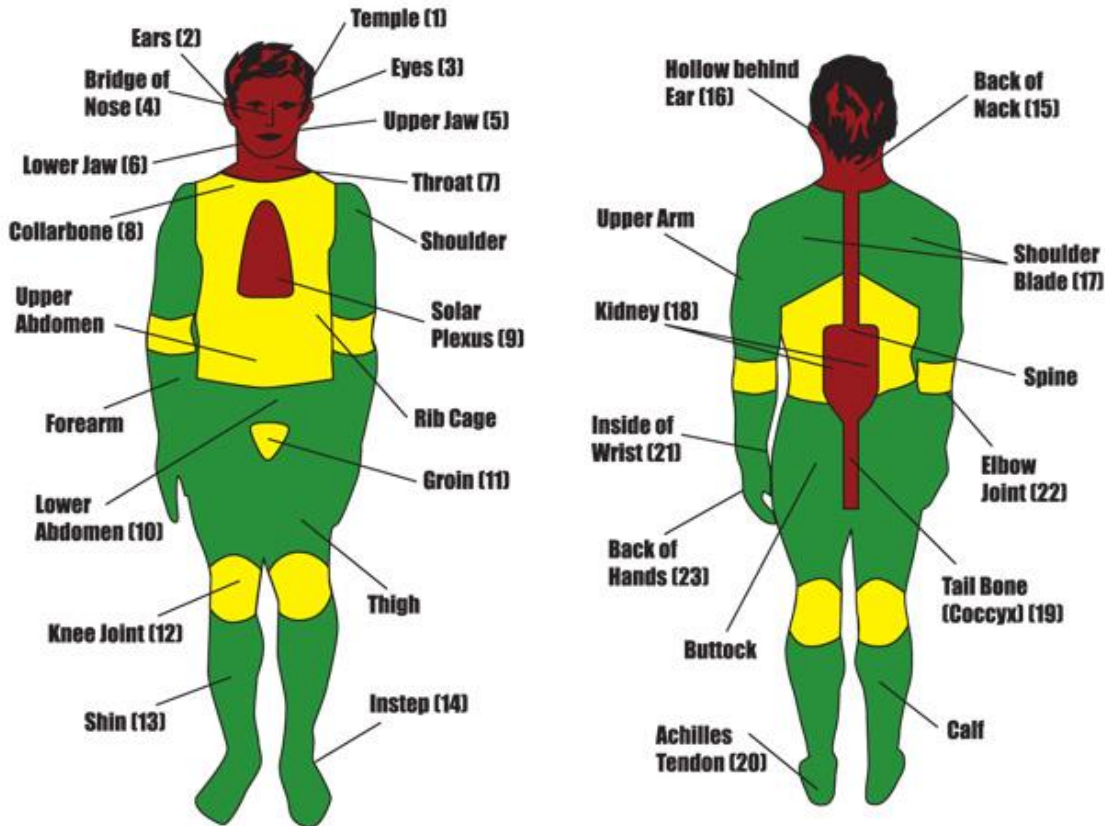
.04 IMPACT WEAPONS

- A. Officers may only use impact weapons approved by the Chief of Transit Police.
- B. Examples of approved impact weapons are:
 - 1. Expandable baton
 - 2. Straight baton
 - 3. PR-24 baton
 - 4. When time or conditions do not allow the deployment of the baton, a flashlight may be used as an impact weapon.
- C. The use of impact weapons by VIA Metropolitan Transit Police officers will only be authorized following the successful completion of training.
- D. Impact weapons may be used for striking, as a leverage tool during “come-along” or to apply gradual pressure for compliance.
- E. The use of an approved impact weapon must be discontinued after a subject has been subdued or incapacitated. This does not preclude the continued use of an approved impact weapon as a “come-along” technique.
- F. The appropriate target locations for the deployment of impact weapons are as follows:
 - 1. Upper arm
 - 2. Forearm
 - 3. Thigh
 - 4. Calves
 - 5. Impact weapons will not be used to strike the head, neck, clavicle, or groin unless deadly force is justified.
 - 6. The chart on page 3 of this section illustrates proper impact locations in green. Yellow and red areas should be avoided.



POLICE BATON CHART

Escalation Of Trauma By Vital And Vulnerable Striking Areas



STRIKING

GREEN TARGET AREAS

REASONING: Minimal level of resultant trauma. Injury tends to be temporary rather than long-lasting, however exceptions can occur

Except for the HEAD, NECK and SPINE, the whole body is a Green Target Area for the application of baton blocking and restraint Skills.

YELLOW TARGET AREAS

REASONING: Moderate to serious level of resultant trauma. Injury tends to be more long-lasting, but may also be temporary.

RED TARGET AREAS

REASONING: Highest level of resultant trauma. Injury tends to range from from serious to long-lasting rather than temporary and may include unconsciousness, serious bodily injury, shock or death.





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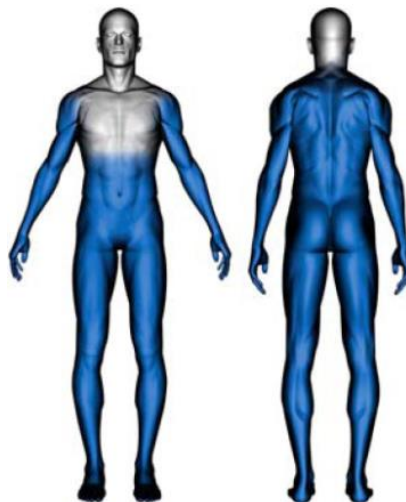
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.05 ADVANCED TASER (X2)

- A. Officers may only use the department issued Advanced Taser (X2)
- B. The use of the Advanced Taser (X2) by VIA Metropolitan Transit Police officers will only be authorized following the successful completion of training.
- C. The use of the Advanced Taser (X2) must be discontinued after a subject has been subdued or incapacitated.
- D. Officers shall consider age appropriateness before deploying the Taser (ex: younger than 14 or over 60).
- E. The appropriate target locations for the deployment of the Advanced Taser is the back. If the back is not a practical target at the time of use the "lower center of mass" below chest-stomach region or lower is recommended for front shots. The head, face and pelvic region should be avoided unless the appropriate level of force can be justified.
 - 1. Below is a target man with highlighted areas (shaded area) that should be used as target areas.



- 2. Personnel encountering subjects wearing heavy or loose clothing on the upper body should consider targeting the legs.
 - A. The Advanced Taser should be deployed from a distance of 3-25 feet to provide adequate distribution of the probes to allow the unit to function to its full effectiveness.
 - B. Prior to deploying the Advanced Taser the officer should notify any on-scene, assisting officers that they intend to deploy an Advanced Taser. Immediately prior to deploying the Advanced Taser the deploying person should announce, if feasible, "TASER! TASER! TASER!". The announcement should be made only if it would not endanger any civilians, officers or the suspect.
 - C. The Advanced Taser has the ability to ignite flammable liquids. It will not be deployed at subjects who have come in contact with flammables, or in environments where flammables are obviously present. If OC spray has been deployed, Taser is not an option due to the fact it might ignite the subject or the area exposed in to flames.
 - D. Proper consideration and care should be taken when deploying the Advanced Taser on subjects who are in an elevated position or in other circumstance where a fall may cause substantial injury or death. Officers must be prepared to justify such a deployment.



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.06 DUTY AFTER DEPLOYMENT

- A. All Intermediate Weapon Use: Immediate action should be taken to care for the injured, to apprehend any suspects, and to protect the scene.
- B. All Intermediate Weapon Use: Medical personnel will be summoned to the scene to assess the subject. If the exam or other circumstances dictate the subject needs further medical treatment; the subject will be transported to the nearest medical facility. Medical treatment will not be refused for anyone who requests it. Prisoners must be medically cleared before booking into the Magistrate's Office.
- C. Use of OC Spray: Officers must conduct decontamination of the subject as soon as possible after the subject has been controlled
- D. Advanced Taser (X2):
 - 1. Once the subject is restrained or has complied; the Advanced Taser should be turned off.
 - 2. An Advanced Taser will not be left unattended except in exigent circumstances as when an officer is forced to act alone in taking custody of an immediate threat.
 - 3. Medical personnel will remove probes located in sensitive areas such as the face, neck, groin or breast.
 - 4. Removal of probes in other areas may be done by officers; at the discretion of the on scene supervisor. Officers will provide first aid following removal of the probes by applying iodine or alcohol wipes, and Band-Aids to the probe sites as needed. Officers should inspect the probes after removal to ensure that the entire probe and probe barb has been removed. In the event that a probe, or probe barb has broken off and it is still embedded in a subject's skin; the subject should be provided appropriate medical attention to facilitate the removal of the object.
 - 5. Probes that have been removed from skin will be treated as biohazard sharps. They should be placed point down into the expended cartridge bores and secured with tape or with latex gloves wrapped around them.
 - 6. Officers will attempt to locate the yellow, pink and clear colored "micro-dots" or "AFIDS" dispersed at the time of the cartridge firing. These will be collected and placed into evidence with any expended cartridges.
- E. Detention staff shall be informed when an intermediate weapon has been deployed in the apprehension of an arrested person.

.07 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- A. When an officer employs an approved intermediate weapon to control a person, the officer shall immediately report the incident to their immediate supervisor. If the immediate supervisor is not available, the officer shall report the incident to any on-duty supervisor.
- B. When any intermediate weapon is deployed in the line of duty, the officer shall complete the VIA Metropolitan Transit Police Department Use of Force Report.
- C. When any intermediate weapon is deployed in the line of duty, the officer shall complete an official police / incident report.

.08 UNAUTHORIZED WEAPONS

Any intermediate weapon not listed in this section shall be unauthorized.