

Body Armor

1012.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide law enforcement officers with guidelines for the proper use of body armor.

1012.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Reno Police Department to maximize officer safety through the use of body armor in combination with prescribed safety procedures. While body armor provides a significant level of protection, it is not a substitute for the observance of officer safety procedures.

1012.3 ISSUANCE OF BODY ARMOR

The Chief/designee shall ensure that body armor is issued to all officers when the officer begins service at the Reno Police Department and that, when issued, the body armor meets or exceeds the standards of the National Institute of Justice.

The Chief/designee shall establish a body armor replacement schedule and ensure that replacement body armor is issued pursuant to the schedule or whenever the body armor becomes worn or damaged to the point that its effectiveness or functionality has been compromised. The replacement schedule shall not exceed the life of the armor as prescribed by the armor manufacturer. Body armor replacement authorization letters shall be provided to the officer no less than six months prior to armor expiration date.

1012.3.1 USE OF BODY ARMOR

Generally, the use of body armor is required subject to the following:

- (a) Officers shall only wear agency-approved body armor.
- (b) Unless excused by the Chief/designee, officers shall wear body armor anytime they are in a situation where they could reasonably be expected to take enforcement action.
- (c) Officers may be excused from wearing body armor when they are functioning primarily in an administrative or support capacity and could not reasonably be expected to take enforcement action.
- (d) Body armor shall be worn when an officer is working in uniform.
- (e) An officer may be excused from wearing body armor when he/she is involved in undercover or plainclothes work that his/her supervisor determines could be compromised by wearing body armor, or when a supervisor determines that other circumstances make it inappropriate to mandate wearing body armor.

1012.3.2 CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF BODY ARMOR

Body armor should be cared for and cleaned pursuant to the manufacturer's care instructions provided with the body armor.

Reno Police Department

Policy Manual

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