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<b>Procedure</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Rescinds</b>
Body Armor, Use of	April 1, 2005	NEW

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<b>Reference</b>		
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## **Purpose:**

The purpose of this procedure is to provide a guideline for the operation at incidents or situations that may arise during the course of an operation. Each member is expected to know, understand and operate according to this guideline as each situation arises.

## **Responsibility:**

- I.** It shall be the responsibility of the department officers to implement this operating guideline.
- II.** It shall be the responsibility of the department officers to train members in the application of this guideline.
- III.** It shall be the responsibility of each member to know, understand and use this guideline as it applies to the situation at hand. Each member will use good judgment in the use of this guideline.

## **Guideline:**

1. Safety equipment is provided to give personnel responding to potentially dangerous situations the maximum protection currently available. Caution shall continue to be used when responding to all incidents in order to minimize the potential injury to Department personnel.
2. Body armor has been proven to provide an effective means to protect the wearer from blunt force trauma, sharp objects as well as gunshot wounds. Personnel should wear body armor anytime they feel it is necessary.
3. Body armor shall be worn when dispatched to the following incidents:
  - Any Shooting or stabbing incident;
  - Any civil disturbance area;
  - Any SWAT standby or police situation involving violence;
  - Any domestic violence, family dispute or Address that has been flagged for such;
  - Any incident that may be interpreted as explosive devices (suspicious box, bomb threat, etc.);
  - Any time deemed necessary by the IC or person in charge of NTFD vehicles.

**This list is not intended to be all inclusive.**

4. Personnel dispatched to the above types of incidents or to incidents in known trouble areas will don their body armor prior to entering the affected area and remain in-place until all potential threats have been adequately dealt with.
5. Immediately following an upgrade of the national security level to orange or Red, all members shall respond to all incidents with body armor. This will remain in effect until the reason for the increased level can be evaluated by the department for the potential danger to our members. This evaluation process will be performed by the Chiefs, Captains, and Safety Officer of the Department as soon as particulars can be obtained.
6. It has been the policy of this department to allow the police agency to stabilize a situation/scene prior to our members entering the area. This policy shall remain in effect to the highest degree. Caution on our part, is our first defense in reducing member exposure to danger.
7. Body armor, when not in use shall be properly secured to prevent theft.
8. Any person participating in the Rider Program shall remain inside the response vehicle at all incidents where body armor is being used.