



**General Order: 2.7
USE OF FIREARMS/DEADLY FORCE**

Effective: August 1, 1972
Last Revised: July 1, 2012

PURPOSE

The purpose of this General Order is to establish department policy on the use of firearms/deadly force. The department considers firearms to be defensive weapons to be used only when it appears reasonably necessary to protect human life or to prevent serious bodily injury.

POLICY

All sworn employees authorized to carry firearms will complete an instruction and qualification program as specified in General Order 3.17 - Firearms Training and Qualification. The employees will also receive and be instructed in the policies and procedures established in this General Order as well as General Orders 2.6 - Use of Physical Force and 2.8 - Discharge of Deadly Force.

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE GARDEN GROVE POLICE DEPARTMENT THAT OFFICERS MAY USE DEADLY FORCE ONLY AFTER THE OFFICER REASONABLY BELIEVES THAT THE FORCE USED IS NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH LAWFUL OBJECTIVES:

1. IN DEFENSE OF HUMAN LIFE, INCLUDING THE OFFICER'S OWN;
2. IN DEFENSE OF ANY PERSON IN IMMINENT DANGER OF DEATH, OR THE IMMINENT THREAT OF SERIOUS PHYSICAL INJURY;
3. THE USE OF DEADLY FORCE AGAINST A SUSPECTED FLEEING FELON MAY ONLY BE USED IN DEFENSE OF HUMAN LIFE, INCLUDING THE OFFICER'S OWN; OR IN DEFENSE OF ANY PERSON IN IMMINENT DANGER OF DEATH OR THE IMMINENT THREAT OF SERIOUS PHYSICAL INJURY.

DEFINITIONS

1. "Fleeing Felon" - A suspect who is attempting to avoid apprehension, reasonably believed to have committed or attempted to commit a forcible violent act, may or may not be armed, and would pose a threat of death or serious physical injury to others. No fleeing felony suspect should be presumed to pose an imminent threat to life in the absence of actions, which would lead one to reasonably believe otherwise. The officer's reasonable belief must be based on the subject's actions, which previously demonstrated a threat to, or the wanton disregard for human life.

2. Reasonable Belief - an objective belief determined by the facts and circumstances reasonably available to the officer at the time and viewed from the perspective of an ordinary reasonable peace officer in the same situation.
3. Serious physical injury - Grave harm or injury which causes or gives rise to the apprehension of danger to life, health, or limb.

WARNING SHOTS

Officers should not discharge their weapons as a warning.

DISPOSAL OF ANIMALS

The use of firearms to kill an animal which is seriously injured, poses a real threat to the safety of humans, or to defend a police animal against an unanticipated or unexpected animal attack is approved WHEN NO OTHER DISPOSITION APPEARS REASONABLY AVAILABLE AND PRACTICAL. The safety of people must be given prime consideration. If practical, supervisory approval should be obtained prior to using firearms to kill an animal.

DISPLAY OF WEAPONS

Unnecessarily or prematurely drawing and displaying a firearm limits an officer's alternatives in controlling a situation, creates unnecessary anxiety on the part of citizens, and may result in an unwarranted or accidental discharge of the firearm. Officers should not draw or display a firearm unless the circumstances surrounding the incident create a reasonable belief that it may be necessary to use the firearm in conformance with this policy.

SURRENDERING OF WEAPONS

Officers should not surrender their firearms except as a last resort and only in the most extreme situations.