

# City of Ypsilanti Police Department



**General Order: 12-5**  
**Title: Deadly Force**

**Date Issued:**                      **Effective Date:**  
**Rescinds: 10-28-15**

**.01 Purpose:**

To set guidelines for the City of Ypsilanti Police Department regarding the use of deadly force.

**.02 Policy:**

Police Officers have the duty of protecting life and property and apprehending criminal offenders. Recognizing our legal and moral obligation to use force wisely and judiciously, it is the policy of this Department that the use of deadly force is authorized when a threat to life is encountered and reasonable alternatives to deadly force have been exhausted, or would clearly have been ineffective. As law enforcement professionals we recognize that the use of unnecessary force serves only to erode the public confidence and support that is essential to the delivery of public safety services.

Each decision to use deadly force must be justified within the framework of this policy and the laws of our state and nation. These mandates in combination with training and experience provide the foundation on which proper responses must be formulated. Emphasis must be placed on planning and affecting an arrest whenever practicable. However, when the violent felon initiates action to cause physical harm there should be no hesitancy in using such force as is necessary to bring such person under control.

In all situations in which deadly force is used, a thorough investigation shall be conducted, in accordance with the Post Critical Incident General Order.

**.03 Sanctity of Life:**

The Ypsilanti Police Department recognizes and respects the integrity and value of human life, and that the decision to use deadly physical force is the most important decision that a member will make in the course of their career. The use of deadly physical

force will emotionally, physically and psychologically impact the member involved, the subject the deadly physical force was directed at, and the family and friends of both and can impact the community as well.

**.04 Deadly Force Defined:**

Deadly Force: Intentional use of force that can cause death or serious bodily injury or that creates a degree of risk that a reasonable and prudent person would consider likely to cause death or serious injury. It includes, but is not limited to, use of firearms, neck restraints, impact weapons strikes above the shoulders and intentional intervention with a vehicle (forcible stops or ramming).

**.05 Deadly Force Authorized:**

The use of deadly force is only authorized when, under any of the following circumstances, an officer reasonably believes a lesser degree of force would be insufficient:

- A-** In the defense of another person who the officer has reasonable cause to believe is in imminent danger of death or great bodily harm.
- B-** In defense of oneself, when there is reasonable cause to believe one is in imminent danger of death or great bodily harm.
- C-** To affect the arrest or prevent the escape of a suspect who the officer has reasonable cause to believe has committed, or attempted to commit, a felony involving the use or threatened use of deadly force, when a high probability exists that the suspect, if not immediately apprehended, may cause death or bodily harm.
- D-** To protect oneself or another from an animal which an officer reasonably believes may cause great bodily harm if not immediately controlled, or to end the suffering of an animal gravely injured or diseased after considering public view, safety, and other reasonable dispositions.

**.06 Warnings and Verbal Commands:**

Before using deadly force, if reasonably possible, officers shall identify themselves, order the suspect to desist from unlawful activity, and threaten to use deadly force if the lawful order is not obeyed. It is understood that critical incidents are fluid situations and it may not be possible or feasible in certain tactical situations for these warnings and verbal commands to be employed.

**.07 Deadly Force NOT Authorized:**

- A- As a warning. Warning shots will not be fired.
- B- From moving vehicles, except in cases of extreme emergency.
- C- At a moving vehicle, except in cases of extreme emergency (i.e., a vehicle used as a weapon).
- D- Whenever it appears likely that an innocent person may be injured.

**.08 Legal Standards:**

This order is for Departmental use only and does not apply to criminal or civil proceeding. The Department policy should not be construed as creating a higher legal standard of safety or care, in an evidential sense, with respect to third party claims. Violations of this order shall form the basis of Departmental administrative sanctions only. Violations of law shall form the basis for civil and criminal sanctions in a recognized judicial setting.

By Order Of

Anthony DeGiusti  
Chief of Police

