

**Lower Providence Township Police Department
Eagleville, Pennsylvania**

General Order ☒
Special Order ☐
Personnel Order ☐

ORDER NUMBER

305

Subject

Body Armor

Date of Issue

January 29, 2020

Effective Date

January 29, 2020

Expiration Date

**Until Amended or
Rescinded**

Issued by:

Michael Jackson, Chief of Police

Amends

Rescinds

Standard Number

2.1.3 / 2.1.4

Distribution

- 1. General Order Manuals**
- 2. Records Manual**
- 3. Reading Verification to all Personnel**

I PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide Lower Providence Township Police Officers with guidelines for the proper use and care of body armor.

II POLICY

It is the policy of the Lower Providence Township Police Department to maximize officer safety through the use of body armor in conjunction with prescribed safety procedures. While body armor provides a significant level of protection, it is not a substitute for sound, basic safety procedures.

III DEFINITIONS

- A. Armor Carrier – the specially fabricated vest designed to hold the panels of body armor.
- B. Body Armor – those types of soft body armor which are concealable in normal patrol situations.
- C. Exempt Personnel – those officers who spend the majority of their time doing paperwork, telephone interviews, interviews, court related activities, or otherwise assigned to administrative duty.
- D. NIJ Threat Level – the classification of body armor defined by their threat types by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ).
- E. Tactical Body Armor – the body armor issued by the department to members of the Central Montgomery County Special Weapons and Tactics Team (CMSWAT) or by the Central Montgomery County Special Weapons and Tactics Team (CMSWAT) with departmental approval, which is not suitable for routine patrol use.

IV REGULATION

A. Issuance of Body Armor

1. All body armor must comply with the current minimum protective standards prescribed by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), commonly referred to as the NIJ Threat Level.
2. All Lower Providence Township Police Officers shall be issued body armor.
3. Body armor that is worn or damaged shall be replaced by the department. The officer shall pay for body armor that must be replaced due to misuse or abuse by the officer. The officer shall replace body armor that is lost or stolen due to negligence by the officer.

B. Use of Body Armor

1. All uniformed officers assigned primarily to patrol duties are required to wear body armor at all times while on duty. This requirement includes assignments to off duty details.
2. All officers are required to wear body armor when engaged in pre-planned high risk incidents. This includes but is not limited to search warrants, arrest warrants and armed subject situations.
3. Officers shall wear only body armor issued to them by Lower Providence Township or authorized by the Lower Providence Township Police Department.
4. All exempt officers shall have their body armor with them in case of an emergency. This means that employees shall have their body armor in their locker, their office or vehicle, immediately available to them.

C. Inspection of Body Armor

1. Sergeants and supervisors shall be responsible for ensuring that body armor is worn and maintained as prescribed by this policy by periodic inspection of their subordinates' body armor. Failure to comply with this policy shall be documented by the supervisor.
2. Officers will inspect their body armor annually for fit and signs of damage and wear and will report all issues to their immediate supervisor who will in turn notify the lieutenant.

D. Care and Maintenance of Body Armor

1. As armor is considered one of the most critical pieces of issued equipment, each police officer is responsible for the proper care and storage of body armor. Body armor maintenance shall conform to the manufacturer's instructions. The officer is responsible for daily inspection of body armor for damage and general cleanliness. Body armor shall not be stored in direct sunlight, ultraviolet light, cleaned with bleach or other harmful detergents.
2. As dirt and perspiration may erode ballistic panels, each officer shall be responsible for cleaning his body armor in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. This includes the proper washing of the carrier.
3. Officers are responsible for reporting any damage or wear to the ballistic panels or cover to the Lieutenant. Generally, body armor shall be replaced every five (5) years. The carrier shall be replaced as needed.
4. Body armor which has received gunfire, been punctured or damaged in the line of duty shall be replaced.

E. Training

2. Administration shall ensure that technological advances in body armor are periodically studied and adjustments made in the issuance of body armor.

Michael Jackson

Michael Jackson
Chief of Police