

## 207. BODY ARMOR



### RICHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT POLICY

Effective Date: 12/17/90  
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Authority: Chief Jay Henthorne

*NOTE: This policy is for internal use only and does not enlarge an employee's civil or criminal liability in any way. It should not be construed as the creation of a higher standard of safety or care in an evidentiary sense, with respect to third party claims. Violations of this policy, if proven, can only form the basis of a complaint by this Department, and then only in a non-judicial administrative setting.*

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to provide officers with guidelines for the proper use and care of body armor.

### II. POLICY

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

### III. DEFINITIONS

**UNIFORMED OFFICER:** Any officer wearing a regulation Department uniform or special uniform such as SWAT personnel.

**NON-UNIFORMED OFFICER:** Any officer wearing plainclothes.

### IV. PROCEDURE

Soft body armor is issued by the Department to sworn personnel. All soft body armor issued must comply with the current minimum protective standards prescribed by the National Institute of Justice.

The SWAT personnel are provided body armor for use in tactical operations.

The Department may replace body armor that is worn or damaged. Body armor that must be replaced due to misuse or abuse by the officer will be paid for by the officer.

#### **USE OF BODY ARMOR**

All uniformed personnel **shall** wear body armor unless expressly exempted by this Policy.

All non-uniformed personnel **shall** wear body armor when executing a search or an arrest warrant.

Only Department approved body armor/carrier **shall** be worn by officers.

A uniformed officer may be exempted from wearing body armor as follows:

- 1) When a Department approved physician determines that an officer has a medical condition that would preclude use of body armor.
- 2) When the officer's duties are primarily administrative in nature or in cases when the officer will be at the station for an extended period of time during an administrative task such as writing an arrest report with the understanding that they must put the body armor back on if called out to the street.
- 3) When the Chief of Police determines an exemption is appropriate.

The officer's immediate supervisor **shall** be responsible for ensuring that body armor is worn and maintained as required by this Policy.

**CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF BODY ARMOR**

Each officer is responsible for the proper storage and daily inspection of their body armor for signs of damage and general cleanliness. The body armor should be cleaned and stored in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Officers should report any damage or wear to the ballistic panels or cover to their supervisor immediately.

By Order Of:

  
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Chief of Police

