

Body Armor

1012.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Best Practice

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

1012.2 POLICY

Best Practice

It is the policy of the Syracuse Police Department to maximize officer safety through the use of body armor in combination with prescribed safety procedures. While body armor provides a significant level of protection, it is not a substitute for the observance of officer safety procedures.

1012.3 ISSUANCE

Best Practice

MODIFIED

NYSLEAP- 8.7 - 41.1

The Armament Section shall ensure that body armor is issued to all officers and that, when issued, the body armor meets or exceeds the standards of the National Institute of Justice.

Body armor shall be issued prior to an officer starting the field training program at the Syracuse Police Department and shall be replaced by the Department, every five years per the collective bargaining agreement or if the body armor becomes worn or damaged to the point that its effectiveness has been compromised.

The Chief of Police may authorize issuance of body armor to uniformed, non-sworn members whose jobs may make wearing of body armor advisable.

[See Procedure for BODY ARMOR](#)

1012.3.1 USE

Best Practice

MODIFIED

NY_CALEA6.13 - 4.3.5 (e), 41.3.5, 41.3.6 NYSLEAP- 8.7 - 41.1

Generally, the required use of body armor is subject to the following:

- (a) Members shall only wear department-approved body armor.
- (b) Members shall wear body armor any time they are in a situation where they could reasonably be expected to take enforcement action.
- (c) Members shall wear body armor when working in uniform or taking part in department range training.
- (d) Members are not required to wear body armor when they are functioning primarily in an administrative or support capacity and would not reasonably be expected to take enforcement action.
- (e) Officers may be excused from wearing body armor when they are involved in undercover work that their supervisor determines could be compromised by wearing body armor, or when a supervisor determines that other circumstances make it inappropriate to mandate wearing body armor.

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1. In those instances when body armor is not worn, officers should have reasonable access to their body armor.
- (f) Body armor will be worn by personnel engaged in pre-planned, high risk situations as defined by the agency.

1012.3.2 INSPECTION

Best Practice **MODIFIED**

Supervisors should ensure through routine observation and periodic documented inspections that body armor is worn and maintained in accordance with this policy.

1012.3.3 CARE AND MAINTENANCE

Best Practice **MODIFIED**

The required care and maintenance of body armor is subject to the following:

- (a) Members are responsible for inspecting their body armor for signs of damage, wear and cleanliness at the start of each shift.
 1. Unserviceable body armor shall be reported to the supervisor.
- (b) Members are responsible for the proper storage of their body armor.
 1. Body armor should not be stored for an extended period of time in an area where environmental conditions (e.g., temperature, light, humidity) could potentially degrade its effectiveness.
- (c) Members are responsible for the care and cleaning of their body armor pursuant to the manufacturer's care instructions.
 1. Body armor should not be exposed to any cleaning agents or methods not specifically recommended by the manufacturer.
 2. Failure to follow manufacturer's care instructions may damage the ballistic performance capabilities of the body armor. If care instructions for the body armor cannot be located, the manufacturer should be contacted to request the instructions.
- (d) Body armor should be replaced in accordance with the manufacturer's recommended replacement schedule, or when its effectiveness or functionality has been compromised.

Safariland Use and Care

1012.4 ARMORER RESPONSIBILITIES

Best Practice

The responsibilities of the Armorer include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Monitoring technological advances in the body armor industry for any appropriate changes to department-approved body armor.
- (b) Assessing the level of weapons and ammunition currently utilized by the public and the suitability of approved body armor to protect against those threats.

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- (c) Educating officers about the safety benefits of wearing body armor.