



City of Racine Police Department
Policy and Procedure

Number: 601

Subject: Use of Deadly Force/ Discharge of a Firearm		
Date Issued: 04-17-1981	Date Revised: 08-03-18	Revision Number: 8

POLICY

Use of deadly force is to be considered a last option keeping the sanctity of life as a priority in the decision making process, all other modes and tactics having been precluded. Behavior that justifies your use of deadly force is that which has caused or imminently threatens to cause death or great bodily harm to you or another person or persons. This means that an officer would use deadly force only when justified and then only if other modes and tactics have proven ineffective or would clearly be ineffective to accomplish the objective.

DEFINITIONS

Deadly Force – The intentional use of a firearm or other instrument, the use of which would result in a high probability of death of a human being

Weapon – Any firearm or device used as a weapon and capable of producing death or great bodily harm; or any other device or instrumentality which, in the manner it is used or intended to be used, is calculated or likely to produce death or great bodily harm. Some individuals are even able to inflict death or serious injury with their hands or feet alone, and some apparently innocuous items, such as a pen or pencil, can be used as a weapon.

Imminent Threat –

1. An impending likelihood of trouble; in this context, “imminent threat” of death or great bodily harm to you or another is a justification for the use of deadly force.
2. To meet the criteria of “imminent threat”, the person to whom the officer is intending to use deadly force on must be perceived to have all of the following:
 - a. Displayed or indicated intent to cause great bodily harm or death to you or another person(s);
 - b. A weapon capable of inflicting great bodily harm or death (conventional or unconventional weapon); and,
 - c. The delivery system for utilization of that weapon – that is, the capacity for utilization of the weapon.

PROCEDURE

MEMBER

1. Before employing deadly force, the officer shall, when possible:
 - a. Identify himself/herself as a police officer.
 - b. Order the suspect to stop his or her unlawful activity which has caused or imminently threatens to cause death or great bodily harm to you or another person or persons.
2. **Under no circumstances shall warning shots be fired.**

3. Before discharging a firearm the officer must fulfill certain “target requirements.” These include the following:
 - a. Target Acquisition: Target acquisition means simply that you have acquired an actual target to shoot at;
 - b. Target Identification: Target identification means that you have identified your target as the source of the imminent threat; and
 - c. Target Isolation: Target isolation means that you can shoot at your target without danger of harming innocent people.

NOTE

The one exception to the requirement for target isolation is called the ***greater danger exception***. Essentially, this exception allows you to shoot without target isolation if the consequence of not stopping the threat would be worse than the possibility of hitting an innocent person.

4. Each officer employing deadly force or the threat of deadly force, must document this use of and/or threat of deadly force in an incident report or supplement and in a Phoenix use of force report unless told otherwise by the incident commander. This reporting includes discharging a firearm when dealing with a vicious animal. In the case of a fatality the lead agency will determine who completes the report.

SUPERVISOR

Conduct an administrative review into the incident, reporting both the details of the incident and if any Racine Police Department policy was violated. Submit the review report to the member's Division Deputy Chief in the form of a Memorandum (PP27).

RELATED PROCEDURES

[118 – Traumatic Incidents](#)
[602 – Use of Non-Lethal Force](#)
[607 - Investigation of the Use of Force](#)
[608 - Use of Force Documentation](#)
[615 – Critical Incident Response](#)
[1401 - Carrying Firearms While on Duty](#)
[1406 – Firearm Proficiency and Qualification](#)
[1407 - Range Safety Rules](#)
[1606 – DAAT Manual](#)
[1607 – Firearms Manual](#)
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RELATED STATUTES

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