



DESCHUTES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Policy Title: Body Armor	Effective Date: May 1, 2018	Policy Number: 8.03
Accreditation Reference: 1.5.11, 2.2.8	Review Date: May 1, 2021	Supercedes: October 15, 2014
Attachments:	L. Shane Nelson, Sheriff	

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide Deschutes County Sheriff's Office members with guidelines for the proper use and care of body armor.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the Sheriff's Office 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. PROCEDURES

All uniformed deputies or deputies assigned specifically to the protection of other persons, shall be issued body armor, which shall be worn at all times when on duty. Division Commanders may authorize deputies to not wear body armor when a medical or other condition may make wearing body armor detrimental to the deputy's health or during times of extreme heat when wearing body armor may cause a serious medical problem.

A. Issuance of Body Armor

1. All body armor issued must comply with the current minimum protective standards prescribed by the National Institute of Justice.
2. All deputies shall be issued body armor.

B. Use of Body Armor

1. Body armor shall be worn during recruit and field training.
2. Deputies shall wear only agency-approved body armor.
3. All deputies engaged in pre-planned, high-risk situations shall wear agency issued body armor. These situations shall include warrant executions, drug raids and other situations as determined by a supervisor.
4. Deputies assigned to uniformed or non-uniformed functions are required to wear the issued body armor while engaged in field activities unless exempted as follows:
 - a) When an agency-approved physician determines that a deputy has a medical condition that would preclude use of body armor (documentation of such shall be required);

- b) When the deputy is involved in undercover or plainclothes work that would be compromised by the use of body armor;
- c) When the deputy is assigned to perform an administrative function; or
- d) When the agency determines that circumstances make it inappropriate to mandate body armor.

C. Inspections of Body Armor

Supervisors shall be responsible for ensuring that body armor is worn and maintained as required by this policy through a yearly documented inspection of their deputies' body armor. The inspection documentation will be filed with the training sergeant.

D. Care and Maintenance of Body Armor

1. Each deputy is responsible for the proper storage of body armor in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and daily inspection for signs of damage and general cleanliness.
2. As dirt and perspiration may erode ballistic panels, each deputy shall be responsible for cleaning his body armor in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
3. Deputies are responsible for reporting any damage or wear to the ballistic panels or cover to a Training Sergeant.
4. Deputies shall pay for body armor that must be replaced due to misuse or abuse.

E. Training

Training Sergeants shall be responsible for maintaining the following information:

1. Technological advances in the body armor industry that may necessitate a change in body armor.
2. A description of weapons and ammunition currently in use and whether or not issued body armor can withstand their impact.
3. Training programs that inform the deputies about body armor, and emphasize its safe and proper use.
4. Statistics on incidents where armor has or has not protected deputies from harm, including traffic crashes.