

Revised 5-31-06, 11-16-15, 6-8-20

DURHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

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POLICY #: 1.3.5

SUBJECT: Use of Force, Medical Aid

NOTE: This written directive is for the internal governance of the Durham Police Department, and as provided by RSA 516:36, is not intended and should not be interpreted to establish a higher standard of care in any civil or criminal action than would otherwise be applicable under existing law.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to the Durham Police Department when officers use lethal or less-lethal force resulting in injury or suspected injury to a suspect.

POLICY

It is the policy of the Durham Police Department to provide appropriate medical care consistent with an officers training to any individual who is injured or the officer suspects may be injured. Durham Police Officers shall only use that force which is both reasonable and necessary to accomplish lawful objectives.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

- An officer has a duty to intervene to prevent or stop the use of excessive force by another officer.
- All uses of force shall be documented and investigated pursuant to this agency's policies.
- An officer shall use de-escalation techniques and other alternatives to higher levels of force consistent with his or her training whenever possible and appropriate to reduce the need for force.
- Whenever possible and when such delay will not compromise the safety of the officer or another and will not result in the destruction of evidence, escape of a suspect, or commission of a crime, an officer shall allow an individual time and opportunity to submit to verbal commands before force is used.

Rendering Medical Aid

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- If the use of lethal or less lethal force or any other officer action results in injuries or if the officer *suspects* that a person(s) may be injured or if a person complains of injury or request medical attention, an ambulance shall be called immediately.
- As soon as the scene is safe and as soon as practical, an officer shall provide appropriate medical care consistent with his or her training.
- In any instance that a person is injured, a supervisor shall be notified immediately.