

## **Body Armor**

### **1013.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

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

### **1013.2 POLICY**

It is the policy of the Bend 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.

### **1013.3 ISSUANCE OF BODY ARMOR**

The Support Services Division shall ensure that body armor is issued to all officers when the officer begins service at the Bend Police Department and, when issued, the body armor meets or exceeds the standards of the National Institute of Justice.

The Patrol Division Administrative Assistant shall establish a body armor replacement schedule and ensure that replacement body armor is issued pursuant to the schedule or whenever the body armor becomes worn or damaged to the point that its effectiveness or functionality has been compromised.

#### **1013.3.1 USE OF SOFT BODY ARMOR**

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

- (a) Officers shall wear their most recently issued agency-approved body armor when wearing their external carriers or if they were not issued an external carrier.
- (b) Officers shall wear body armor any time they are in a situation where they could reasonably be expected to take enforcement action or during high risk pre-planned activities.
- (c) Officers may be excused from wearing body armor when they are functioning primarily in an administrative or support capacity and could not reasonably be expected to take enforcement action.
- (d) Body armor shall be worn when an officer is working in uniform in a patrol function or taking part in Department Range training.
- (e) An Officer may be excused from wearing body armor when he/she is involved in undercover or plainclothes work that his/her supervisor determines could be compromised by wearing body armor, When an agency approved physician determines an officer has a medical condition that would preclude the wearing of body armor, or when a supervisor determines that other circumstances make it inappropriate to mandate wearing body armor.

# Bend Police Department

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#### **1013.3.2 INSPECTIONS OF BODY ARMOR**

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

#### **1013.3.3 CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF SOFT BODY ARMOR**

Soft body armor should never be stored for any period of time in an area where environmental conditions (e.g., temperature, light, humidity) are not reasonably controlled (e.g., normal ambient room temperature/humidity conditions), such as in automobiles or automobile trunks.

Soft body armor should be cared for and cleaned pursuant to the manufacturer's care instructions provided with the soft body armor. The instructions can be found on labels located on the external surface of each ballistic panel. The carrier should also have a label that contains care instructions. Failure to follow these instructions may damage the ballistic performance capabilities of the armor. If care instructions for the soft body armor cannot be located, contact the manufacturer to request care instructions.

Soft body armor should not be exposed to any cleaning agents or methods not specifically recommended by the manufacturer, as noted on the armor panel label.

Soft body armor should be replaced in accordance with the manufacturer's recommended replacement schedule.