

**Burleson Police Department
Administrative Policy and Procedures**

Number: 03-003.5
Document Title: Body Armor
Effective Date: 09/27/2012
Last Revised Date: 04/28/2020
CALEA Standards Referenced: 41.3.5; 41.3.6

ISSUING AUTHORITY: _____



I. Purpose

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

II. Policy

It is the policy of the Burleson Police Department to maximize officer safety with 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.

III. Definitions

Field Activities: Duty assignments and/or tasks that place or could reasonably be expected to place officers in situations where they would be required to act in enforcement rather than administrative or support capacities.

IV. Procedures [41.3.5]

A. Issuance of Body Armor

1. All body armor issued must comply with protective and related requirements prescribed under current standards of the National Institute of Justice.
2. All officers shall be issued agency-approved body armor.
3. Body armor that is damaged shall be replaced by the agency. Body armor that must be replaced due to misuse, abuse, or improper care by the officer shall be paid for by the officer.

B. Use of Body Armor [41.3.5]

1. Officers shall wear only agency-approved body armor.
2. Officers shall have access to issued body armor at all times. Ready access shall mean that the body armor is carried in the vehicle the officer is using, or at some other location where it is readily available. Ready access does not mean that the body armor is stored in the officers locker when they are somewhere outside the building.
3. Officers that are assigned to a uniformed function and non-uniformed sworn officers are required to wear body armor while engaged in field activities both on duty and during off duty employment unless exempt as follows:
 - a. When an agency-approved physician determines that an officer has a medical condition that would be detrimental to the officer's health. The Chief of Police may reassign the officer to another area of the police department as their discretion.