

## Body Armor

### 912.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

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

### 912.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the Redding 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.

### 912.3 ISSUANCE OF BODY ARMOR

The Administrative Sergeant shall ensure that body armor is issued to all officers, CSO's, and CWPO's when they begin service at the Redding Police Department and that, when issued, the body armor meets or exceeds the standards of the National Institute of Justice.

The Administrative Sergeant 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.

#### 912.3.1 USE OF SOFT BODY ARMOR

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

- (a) Officers, CSO's, and CWPO's shall only wear agency-approved body armor.
- (b) Officers, CSO's, and CWPO's shall wear body armor anytime they are in assigned to work in the field or in a situation where they could reasonably be expected to take enforcement action.
- (c) Officers, CSO's, and CWPO's 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 or taking part in Department range training.
- (e) Non-uniformed officers shall have their body armor readily available to them while on duty (equipment bag, trunk of vehicle) and shall wear their body armor when serving arrest or search warrants, is engaged in field enforcement activity, conducting parole or probation searches, or other high-risk activities and when involved in special operations likely to involve field contacts, arrests, or the potential for violence is present.
  1. The Division Commander may determine that circumstances make it unnecessary or inappropriate for the employee to wear body armor, such as during the service of a warrant for business records relative to the investigation of a white-collar crime, during an undercover operation, or certain other assignments.

# Redding Police Department

## RPD Policy Manual

### *Body Armor*

---

#### 912.3.2 CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF SOFT BODY ARMOR

Soft body armor should never be stored for any extended 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.