

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE**

**SPECIAL ORDER NO. 3**

**February 21, 2017**

**SUBJECT: USE OF THE HOBBLE RESTRAINT DEVICE – REVISED**

**PURPOSE:** Police officers are routinely confronted by violent or potentially violent suspects who must be restrained when taken into custody. The Hobble Restraint Device (HRD) can be a valuable tool to control such suspects. This Order revises the procedures for the use of the HRD.

**PROCEDURE:** Attached is the revised Department Manual Section 4/217.40, *Use of the Hobble Restraint Device*, with the revisions indicated in italics.

**AMENDMENT:** This Order amends Section 4/217.40 of the Department Manual.

**AUDIT RESPONSIBILITY:** The Commanding Officer, Audit Division, shall review this directive and determine whether an audit or inspection shall be conducted in accordance with Department Manual Section 0/080.30.



CHARLIE BECK  
Chief of Police

Attachment

DISTRIBUTION "D"

**DEPARTMENT MANUAL**  
**VOLUME IV**  
**Revised by Special Order No. 3, 2017**

**217.40 USE OF THE HOBBLE RESTRAINT DEVICE.** The Hobble Restraint Device (*HRD*) can be used to control a violent or potentially violent arrestee, or as a restraining device on a non-violent arrestee when *normal* handcuffs are impractical due to injury or other extenuating circumstances (*e.g., size of the suspect*).

**Note:** The mere application of the *HRD* does not constitute a reportable use of force.

The *HRD* was designed to be used to secure the ankles, knees or elbows of an individual who is potentially violent or displaying violent behavior by kicking, fighting, biting, punching or thrashing about, or to secure a person's feet during transportation in a police vehicle. These applications can be varied according to the circumstances an officer may encounter, but in each application, care should be taken to prevent injury to the arrestee. Once the *HRD* is secured, officers shall immediately search the waistband area and then immediately place the individual in an upright, seated position or on his or her left side (left lateral recumbent position). If this is not possible due to medical or tactical issues, then placing the individual on his/her right side is an acceptable substitute.

**Note:** The *HRD* shall not be used to bind the suspect's hands and feet together in any manner.

Officers may use the *HRD* to secure a violent or potentially-violent person transported in a police vehicle when:

- The person's hands are secured with handcuffs that are double-locked behind the person's back;
- The person is secured to the police vehicle seat with the police vehicle's safety belt; and,
- The *HRD* strap is pulled out of the rear door, the loose end (snap-hook end) of the strap is placed on the front passenger floorboard, and both doors are closed to secure the strap.

Officers shall request a rescue ambulance to transport a violent person only:

- If the person in the police vehicle would likely sustain a serious injury or cause vehicle damage and requires restraint to the extent that he or she must be transported in a recumbent position; or,
- If the person is injured or physically ill and is in need of immediate medical attention.