

**POLICY
813**

**EFFECTIVE
DATE
1-01-14**

**Eugene
Police Department**



EDGED WEAPONS

813.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Eugene Police Department authorizes each police officer to possess and use a tactical folding or fixed blade knife on-duty. It is recognized that officers may have many needs for a knife, including both general work and for limited defensive purposes. While not considered to be a primary weapon of choice in a defense-of-life situation, officers may, under extraordinary circumstances, use a tactical folding knife in defense of their life and the lives of others.

813.2 EDGED WEAPONS DESCRIBED

The cutting edge of any department approved edged weapon may not exceed 6 inches in length measured from tip of blade to handle, and may be a smooth blade or serrated blade or a combination of a both. Edged weapons may be of a lock blade design with easy one-hand opening and closing, or of a fixed blade design.

Prohibited knives would include those that are overly cumbersome or decorated. Knives that impede access or use of other approved department equipment are prohibited, as are knives that detract from the reasonably neat and orderly appearance of the uniform and duty belt.

813.3 REGARDING DISPLAY AND CARRY OF EDGED WEAPONS

The carrying and use of any knife by on-duty officers shall be done as unobtrusively as possible so as not to alarm any bystander. The officer shall take care not to exhibit or handle the knife in a careless or alarming manner. Because retention and handling are not Department training objectives, the knife, if worn, should be concealed as much as possible from public view.

It is the individual officer's responsibility to use the knife as a tool in a safe and responsible manner.

The officer shall use reasonable care in the general use of the knife as a tool to prevent injury to the officer and others and to prevent damage to property.

If the blade is folding, the knife must be secured by a case if carried on the duty belt or secured by a clip or other fastening device to ensure officer safety, retention and concealment of the blade from public display.

If the blade is fixed the knife must be carried in a sheath, and the entire blade and sheath must be concealed by approved uniform items.

Exceptions to the length and manner of carrying may be approved by a special team commander based on mission and necessity. Those exceptions only apply to the special team duty uniform.

813.4 DEFENSIVE USE OF EDGED WEAPONS

Officers are cautioned that the tactical folding knife is primarily a cutting tool to assist them in their duties, and is not intended by this agency to be a primary weapon of defense. It is recognized that any officer, in the course of his or her duties, **may** require the use of an edged weapon as a weapon of defense under **extraordinary circumstances**. Officers should be cautioned that while any use of deadly force is a grave undertaking by police, the use of any knife against another human being will be viewed as an extraordinary defensive measure, and should be reserved for those situations justifying the use of deadly force, as outlined in *Policy 800, Use of Force*.