



MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

320 - CANINES

GENERAL ORDER: 2026-14
ISSUED: April 13, 2026

EFFECTIVE: April 13, 2026

REVIEWED/APPROVED BY:
Assistant Chief Steven Johnson
DATE: March 2, 2026

ACTION: Amends General Order 2025-43 (September 5, 2025)

WILEAG STANDARD(S): 5.2.1, 5.3.1, 6.1.2

ROLL CALL VERSION

Contains only changes to current policy.
For complete version of SOP, see SharePoint.

320.00 PURPOSE

To establish policies and procedures for the use of the Patrol Canine Unit and Explosive Ordinance Detection (EOD) Canine Unit, which are assigned to the Specialized Patrol Division, and the HIDTA trained detector dogs of the Milwaukee Police Department, and the Facility Dog(s), which are assigned to the Wellness Team, and the Electronic Storage Detection (ESD) canine, which is assigned to the Sensitive Crimes Division. The primary objective is to utilize the Milwaukee Police Department canines to assist in the accomplishment of the mission of the Milwaukee Police Department.

320.20 ORGANIZATION OF THE ESD DOG

- A. The ESD dog, assigned to the Sensitive Crimes Division Internet Crimes Against Children Unit, assists in the search and recovery of digital items from a multitude of locations to include residential and commercial buildings, vehicles, and outdoor environments. One handler is assigned to the ESD dog.
- B. The ESD dog, assigned to the Sensitive Crimes Division Internet Crimes Against Children Unit, is supervised by a police sergeant or lieutenant who shall coordinate operations and maintain all records for the ESD dog. The ESD dog and handler shall have ongoing training to maintain annual certification.
- C. All assignments to the ESD dogs and the duration of such assignments shall be under the sole control of the Chief of Police.

320.2025 GENERAL PROCEDURES FOR USE OF THE PATROL CANINE UNITS (WILEAG 5.3.1, 6.1.2)

320.2530 GENERAL PROCEDURES FOR USE OF DETECTOR DOGS (HIDTA) (WILEAG 6.1.2)

- B. Police members shall contact their shift commander when on the scene of a controlled substance investigation where the deployment of a detector dog officer (DDO) may be warranted. The shift commander shall report the details to a Narcotic Division

supervisor.

Note: The shift commander shall consult with a Narcotics Division supervisor to determine whether or not a search warrant will need to be obtained prior to the deployment of a DDO.

320.3035 GENERAL PROCEDURES FOR USE OF EXPLOSIVE ORDINANCE DETECTOR DOGS (EOD) (WILEAG 6.1.2)

320.40 GENERAL PROCEDURES FOR USE OF THE ESD DOG (WILEAG 6.1.2)

- A. The ESD dog assists in the search and recovery of digital items from a multitude of locations to include residential and commercial buildings, vehicles, and outdoor environments.
- B. Police members shall contact the shift commander when on a scene where digital evidence is likely present and the deployment of a ESD dog may be warranted. The shift commander shall report the details to a Criminal Investigation Bureau supervisor at extension [REDACTED]

Note: Members will be required to obtain a search warrant or voluntary consent of an authorized person to search a specified location prior to the deployment of an ESD dog.

- C. The determination for the need of a ESD dog shall be made by a Criminal Investigation Bureau supervisor. Upon approval, a Sensitive Crimes Division supervisor shall dispatch the ESD dog and handler to the scene.
- D. Upon arrival at a call for service, the ESD dog handler shall make the final decision whether to deploy the ESD dog, keeping in mind the safety of the animal at all times. The ESD handler shall report the decision not to use the detector dog to the supervisor who originally requested the ESD dog, as soon as practicable.
- E. The ESD handler shall adhere to prescribed procedures in conformity with training when executing any search with the ESD dog.
- F. The ESD dog is intended to be supportive of all operational components of the department. Arrests made or evidence located as a result of the ESD dog shall be considered as having been accomplished by the requesting member. The ESD handler shall be responsible for preparing any necessary supplemental reports, which document the actions of the ESD dog.
(WILEAG 6.1.2.1)

320.3545 DEPARTMENT MEMBER GUIDELINES FOR CANINES (WILEAG 6.1.2)

320.4050 CARE OF CANINE BY ASSIGNED HANDLER

320.4555 CANINE BITES AND INJURIES (WILEAG 5.1.1, 5.3.1)

320.5060 CONTINGENCY CANINE PROCEDURE (WILEAG 5.3.1)

320.5565 CANINE RETIREMENT

320.6070 DEPARTMENT FACILITY DOG

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.B.N.' with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

JEFFREY B. NORMAN
CHIEF OF POLICE

JBN:mfk